

Aryan Age

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PG 02
Parents Demand Justice as Miss Pune Twisha Sharma is Cremated

PG 03
Delhi Govt Resolves Long-Pending Power Crisis in Harsh Vihar



PG 6
Indian Mother and Son Make History as Mayors in England



PG 7
Famous Cricket Star and Bollywood Wife Spotting Sparks Internet Frenzy

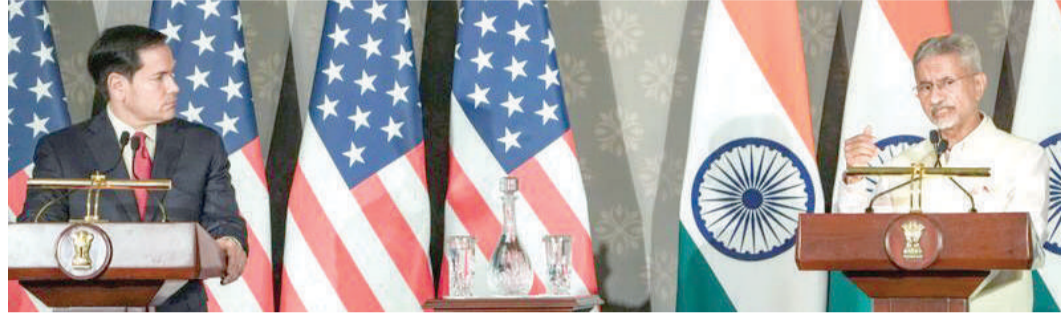


PG 8
Godrej Properties awards Rs 1,100 cr contract to Tata Projects

India and US to Seal New Trade Deal Soon

New Delhi : India and the United States on Sunday signalled fresh "momentum" in their expanding strategic partnership, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio expressing confidence that the two sides would conclude a bilateral trade agreement "soon", while External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar underscored New Delhi's policy of maintaining strong ties across multiple global power centres.

India and the United States are moving forward quickly with their strong partnership. Following big talks in New Delhi, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he is confident that both sides will sign a trade agreement very soon. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed that teams are finishing the final text for an interim deal right now. Rubio rejected ideas that their connection



needs a restart after recent disagreements over trade tariffs. Instead, he noted that as the world's two largest democracies, they share deep values and matching goals.

The two countries are working together on trade, defense, counter-terrorism, and securing important energy and mineral supply chains. Jaishankar explained that India uses a "multi-alignment" policy.

This means India can build strong friendships with the US, Europe, Russia, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, and Gulf nations all at the same time without picking just one side. The leaders also updated their 10-year major defense partnership and signed a roadmap for underwater domain safety.

Jaishankar added that the new US SHANTI Act opens fresh chances for nuclear cooperation,

and noted that India has greatly increased its energy imports from America to keep its supplies reliable. Rubio also cleared up worries about recent changes to J-1, F-1, and H-1B visas, explaining that these immigration updates are global and do not target India specifically, especially since Indian companies have invested over USD 20 billion in the US economy.

Rubio reassures India, says US engagement with Pakistan won't undermine strategic partnership

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Sunday firmly rejected suggestions that Washington's growing engagement with Pakistan could undermine its strategic partnership with India, asserting during his visit to New Delhi that America's relations with any country would not come "at the expense" of its alliance with India.

During his meetings at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio strongly promised that America's communication with Pakistan will not hurt its main alliance with India. Responding to tough media questions about US-Pakistan

relations and military support for terrorism, Rubio explained that responsible countries often talk to many nations at a basic level, just like India does. He made it very clear that no American relationship with any other country happens at the expense of its strategic bond with India, which he expects to get even more powerful in the future.

While Rubio chose not to comment on specific military claims, he praised India as a mature global player that understands how modern international diplomacy works. His comforting words arrive at a time when Indian leaders are closely watching Washington's

conversations with Islamabad and Beijing during regional tensions. Even though the US keeps up basic counter-terrorism teamwork with Pakistan and explores new business avenues there, Rubio stressed that the US and India are completely united on major world issues. This includes protecting open shipping routes and ensuring Iran never builds nuclear weapons. Ultimately, the high-level visit focused on building deeper trust and growing the comprehensive global strategic partnership between India and America across trade, technology, defense, and Indo-Pacific security.

Police busts terrorist hideout in Baramulla huge cache of explosives recovered

Srinagar : In a major success, security forces busted a terrorist hideout and recovered a significant cache of explosives in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

The hideout was busted by Baramulla Police, in a joint counter-terror operation in the Nilsar Kandi area of Chandooosa, Baramulla on Saturday.

Acting on specific intelligence inputs generated by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, a joint operation was launched by police along with the 52 Rashtriya Rifles, CRPF's 53 Battalion, and SSB's 2 Battalion. During the operation, security forces unearthed a concealed militant hideout and recovered a substantial cache of war-like stores.

Police said the recovered material included 14 Soviet-

made OG-7V fragmentation rounds meant for rocket-



propelled grenades (RPGs), found packed in plastic containers, and nine PG-7P propellant charges/boosters concealed inside green plastic tubes.

"The recovery thwarted a potential threat and represents a significant achievement in North Kashmir's ongoing anti-terror operations," police said. The operation in the area continued for nearly six hours to ensure complete sanitization and eliminate any potential threat.

Subsequently, the recovered explosive materials was thoroughly examined by the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) of J&K Police and was safely destroyed in-situ in accordance with established safety protocols.

In this regard, an FIR under 4/5 Explosive Substances Act and 7/25 Arms Act was registered at Police Station Chandooosa and investigation has been initiated.

Preparations underway for major reshuffle in Uttar Pradesh BJP, with several new faces likely to join 'Team Pankaj'

Lucknow : The Uttar Pradesh BJP is witnessing heightened organizational changes before the crucial 2027 assembly polls.

State President Pankaj Chaudhary is currently in Delhi, where several important organizational meetings are expected. Party sources say that the new team may include several new faces, as well as the sons of some senior leaders.

According to sources, Pankaj Chaudhary, who is camping in Delhi, will discuss organizational expansion and the formation of the new team in detail with BJP General Secretary Vinod Tawde.

He is also scheduled to have several important meetings at the RSS headquarters. The RSS's opinion will also be sought on the names of new office bearers. These meetings are being linked to the new structure of the state BJP.

Sources claim that several current office bearers may be removed from 'Team Pankaj'. As part of the reshuffle, Defence Minister



Rajnath Singh's son Pankaj Singh may be replaced by his elder son Neeraj Singh, who is expected to be given important organizational responsibilities.

Sanjay Rai, who has been active in the organization for a long time, may also be removed. Meanwhile, Abhinav Sinha, son of Jammu and

Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, is likely to be given new responsibilities within the organization.

Indeed, the BJP is working to further strengthen the organization from the booth level to the state level ahead of the 2027 assembly elections. Along with new faces, special attention is being paid to social equations and regional balance in the new team. Continuous brainstorming is underway regarding this.

Previously, discussions have taken place with several senior leaders, including National President Nitin Navin, General Secretary of Organization BL Santosh, and union Home Minister Amit Shah, regarding the inclusion of Uttar Pradesh leaders in the state and central teams. The picture of the new organizational structure is expected to become clearer after Pankaj Chaudhary's current visit to Delhi.

AAP urges states to offer free bus travel for NEET aspirants on re-exam day



New Delhi : AAP today claimed that NEET aspirants are facing distress and financial burden due to the re-examination following a paper leak and cancellation, and appealed to all state governments to make bus travel free for students on the exam day. In a video appeal shared on X, Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal said, "With folded hands, I appeal to all chief ministers and governments of every political party across the country to make bus travel free in their respective states on the day of the NEET examination for students appearing in the test." Kejriwal noted that the AAP-led Punjab government had already announced free travel for NEET aspirants in Punjab Roadways buses, and claimed that Haryana and Bihar had followed suit. "Following our lead, the chief ministers of Haryana and Bihar have now also made similar announcements. I request all other chief ministers to also make this announcement in their states," he said. He further wrote on X that the re-examination is scheduled for the 21st, and expressed hope that other states would join the initiative. The party's press release also stated that free bus travel would provide major relief to students who are being forced to appear for the test again after the cancellation.

Rahul Gandhi Claims 'Modi Government Will Fall Within One Year'

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi made a major political claim during a meeting of the Congress Minority Advisory



Committee, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi may step down within the next year.

According to Congress sources, Rahul Gandhi said growing economic dissatisfaction in the country and changing international economic conditions would play a major role in reshaping Indian politics. He claimed rising public anger would directly impact the future of the Modi government.

The meeting, which lasted for more than two hours, was organised by Congress Minority Department chairman Imran Pratapgarhi.

During the discussion, some party leaders suggested

that the word "minority" should be used instead of "Muslim." Rahul Gandhi reportedly opposed the idea and said there should be no fear in openly standing with any community facing injustice. He said Congress must speak for the rights of Hindus, Dalits, upper castes, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Jains alike.

Sources also said Congress leader Imran Masood told the meeting that the perception that Muslims vote only to defeat the BJP must be changed. He said Congress should directly communicate the work done for the Muslim community and seek support on that basis instead of allowing the BJP to continue majority polarisation politics.

Some leaders also complained to Rahul Gandhi that while he openly raises minority issues, several senior Congress leaders avoid speaking on such matters publicly. Leaders suggested that more Congress leaders should openly express their views on minority-related issues just like Rahul Gandhi.

CBSE Warns Students Against Fake Class 12 Re-evaluation Notice

New Delhi : The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued an urgent warning about a fake letter spreading on social media.

The fraudulent document, dated May 23, 2026, carried the forged signature of Controller of Examinations Dr. Sanyam Bhardwaj. It falsely claimed that the board had cancelled the re-evaluation and answer book photocopy process for the Class 12 exams due to major digital system errors. The fake notice also wrongly promised that all collected fees would be

refunded within 15 days.

CBSE quickly used its official X account to clear up the confusion, stating that the circular is entirely fake and that the re-evaluation process remains fully active. This problem happened right after the board had extended the real application deadline to May 24. Dr. Bhardwaj explained that the extension was necessary because the official website faced intense internet traffic and cyber interference, causing blank pages and system crashes for students.

BJP Candidate Debanshu Panda Wins Falta Repoll by Landslide

Kolkata: In West Bengal, BJP candidate Debanshu Panda achieved a massive victory in the Falta assembly constituency repoll, winning by a margin of over one lakh votes. According to the Election Commission, Panda secured 1,49,666 votes, which accounted for nearly 71 percent of the total votes polled. He easily defeated his closest challenger, Sambhunath Kurmi of the CPI(M), who came in second

place with 40,645 votes.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) suffered a major defeat as their candidate, Jahangir Khan, finished in a distant fourth place with only 7,783 votes, failing to save his financial deposit. Abdur Rezzak Mollah of the Congress party finished third with 10,079 votes. This result surprised many because TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee had won a huge lead in this exact area



during the previous parliamentary election. Following the win, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari mocked Abhishek Banerjee's famous "Diamond Harbour Model," calling it a failure. BJP leaders stated that the voters completely rejected the TMC, establishing the CPI(M) as the main opposition voice in Falta.

West Bengal Sets Up Holding Centres to Detain Illegal Immigrants

Kolkata : The West Bengal government, operating from its headquarters in Nabanna, has ordered all districts to set up special holding centres to detain people suspected of being illegal Bangladeshi immigrants or Rohingyas. According to the state's new notification, suspects can be held in these centres for up to 30 days while officials verify their nationality and process their deportation. The directive

applies to newly detained individuals as well as foreign prisoners who have already served their jail terms and are waiting to be sent back.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari explained that his administration is enforcing these strict legal rules because the previous government failed to follow the central government's guidelines. He stated that anyone not protected by the Citizenship Amendment

Act (CAA) will be arrested and given to the Border Security Force (BSF) for deportation. The order follows instructions issued by the Union Home Ministry on May 2, 2025. Under this policy, district authorities will collect biometric data from the detainees, upload it to a central government portal, and place the individuals on a permanent blacklist to block them from entering India again.

Iran Rejects Nuclear Weapons Claims Citing Ayatollah Khamenei's Fatwa

Varanasi : Dr. Abdul Majid Hakim Elahi, the representative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, spoke at a mourning gathering at Imania Arabic College in Varanasi. He stated that Iran does not have nuclear weapons and has no intention to build them. Dr. Elahi explained that this decision is based on a religious decree, or fatwa, issued by Ayatollah Khamenei thirty years ago, which completely forbids nuclear weapons.



During the event, Dr. Elahi thanked the people of India for supporting Iran during difficult

facing strong economic sanctions and political challenges, the morale of the Iranian citizens remains high. Addressing the tensions in the Strait of Hormuz that started after February 28, 2026, he asserted that Iran did not cause the crisis and is working hard to ensure safety in this vital global waterway. He concluded by calling Varanasi a beautiful center of spirituality, unity, and philosophy where Iranian students regularly come to study.

Gunfire Near White House Again, Donald Trump Safe as Suspect Dies After Shootout

Washington: Just days after a firing incident during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner attended by US President Donald Trump, another shocking shooting incident took place near the White House in Washington DC. On Saturday evening, heavy gunfire erupted near the North Lawn of the White House, with reports claiming that around 20 to 30 shots were fired

near 17th Street and the surrounding area.

The incident created panic across the area and once again raised serious questions over the security of the US President. Donald Trump was inside the White House at the time of the shooting and remained completely safe.

According to reports, the United States Secret Service immediately sealed the entire

area after the firing started. Media personnel were rushed into the White House briefing room for safety. Counter-snipers were deployed on rooftops and the entire White House complex was placed under lockdown.

Teams from the Federal Bureau of Investigation reached the spot soon after the incident and launched an investigation along with the Secret Service. Preliminary investigation by the

Secret Service revealed that around 6 pm Eastern Time, a suspect approached a security checkpoint near the White House, pulled out a weapon from his backpack and opened fire at officers stationed there.

According to reports by Fox News, nearly 30 rounds were fired, creating chaos and fear in the area. This is the second major firing incident linked to the White House after the April

shooting during the journalists' dinner event.

The Secret Service Communication Office posted on social media that officers immediately returned fire after the suspect opened fire near 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The suspect was shot during the encounter and rushed to a hospital, where doctors later declared him dead.

One civilian was also



injured in the firing. However, officials said it is still unclear whether the civilian was shot by the suspect or was injured during the return firing by security officers. The Secret

Service confirmed that Donald Trump was inside the White House during the incident but was not harmed in any way. No Secret Service personnel were injured in the attack.



Parents Demand Justice as Miss Pune Twisha Sharma is Cremated

Bhopal : The final rituals for former Miss Pune Twisha Sharma were performed on Sunday evening, nearly two weeks after she died under mysterious circumstances. The young woman was discovered dead on the terrace of her in-laws' home in the Katara Hills area earlier this month. Her grieving family members were heartbroken during the funeral, which took place after a team of medical experts from New Delhi performed a second autopsy. The high court ordered this new medical examination because her parents believe there was foul play and have openly blamed her husband, Samarth Singh, and her mother-in-law, Giribala Singh, for her death. Currently, the husband is in police custody for questioning, while the mother-in-law has secured bail. The local government has officially decided to hand over the entire investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation to ensure a fair inquiry.

The quiet city of Bhopal became the focal point of a deeply somber and emotionally charged gathering on Sunday evening as the final rites for former Miss Pune and corporate manager, Twisha Sharma, were per-



formed. This solemn event took place nearly two weeks after her tragic and untimely demise, which occurred under highly controversial and mysterious circumstances that have since captured national attention.

The young woman's life was abruptly cut short earlier this month when her body was discovered on the terrace of her matrimonial home, located in the prominent Katara Hills residential area of the city.

For her grieving family members, who traveled from Noida to oversee the arrangements, the funeral service was an agonizing culmi-

nation of twelve days filled with immense heartbreak, public protests, and a grueling pursuit of answers regarding the true nature of her death. The emotional weight of the cremation ceremony was compounded by the fact that it could only proceed after a specialized team of medical experts was flown in from New Delhi to conduct a rare and highly critical second autopsy.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court had taken the extraordinary step of ordering this fresh medical examination following an urgent petition from Twisha's parents, who have adamantly refused

to accept the initial findings and firmly believe that foul play was involved in their daughter's passing.

The grieving family has openly and repeatedly leveled serious criminal allegations against Twisha's husband, Samarth Singh, and her mother-in-law, Giribala Singh, accusing them of systematic physical abuse, mental torture, and severe dowry-related harassment. These chilling claims have completely altered the trajectory of the case, transforming it from a localized tragedy into a high-profile legal battle with wide-reaching implications. As the legal proceed-

ings intensify, the status of the accused individuals remains a subject of intense public scrutiny and strict judicial oversight within the local court system.

The victim's husband, Samarth Singh, who is a practicing advocate, is currently in police custody where investigators are subjecting him to rigorous questioning regarding his whereabouts and actions on the fateful night of May 12. In stark contrast, his mother, Giribala Singh—a highly influential retired district and sessions judge—has managed to secure bail, a development that has further fueled the victim's family's anxieties regarding potential institutional bias and the manipulation of local law enforcement channels.

To neutralize these mounting concerns of systemic interference and to guarantee an absolute standard of transparency, the local state government has officially made the definitive decision to strip regional authorities of the case and hand over the entire investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation, ensuring a comprehensive and unbiased inquiry into the tragic loss of life.

Tragedy Strikes Feast as Contaminated Food Kills Four

Bhubaneswar : A tragic incident of suspected food poisoning has claimed four lives and left over a dozen people sick after they attended a post-funeral ritual meal in the Sundargarh area. Shortly after eating, many villagers began experiencing severe stomach pain, vomiting, and extreme weakness, causing widespread fear across the neighborhood. The sick individuals were quickly taken to nearby medical centers, where several remain in critical condition. While medical experts suspect the food or water was spoiled, they are waiting for official laboratory results from the collected samples to confirm the exact cause. A special team of health workers has traveled to the village to check on other residents and stop any further illness from spreading.

The quiet village in the Sundargarh region of Odisha was plunged into a state of profound mourning and intense anxiety following a devastating incident of suspected food poisoning that turned a traditional gathering into a major medical emergency.

A community had gathered to participate in a solemn post-funeral ritual feast, a deeply embedded cultural practice meant to offer solace and closure to a grieving

family. However, shortly after consuming the shared meal, the atmosphere of communal solidarity completely fractured as dozens of attendees began exhibiting severe and sudden symptoms of acute gastrointestinal distress.

Within hours, the localized gathering transformed into a chaotic crisis scene, as families desperately sought medical assistance for loved ones who were rapidly deteriorating from what appeared to be highly contaminated food or water.

The physical toll of the outbreak escalated with terrifying speed, ultimately claiming the lives of four individuals who succumbed to the severe effects of the toxin before effective medical intervention could be administered. In addition to the fatalities, more than a dozen other villagers were left grievously ill, suffering from debilitating stomach cramps, continuous vomiting, and extreme physical exhaustion that triggered widespread panic throughout the immediate neighborhood.

Local emergency services and private vehicles were hastily mobilized to transport the affected individuals to nearby healthcare facilities, where medical teams immediately went to work administering intrave-

nous fluids and stabilizing treatments. Despite their best efforts, several patients remain in critical condition within intensive care units, keeping the community on edge as they wait to see if the death toll will rise further.

While frontline medical practitioners strongly suspect that the illness was caused by spoiled ingredients or a contaminated local water source used during food preparation, an official diagnosis remains pending as authorities await definitive laboratory results.

Public health officials have collected extensive samples of the leftover food, raw ingredients, and drinking water from the site of the feast, dispatching them to regional diagnostic centers for comprehensive toxicological and microbiological analysis.

To prevent any further spread of the illness and to provide immediate on-ground support, a specialized team of health workers and epidemiologists was deployed directly to the affected village. This medical task force is currently conducting door-to-door health screenings, monitoring other residents for early symptoms, and educating the community on strict food safety and hygiene protocols during this volatile period.

Security Forces Uncover Secret Storage Unit Packed with Explosives

Srinagar : In a major success for regional security, a joint team of defense forces successfully uncovered a hidden militant camp and took away a large amount of dangerous ammunition in the Baramulla area. The operation was launched after local police gathered specific intelligence about the hidden spot, leading to a careful search that lasted for six hours. Inside the secret location, forces discovered several rocket-propelled grenade components and propellant charges hidden away in plastic containers. A specialized bomb disposal team carefully examined the hazardous materials and safely destroyed them on-site to eliminate any threat to nearby citizens.

In a major operational success for regional security



frameworks, a coordinated joint task force consisting of local police and defense forces successfully dismantled a hidden militant storage

cache in the Baramulla district. The highly targeted operation was initiated following the gathering of actionable, specific intelli-

gence regarding the precise coordinates of the hidden facility, prompting an immediate mobilization of security personnel.

Labourers Get Midday Relief as Severe Summer Heat Sweeps State

Bhubaneswar : Because of the intense heatwave affecting the region, the local government has banned employers from making laborers work outdoors during the hottest hours of the day. A new directive instructs project managers and engineers to strictly enforce this break between 11 am and 3 pm at all construction sites. Officials stepped in with these firm orders after receiving reports that some places were ignoring the previous safety guidelines and keeping workers out under the blazing sun. All contractors have been told to stop work immediately during these hours and provide proper safety measures to protect their staff from heat stroke.

The state capital of Bhubaneswar and its surrounding districts have been blanketed

by an increasingly oppressive and dangerous summer heatwave, prompting high-level regulatory intervention to protect the region's most vulnerable workforce. As the mercury climbs to hazardous levels during the peak afternoon hours, the Odisha Labour and Employees' State Insurance Department has enacted a sweeping, mandatory restriction designed to shield daily wage earners and outdoor laborers from the direct threat of severe solar radiation and sunstroke. The localized state directive officially bars employers from engaging workers in any form of strenuous outdoor activity during the hottest window of the day, reflecting a growing push by public health authorities to prioritize human lives over commercial or developmental deadlines

during seasonal weather crises. This regulatory pivot fundamentally shifts the operational landscape for the state's booming infrastructure sector, forcing a temporary recalibration of traditional project timelines. Under the explicit parameters of the newly updated government directive, site supervisors, project managers, and lead engineers across all public and private sectors are required to strictly enforce a mandatory operational hiatus between the hours of 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. This four-hour restriction is heavily targeted at construction zones, road development projects, and industrial manufacturing yards where workers are routinely subjected to direct sunlight and ambient heat retention. The state administration issued these definitive, bind-

ing orders following a series of surprise field inspections and community reports indicating that several sub-contractors were actively ignoring previous voluntary safety advisories and continuing to operate heavy projects under a blazing midday sun. To ensure absolute compliance, regional enforcement squads and labor officers have been granted the authority to issue immediate stop-work notices and financial penalties to any firm failing to respect the seasonal time block. Beyond the mandatory suspension of operations during peak thermal hours, all active contractors and commercial business proprietors have been instructed to overhaul their existing onsite safety infrastructure to mitigate the residual risks of heat exhaustion.

Top Official Promises Total Security and Support for Local Businesses

Patna : The regional leader has assured business owners and corporate investors that the government will create a highly secure and friendly environment for industrial growth. Speaking to a group of local business leaders, he explained that safety and trust are the most important ingredients for economic success and promised that top police and administrative officials will meet with them regularly to solve security issues. The leader emphasized that any crime reported in the region is now handled within a single day, stating that lawbreakers will face strict ac-

tion regardless of their background.

Additionally, the government has updated its investment policies to make it easier for private companies to set up hotels, IT centers, and services on available land.

The state capital of Patna recently hosted a high-level economic summit where the regional leadership delivered a definitive message of reassurance to the local business community, manufacturing heads, and prospective corporate investors.

Addressing a prominent delegation of trade industry leaders and chamber of com-

merce representatives, the top official emphasized that the state administration is fully committed to establishing a highly secure, predictable, and frictionless environment for industrial expansion.

Recognizing that historical perceptions of security have occasionally acted as a deterrent to capital inflow, the leader's discourse was strategically designed to rebuild institutional trust, lower risk assessments, and position the region as a safe harbor for long-term financial commitments.

Central to the government's updated economic

blueprint is the foundational philosophy that physical safety and judicial reliability are the absolute bedrock of sustainable economic success. To bridge the traditional gap between policy planning and real-world enforcement, the administration announced a mandatory operational framework wherein top-tier police commanders and senior bureaucratic officials will host structured, bi-weekly coordination meetings with local business owners.

This direct channel of communication is intended to bypass standard bureaucratic red tape, allowing en-

trepreneurs to report extortion, security vulnerabilities, or administrative bottlenecks directly to the individuals with the executive power to resolve them immediately, thereby fostering a collaborative ecosystem of mutual accountability.

To demonstrate the efficacy of this reinforced security apparatus, the leader highlighted a radical shift in the regional law enforcement protocol, asserting that criminal complaints originating from the industrial and commercial sectors are now processed and actioned within a strict twenty-four-hour window.

Government Accelerates Crop Buying to Help Local Farmers

Hyderabad : The regional minister has instructed civil department officials to speed up the purchasing of seasonal crops so that farmers do not lose money or face unnecessary delays. During a large digital meeting with other ministers and district heads, it was revealed that a massive amount of grain was grown this season, and the government plans to buy a large portion of it at a guaranteed fair price. Thousands of official buying centers have been set up, and billions of rupees have already been sent directly to the farmers' bank accounts. Officials were ordered to finish the entire buying process by the end of the month and punish



any dishonest middlemen who try to cheat the farmers. The state government has launched a highly coordinated administrative cam-

paign to accelerate the procurement of seasonal crops, aiming to protect the agricultural community from market volatility and financial.

Political Rivals Clash Over Financial Management and Welfare Delays

Bengaluru : The leader of the opposition party has leveled serious accusations against the state government, claiming that the local administration is acting like a cash machine for the central party leaders in New Delhi. He alleged that the current leadership is focusing entirely on political survival and internal arguments instead of helping the public or funding public welfare. According to the opposition, development projects have completely stopped across the region over the last three years because local leaders are too busy dealing with pressure from their central bosses. These sharp comments have intensified the ongoing political battle just be-

fore the upcoming elections.

The political landscape in Bengaluru has reached a fever pitch following a scathing attack by the leader of the opposition party against the ruling state government. In a fiercely worded statement, the opposition leader accused the local administration of prioritizing high-level political survival and internal party dynamics over the fundamental welfare of the citizens. The core of the allegation suggests that the state's financial resources are being systematically mismanaged and utilized as an ATM for central party leaders stationed in New Delhi. This explosive claim has added significant fuel to the ongoing political discourse, intensify-

ing the rivalry between the two main political factions as the region approaches a crucial election cycle. According to the opposition's assessment, the governance of the state has been severely compromised over the last three years due to persistent internal friction and intense pressure from national party bosses. The opposition leader asserted that this preoccupation with retaining power and satisfying central demands has led to a complete standstill in critical infrastructure and developmental projects across the region. Essential public welfare schemes and funding allocations are allegedly facing massive delays, leaving ordinary citizens to bear the brunt of the admin-

istrative stagnation. The public lambasting highlights a growing narrative of neglect, with the opposition framing the current leadership as disconnected from the immediate needs of the local electorate. In response to these heavy accusations, representatives from the ruling party have swiftly dismissed the claims as malicious propaganda designed purely to mislead voters ahead of the polls. Government spokespersons maintain that welfare disbursements and development initiatives are progressing according to structured fiscal timelines, attributing any minor delays to routine bureaucratic processes rather than political interference.

Regional Changes Open Doors for Growth and New Jobs

Jammu : A senior minister claimed that the removal of special status laws has triggered massive development and a positive change in the mindset of local residents.

Speaking at a leadership training event, he explained that the legal changes have given young people a strong sense of national belonging and self-confidence, helping them succeed in various fields across the country.

The minister highlighted several fresh projects, including the construction of a major international sports stadium, multiple new medical colleges, and a massive power plant that will become one of the larg-

est in the nation.

He urged everyone to make the most of these new economic opportunities to help build a stronger future.

The regional administration has highlighted a major shift in the socioeconomic landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the legislative changes enacted in recent years have opened unprecedented avenues for structural development and youth empowerment.

Speaking at a comprehensive leadership development workshop, a senior union minister stated that the integration of the region under uniform national laws has fundamentally trans-

formed local governance and fostered a renewed sense of self-confidence among the youth.

The minister emphasized that removing historical legal barriers has allowed local students and young professionals to compete equitably on the national stage, integrating them seamlessly into the country's broader economic and academic ecosystems.

To substantiate these developmental claims, the minister pointed toward a series of high-budget infrastructure projects currently underway across the territory, aimed at modernizing public utilities and boosting the local economy.

Among the flagship initiatives highlighted was the construction of a state-of-the-art international sports stadium designed to host global athletic events and nurture regional talent, alongside the establishment of several new medical colleges to overhaul the local healthcare infrastructure.

Furthermore, significant capital is being channeled into the energy sector with the development of a massive hydroelectric power plant, which officials project will become one of the largest power-generation facilities in the country upon completion, effectively addressing long-standing regional power deficits



Delhi Govt Resolves Long-Pending Power Crisis in Harsh Vihar, 36 Families Receive First Electricity Connections



New Delhi : In a major relief for residents of Harsh Vihar in North-East Delhi, 36 families from the A-3 Block of Gokulpuri on Sunday received electricity connections for the first time after years of waiting, following the intervention of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

The families met the Chief Minister at Jan Seva Sadan and expressed gratitude for resolving a long-pending issue that had affected their daily lives since 2018. North-East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari was also present on the occasion.

Addressing the beneficiaries, Gupta said the visible satisfaction on the faces of residents reflected the impact of responsive governance and timely action.

"These families had been waiting for regular electricity connections for years. The happiness and satisfaction visible on their faces show how sensitive governance and prompt action can bring meaningful change to people's lives," she said.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the Delhi Government remains committed to ensuring that basic services reach every citizen and that public grievances are addressed without delay.

According to officials, the issue came to light during a public grievance hearing where residents informed the Chief Minister that dozens of families in the area had been unable to obtain regular power connections despite living in the

colony for several years.

Residents told the government that around 50 to 60 houses had been constructed in the A-3 Block by 2018 and many families had already shifted there. However, the absence of land for an Electric Sub-Station (ESS) prevented the establishment of the necessary power infrastructure, leaving residents dependent on temporary and unorganised arrangements.

Taking cognisance of the matter, Gupta directed the concerned departments and agencies to coordinate and find an immediate solution. Following her intervention, land was identified and made available for the installation of a transformer.

The power distribution company subsequently carried out electrification work

in mission mode, installing the transformer and expanding the electricity network in the locality. Officials said most demand notes have already been issued and the process of installing electricity meters for eligible applicants is progressing rapidly.

Highlighting the importance of public grievance hearings, the Chief Minister said they serve as more than a platform for lodging complaints.

"Public grievance hearings are not merely a platform for registering complaints; they are an effective mechanism for ensuring the quick resolution of citizens' problems. Our effort is to hear every complaint seriously and ensure timely redressal," she said.

Emphasising the government's citizen-centric approach, Gupta added, "The government's objective is not merely to launch schemes but to address people's real problems. Public trust is our greatest asset, and strengthening that trust remains our foremost responsibility."

She said the Delhi Government is working to ensure that the benefits of development and basic services reach every resident. The Chief Minister also directed officials to ensure that the remaining families in the area receive electricity connections within the stipulated timeframe and instructed that no citizen should have to wait for years for basic services in the future.

Court acquits two Delhi Police Personnel in CBI bribery case

New Delhi : Delhi's Rouse Avenue Courts has acquitted two Delhi Police personnel in a CBI corruption case linked to allegations of bribery and threats of implicating a complainant in a false NDPS matter.

Head Constable Satish Kumar and Constable Deepak were acquitted by the Rouse Avenue Court, which noted that the complainant did not fully support the prosecution case during trial and raised allegations that the corruption complaint had been written on the dic-

tation of CBI officials.

The prosecution alleged that the complainant had approached the CBI claiming that police personnel were demanding money from him and threatening to implicate him in a false narcotics case if the amount was not paid. Following verification proceedings, a trap was laid during which one of the accused was apprehended with the alleged bribe amount.

The prosecution relied on audio recordings, recovery proceedings, forensic reports, call detail records

and testimonies of CBI officials and independent witnesses to support its case.

However, during the trial, the complainant did not fully support the prosecution's version. The court record notes that he stated the corruption allegations were written on the dictation of CBI officials and that the dispute was related to salary dues and alleged harassment.

Advocate Sandeep Sharma, appearing for the accused police personnel, argued before the court that

"the accused have been falsely implicated and no bribe was ever demanded or accepted." The defence also contended that the complainant's original grievance did not contain allegations of corruption and that the evidence had been manipulated.

The judgment discusses the testimonies of witnesses, forensic examination of recordings, trap proceedings and arguments from both sides before acquitting the accused.

Five held for plotting firing at Chhawla Clinic on Nandu Gang's orders

New Delhi : Two alleged sharpshooters of the Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu gang, along with three of their associates, were arrested by the Northern Range unit of the Delhi Police Special Cell from Punjab and Haryana for allegedly plotting a firing incident at a clinic in Delhi's Chhawla area as part of an extortion bid.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Cell Northern Range, Narra Chaitanya, the accused had been tasked

by jailed gangster Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu to open fire at the clinic in order to terrorise the target and extort money. The officer said the operation led to the recovery of three semi-automatic pistols, four live cartridges and mobile phones allegedly used to communicate with the gangster.

Police identified the arrested accused as Abhishek Sahil, Harshdeep alias Polu, Karan alias Ankush and Aman. Officials said Abhishek, Sahil and Harsh-

deep, all residents of Amritsar in Punjab, were allegedly recruited as shooters, while Karan and Aman, residents of Kaithal in Haryana, allegedly arranged and supplied weapons for the planned attack.

Investigators said the gang members had allegedly conducted reconnaissance of the clinic in February this year but could not execute the firing due to heavy public presence near the location. The Special Cell later tracked the sus-

pects through technical surveillance and local intelligence before carrying out the arrests.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly revealed details about the extortion network being operated by Kapil Sangwan from abroad and the methods used by the gang to coordinate attacks while avoiding police detection. Police said further investigation is underway to identify more members and associates linked to the syndicate.

Congress targets Centre over Rubio's USD \$500 billion US Trade claim

New Delhi : The Congress today launched a strong verbal attack on the Narendra Modi government after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio claimed that India had committed to purchasing US\$500 billion worth of American goods over the next five years.

The opposition party accused the Prime Minister of compromising India's economic and foreign policy interests.

In a sharply-worded statement, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh questioned why key announcements related to India's foreign policy and trade commitments were repeatedly being made from Washington rather than New Delhi.

Rubio had posted on X that India would buy US\$500 billion in US goods over five years, with a focus on energy, technology and

agriculture. His remarks came amid his ongoing India visit and discussions around a wider India-US trade agreement.

Referring to earlier instances, Ramesh recalled that on May 10, 2025, Rubio was the first to announce the ceasefire linked to Operation Sindoor, claiming that intervention by US President Donald Trump had helped make it possible.

He also cited Rubio's May 21 statement regarding the proposed visit of the Venezuelan President to India, noting that the announcement came before either India or Venezuela had officially confirmed the development.

"Today, Mr Rubio has once again shocked the country by stating on X that the Modi Government has committed to purchasing US\$500 billion in US goods over the next five years,"

Ramesh said.

The Congress leader argued that such a commitment would significantly increase India's trade dependence on the United States. He noted that India's annual imports from the US currently stand at US\$52.9 billion in FY26, suggesting the proposed arrangement would require a sharp rise in imports.

Ramesh also raised several questions over the proposed India-US trade agreement. He claimed that countries such as Malaysia had already declared similar trade arrangements with the US "null and void" following a US Supreme Court ruling that struck down Trump-era tar-

iffs which formed the basis of those deals.

"The logic of this deal has collapsed after the US Supreme Court verdict striking down the tariffs," he alleged, accusing the government of making major concessions that could hurt Indian farmers and industries.

He questioned the government over what he described as contradictory economic messaging.

While the Prime Minister has urged citizens to reduce fuel consumption and overseas travel to save foreign exchange, Ramesh asked why the government was simultaneously agreeing to large-scale imports from the US.



Delhi aproves water infrastructure push to revive Yamuna, upgrade Sewage network

New Delhi : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has approved water management and Yamuna rejuvenation projects worth over ₹1,000 crore aimed at strengthening the capital's sewage treatment system and water security.

The plan includes 12 new decentralised sewage treatment plants in the Najafgarh region under the AMRUT scheme, upgraded treatment facilities at Keshopur, and expansion of rainwater harvesting systems across government departments.

The projects are expected to benefit several villages and unauthorised colonies while preventing untreated sewage from entering the Najafgarh Drain. Officials said the initiative will improve recycled water usage, enhance groundwater re-

charge and support long-term efforts to make Delhi cleaner, greener and more water secure.

The government said additional infrastructure works, including sewer line rehabilitation and new reservoirs, will further modernise Delhi's aging water network and reduce recurring maintenance issues. Officials added that the integrated approach is expected to significantly improve urban water management and ensure more efficient delivery of clean water across the city.

Officials said the projects will also strengthen Delhi's resilience against water scarcity and seasonal flooding by creating a more efficient and sustainable water management system in the coming years.

Security guard crushed to death in Peera Garhi

New Delhi : A 60-year-old security guard was allegedly run over multiple times by a car in Outer Delhi's Peera Garhi village, triggering outrage among locals who announced a chakka jam protest demanding justice.

The deceased, identified as Vijender, worked as a chowkidar at a tempo stand near Shri Shidh Baba Mandir in Peeragarhi. According to villagers, four men arrived at the spot late Saturday night in a tempo. One of them allegedly attacked Vijender with a stick and when he tried to escape, the vehicle allegedly ran over him repeatedly before the accused fled.

Police initially received information about a fatal accident at around 4:03 am on Sunday at Peeragarhi Village. However, during investigation and detailed CCTV analysis, officials found that the victim had been deliberately run over twice by a four-wheeler. "A murder case has now been registered at Delhi Police station Paschim Vihar West. Crime and FSL teams inspected the spot, while multiple police teams have been deployed to identify and arrest the accused," said a senior police official. The police said that they were conducting raids to nab the accused.

Man held for stabbing Delhi resident to death in Shahbad Dairy

New Delhi : A 20-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stabbing a 31-year-old resident to death in Delhi's Shahbad Dairy area, police said on Sunday.

According to Delhi Police, the accused, identified as Suraj, was apprehended after CCTV footage showed three youths attacking Narayan Dutt near Mahadev Chowk on Friday night. Police said the victim, a resident of Gupta Colony in Prahladpur, sustained multiple sharp injuries in the assault and later died during treatment at Safdarjung Hospital. Police said a team rushed to the spot after receiving information about the stabbing incident and later reached MV Hospital in Pooth Khurd, where the injured man had been admitted.

Doctors declared him unfit for statement due to the severity of injuries.

During investigation, CCTV footage from the area was scanned and the attackers were identified. Following sustained raids, Suraj, a resident of Shahbad Dairy, was arrested while efforts are underway to nab the remaining accused involved in the murder.

Delhi Congress targets BJP after HC notice to MCD over garbage dump near school

New Delhi : The Delhi unit of the Congress party has criticised the BJP-led Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the state government after the Delhi High Court reportedly issued a notice to the MCD Commissioner over alleged dumping of garbage near a government school in the national capital.

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief Devender Yadav alleged on Saturday that the incident reflected a failure of civic administration and raised concerns over the health and safety of students studying in the area. He claimed that thousands of children were being forced to study in unhygienic conditions due to the presence of waste near the school premises.

In a statement issued here, Yadav said the issue highlighted larger concerns regarding sanitation and waste management in Delhi despite repeated promises by the BJP over garbage disposal and cleanliness.

He also referred to the Centre's Swachh Bharat campaign and alleged that several commitments related to scientific waste disposal, garbage processing and clearing dump sites had not been fully implemented.

The Congress leader de-

manded immediate removal of garbage from near the school, a time-bound action report from the MCD Commissioner, accountability against officials responsible for the alleged negligence, and a city-wide audit of garbage dumping sites near schools, hospitals and residential colonies.

He further said that the issue should not be treated as an isolated incident and urged the authorities to implement a long-term monitoring mechanism to ensure that such violations are not repeated, especially in sensitive areas like schools and healthcare institutions.

Army unveils Shaurya Gatha complex in Tangdhar under Bharat Rann Bhoomi Darshan

New Delhi : In a significant step towards promoting border tourism, preserving military heritage and empowering local communities, the Indian Army has developed the Shaurya Gatha Complex in the picturesque Tangdhar region of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district. Nestled amidst the towering Shamsabari Ridge near Sadhana Pass, the initiative has been launched under the Army's Bharat Rann Bhoomi Darshan programme.

According to the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI), the complex integrates a range of facilities, including the Sadhana Café, a Pahari Cultural Centre, and a War Memorial and Museum, offering visitors an opportunity to experience the region's rich cultural traditions alongside stories of military courage and sacrifice.

The project seeks to strengthen the connection between tourists and residents of India's remote border villages while generating employment opportunities and boosting the local economy through increased tourism activity.

The Army said the initiative highlights both the

cultural heritage of the region and the valour of soldiers who have served along the country's sensitive northern frontiers. The complex is also expected to commemorate the sacrifices of soldiers while simultaneously supporting the welfare and aspirations of local communities.

Bharat Rann Bhoomi Darshan is an initiative aimed at opening historically significant battlefields, military heritage sites and strategically important border regions to visitors, enabling citizens to gain a deeper understanding of the nation's military history and the challenges faced by soldiers deployed in difficult terrains.

The programme seeks to promote patriotic tourism by showcasing locations associated with major military operations, acts of gallantry and the rich traditions of the armed forces. At the same time, it aims to bring economic benefits to remote border regions through tour-

ism-led development.

Under the initiative, visitors are encouraged to explore war memorials, museums, military heritage centres and culturally significant border settlements. The programme aligns with the broader objective of integrating border areas into the national tourism network while fostering awareness about national security, military history and the contribution of local communities living along India's frontiers.

The Shaurya Gatha Complex in Tangdhar represents one of the latest efforts under this vision, combining remembrance, cultural preservation and community development in a region that has long held strategic and historical significance.

Officials said the Shaurya Gatha Complex is expected to significantly boost border tourism by attracting visitors, history enthusiasts and adventure travellers to the remote Tangdhar region. The initiative will not only promote awareness about the strategic importance of India's northern frontiers but also offer deeper insight into the sacrifices and valour of soldiers who have served in difficult and high-altitude conditions.



Editorial

India Under the Shadow of Inequality

While India is lauded as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, behind the glitter of this development, the ominous shadows of economic inequality, unemployment, and mounting pressure on democratic institutions have begun to emerge. Over the past few years, amidst the clamor surrounding religious and emotive issues, the sentiment that the fundamental concerns of the common citizen have been neglected has intensified significantly. On one hand, as the economic power of a select few corporate groups continues to grow, on the other, the lives of the middle class and the poor are becoming increasingly arduous due to inflation, a lack of employment opportunities, and rising debt. This reality lurking behind the claims of development is now becoming a source of deep unease within the public consciousness.

As one reflects upon India's political and economic trajectory over recent years, a critical question is now being raised with grave seriousness: are the nation's democracy and the economic interests of the common people truly secure? A public discourse has now commenced among both experts and ordinary citizens regarding whether an unsettling reality might, in fact, be concealed behind the glossy narrative of national development projected during the period spanning 2014 to 2026. On one hand, the nation's entire political landscape has been kept centered around emotive and religious issues such as the Ram Mandir, Hindutva, and citizenship laws while on the other, persistent allegations suggest that, under the cover of this very political tumult, autonomous institutions which constitute the very soul of the Constitution have been systematically undermined. Criticism regarding the alleged misuse of central investigative agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the Income Tax Department to achieve political objectives and stifle dissenting voices is no longer confined solely to political circles.

The subtle pressure exerted upon key pillars of democracy such as the Supreme Court and the Election Commission serves as a warning sign of institutional decay, giving rise to fears that the very foundational structure of Indian democracy may be fracturing. Against the backdrop of this political polarization, the country's economic policies have cast the common people out of the mainstream of development, while simultaneously concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a select few industrialists. The abrupt decision of demonetization in 2016 devastated the country's cash-dependent rural economy, small traders, and hardworking laborers. Before they could even recover from that shock, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) implemented without any prior preparation crippled the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. These economic experiments forced the closure of hundreds of thousands of MSMEs; conversely, through concessions such as the 'Windfall Profit Tax,' the corporate sector and a few select capitalists within the country were enabled to reap unprecedented profits. Although claims are made that these policies have bolstered the nation's infrastructure development, the reality is that critical national assets such as airports, ports, roads, energy facilities, and mines have been handed over to a handful of corporate houses for a pittance. This marks the rise of 'Crony Capitalism,' a phenomenon that has drastically widened the chasm of economic inequality within the country. While figures from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank currently peg India's growth rate at around 6 to 7 percent drawing global acclaim for the Indian economy the true reality behind this growth rate is starkly grim. This growth is sustained solely by government spending and the accumulation of wealth by a select few billionaires, offering no direct benefit to the country's poor and middle-class populations. In India the world's youngest nation the issue of unemployment has today become so acute that the future of its youth appears shrouded in darkness. Through catchy slogans like 'Startup India' and 'Skill India,' merely an illusory picture of employment was projected; yet, in reality, the system has failed to generate high-quality and sustainable jobs. Consequently, millions of the nation's youth today live in the depths of despair and under the shadow of insecurity a deeply alarming sign for any developed nation. Due to these flaws in economic policies, the country has witnessed such a raging surge in inflation that the daily existence of the common man has become arduous. Driven by the relentless rise in diesel and petrol prices, the cost of essential commodities has skyrocketed. The reality remains undeniable: behind the glittering figures of foreign exchange reserves lies a colossal mountain of national debt, amounting to a staggering ₹214 lakh crore. The ongoing spree of selling off national assets by privatizing profitable public sector enterprises serves not to protect the rights of the common people, but rather to line the pockets of capitalists. In the name of development, farmers' lands are being acquired, while small traders are being edged out of the competition to clear the path for large corporations. Although India's score hovering around 72 on the 'Fragile States Index' may not constitute direct proof of failure, it serves as a stark warning regarding the nation's deteriorating institutional framework and escalating social unrest. The greatest tragedy is that, instead of making substantial investments in fundamental areas of human development such as education and healthcare the nation's entire energy is being expended solely on temple-mosque disputes, undermining religious harmony, and fomenting communal tensions. During this period, the constitutional rights granted to every citizen specifically the right to equality, freedom of expression, and the right to live with dignity have been consistently infringed upon. Gaining control over the media or coercing it through intimidation to toe the ruling party's line has emerged as the primary strategy of this political model. While the common people remain trapped in the stranglehold of inflation and poverty, those in power are keeping the public under the sway of religious sentiment merely to serve their own vote-bank politics. This double standard has now been exposed; the notion that the public will remain passive while the government ruthlessly plunders national wealth is a game that, if allowed to continue for long, will prove detrimental to the health of our democracy. If India is to be pulled out of the abyss of this economic and political crisis, its citizens must break free from the influence of this emotionally charged politics. A nation cannot be sustained merely by hollow slogans and religious frenzy; rather, it requires the preservation of democratic values and the attainment of economic justice. If we fail to raise our voices today against this institutionalized plunder and the erosion of democracy, future generations will be left to pay a heavy price for this deceit and economic ruin. The definition of development cannot be limited merely to the construction of concrete roads or increasing the number of airports from 74 to 157. The true development of any nation is not measured solely by mega-projects or a rising GDP; it is determined by the levels of security, employment, and dignity achieved in the life of the last person in society. If India is to advance towards economic and social stability, policies that place the interests of the common people at the center will be essential. Priority must be given to issues such as employment, education, healthcare, and inflation control, rather than to emotive slogans.

Bengaluru–Mumbai Express Train Strengthening Rail Connectivity Between Karnataka and Maharashtra

The Union Railway Minister, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw virtually flagged off an express train between Bengaluru–Mumbai today, marking a major step in strengthening connectivity between Karnataka and Maharashtra. Sh. Vaishnaw stated that long-pending demands of South & North Karnataka are now being fulfilled. Further, he announced that the Vande Bharat Sleeper service between Bengaluru and Mumbai is expected to start soon.

Highlighting infrastructure growth, he noted a significant increase in railway funding in recent years, accelerating project execution across Karnataka.

Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 61 stations are being redeveloped at a cost of ₹2,160 crore, with 9 already completed. Bengaluru Cantonment station is being redeveloped at ₹485 crore and Yeshwantpur at ₹367 crore.

Since 2014, about 1,750 km of new railway lines have been constructed in

Karnataka, and complex electrification works in the Hassan–Mangaluru section have been completed and testing is going on.

On the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project, he stated that work is progressing across all four corridors. For the Baiyappanahalli–Chikkabanavara and Heelalige–Rajanukunte corridors, land acquisition has been completed and station works are currently under progress. The KSR Bengaluru–Devanahalli alignment has been jointly approved by the State Government and the Railways, and the geo-technical survey has been completed. The Kengeri–Whitefield alignment was recently approved, and survey work will commence shortly. And he said that the suburban rail network will integrate key hubs, including the airport, Electronic City, Marathahalli, and Hebbal.

The Railway Minister further stated that Karnataka currently operates 12 pairs of Vande Bharat trains. Test-

ing on the Bengaluru–Mangaluru route is underway and will soon improve coastal connectivity up to Madgaon.

Bullet train corridors connecting Bengaluru with

Hyderabad and Chennai have also been approved, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted. He further noted that, with a long-term vi-

sion to connect Mumbai, Bengaluru, and other major cities, the network is expected to expand to 7,000 km.

The Union Minister of State for Railways, Shri V. Somanna while addressing

the gathering during the flagging off of Train No. 16553/54 SMVT Bengaluru – Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express, expressed his grati-

tude to Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw for sanctioning the new Bengaluru–Mumbai train, stating that it will greatly benefit passengers on one of the busiest routes and further boost Karnataka's development. He highlighted that Karnataka currently operates 12 pairs of Vande Bharat trains covering 14 districts. He noted that a Vande Bharat Sleeper maintenance depot will be established at Thanisandra at a cost of ₹270 crore, along with a chair car maintenance facility at SMVT Bengaluru costing ₹52.73 crore. Doubling of Baiyappanahalli–Hosur (₹1,116 crore), Bettahalusuru–Rajanukunte (₹248 crore), and quadrupling works around Bengaluru (₹1,347 crore) are being undertaken to enhance capacity.

Shri Somanna informed that automatic signalling works are being implemented across key sections, including Yesvantpur, KSR Bengaluru, Lottogollahalli, Baiyappanahalli, Penukon-

da, Mysuru, and Jolarpettai, at a total cost of ₹6,396 crore. Highlighting overall growth, he stated that Karnataka has received a record railway budget allocation of ₹7748 crore. Since 2014, about 3,840 km of railway lines have been developed and 3,742 km electrified, taking the state close to 100% electrification. He added that the number of ROBs/RUBs has increased from about 150 before 2014 to 707 now, with 146 more to be completed within the next one year, and all level crossings targeted for elimination in the next three years.

Dignitaries present on the occasion included Shri P. C. Mohan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Bengaluru Central; Shri Lehar Singh Siroya, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; and Shri Tejasvi Surya, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Bengaluru South, who joined the event through video conference, along with senior Railway officials.



Hyderabad and Chennai have also been approved, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted. He further noted that, with a long-term vi-

Mission Sikkim

Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia today participated in the 51st Statehood Day celebrations of Sikkim, reaffirming the Government of India's commitment towards the State's sustainable, connected and future-ready development journey. Joining the celebrations alongside Vice President of India Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, Governor of Sikkim Om Prakash Mathur and Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang, the Union Minister participated in the inauguration and foundation stone laying of 21 development projects worth ₹223 crore supported by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER).

Addressing the gathering in Nepalese, Shri Scindia described Sikkim as "a model of balanced development where progress walks hand in hand with nature, culture and identity." He noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sikkim has emerged as a leading example of sustainable growth, organic agriculture, tourism-led development and ecological stewardship.

Under NESIDS-Roads, strategic connectivity infrastructure projects worth over ₹45 crore were inaugurated, including bridge connectivity works linking NH-10 to IBP Road, connectivity over Rongrong River in Pakyong district and across Rangpo Khola in Namchi district. Join by other dignitaries the Vice President CP Radhakrishnan also laid the foundation stone for the geometric improvement and carpeting of the 15.8-km



Rimbi Khola–Yuksam road in Gyalshing district at a cost of ₹24.52 crore, aimed at improving regional access and tourism connectivity. A major highlight of the programme was the launch of Mission Sikkim Organics as Sikkim USP, an ambitious convergence-led initiative with an estimated programme outlay of ₹360 crore aimed at transforming Sikkim from a certified organic producer into a globally integrated premium organic economy. Anchored by MDoNER in partnership with the Government of Sikkim, APEDA, NABARD, NERAMAC, SIOL, FPOs, cooperatives and pri-

private-sector stakeholders, the Mission is expected to benefit over 66,000 farmer families across the State.

As part of the integrated funding framework, MDoNER will contribute ₹85 crore towards core infrastructure, aggregation systems and programme coordination. The broader Mission adopts a Whole-of-Government approach bringing together multiple Central Ministries, State agencies, institutional financing mechanisms, farmer equity participation and private-sector investments.

The Mission aims to strengthen certification systems, process-

ing, branding, export-market integration and institutional value chains for organic produce, thereby enhancing farmer incomes and reducing post-harvest losses. Special focus will also be placed on value-chain development for key crops such as large cardamom and ginger through a robust three-tier aggregation mechanism. Additional projects undertaken under SoNEC include augmentation of the Namthang Bazar water supply system, development of a Multi-Purpose Hall at Government Degree College, Rhenock, establishment of a Bamboo Industrial Park and Innovation Product Cultural

Craft Centre, construction of an Academic Block at Government Degree College, Burtuk, construction of a Science Block at Kamrang Government Degree College in Namchi, remodeling and upgradation of Burtuk Heliport, and tourism infrastructure support facilities for the passenger ropeway project at Upper Dhapar, Yangang.

The Minister noted that the projects collectively represent focused investments across connectivity, education, tourism, agriculture, water supply and industry, laying a strong foundation for balanced regional development and long-term economic growth across Sikkim.

Speaking on Sikkim's developmental trajectory, Minister Scindia highlighted that Government of India in close coordination with the Government of Sikkim and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari, is actively working towards an alternative alignment to NH-10 to secure resilient, reliable and all-weather connectivity for the State. The Minister further highlighted that the State today has one of the highest per capita income in the country and has become a national benchmark for sustainable and organic development.

Extending greetings on the occasion of Sikkim's 51st Statehood Day, the Minister stated that Sikkim represents "a rare harmony between aspiration and authenticity" and reaffirmed that every initiative undertaken by MDoNER would continue to be guided by a deep commitment towards the people and progress of the State.

GeM Observes Incorporation Day 2026

The Government e Marketplace (GeM) is observing its Incorporation Day 2026, marking another significant milestone in the evolution of India's digital public procurement ecosystem. Over the years, GeM has emerged as a transformative platform that has reshaped the way government departments, ministries, public sector undertakings and other public agencies procure goods and services. With its emphasis on transparency, efficiency and technology-driven governance, the platform has become a key pillar in strengthening accountability and improving ease of doing business in the country.

The Government e Marketplace Special Purpose Vehicle (GeM SPV), a Section 8 non-profit company under the Ministry of Commerce, was incorporated on May 17, 2017 under the Companies Act, 2013. The organisation was established with the objective of developing, managing and maintaining a unified online procurement portal for government buyers and sellers. Since its inception, GeM has steadily expanded its scope and capabilities, becoming one of the largest public procurement

portals in the world.

The platform was introduced to simplify procurement procedures and reduce inefficiencies associated with conventional tendering systems. By digitising the procurement process, GeM has enabled government organisations to procure products and services in a faster, more transparent and cost-effective manner. The online system has also reduced human intervention and minimized procedural delays, thereby promoting greater accountability and trust among stakeholders.

GeM's growth is closely aligned with the Government of India's broader vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Vocal for Local and Viksit Bharat 2047. Through the platform, local manufacturers, startups, entrepreneurs and small businesses are being connected directly with government procurement opportunities. This has significantly improved market access for domestic enterprises while encouraging indigenous production and innovation across sectors.

Over the years, the platform has witnessed strong participation from Class-I local suppliers operating in

diverse sectors such as pharmaceuticals, transportation, construction equipment, furniture, textiles, electronics and medical consumables. By facilitating direct interaction between government buyers and suppliers, GeM has created a more competitive marketplace that encourages quality products, competitive pricing and timely delivery of services.

Today, GeM hosts more than 1.36 lakh government buyers and nearly 25 lakh sellers and service providers from across the country. The scale and reach of the platform reflect its growing importance in India's procurement landscape. The portal has become a central hub for procurement activities, enabling government departments at the Centre and state levels to access a wide range of verified products and services through a single digital interface. A notable feature of the GeM ecosystem is the significant participation of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). Nearly 72 per cent of active sellers on the platform belong to the MSE category, highlighting GeM's role in supporting small businesses and promoting inclusive economic growth.

Madhur Dairy Unit-2 in Gandhinagar

In line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build a prosperous and self-reliant India through the mantra of "Sahkar se Samridhhi," the Ministry of Cooperation continues to strengthen the country's cooperative ecosystem through modern infrastructure, technology-driven systems and farmer-centric initiatives. Under the leadership of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, several initiatives have been undertaken to modernise cooperative institutions and improve economic opportunities for farmers and rural communities across India.

As part of these ongoing efforts, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the Madhur Dairy Unit-2 Automatic Milk Processing and Packaging Plant at Gandhinagar on May 17, 2026. The new facility, located at Dashela in Gujarat, is expected to play an important role in enhancing milk processing infrastructure and strengthening the dairy cooperative network in the region.

The inauguration ceremony will also be attended by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi and several senior officials and dignitaries associated with the cooperative and dairy sectors. The event is being seen as another significant step towards strengthening India's cooperative dairy movement through modern technology and infrastructure development.

The newly established Madhur Dairy Unit-2 has been designed as an advanced automatic milk processing and packaging facility equipped with modern systems to improve operational efficiency and product quality. The project is expected to significantly en-

hance milk processing and packaging capacities in the region, benefiting thousands of dairy farmers and milk producer societies linked with the cooperative sector.

Officials said the plant will contribute to improving value realisation for milk producers by enabling efficient processing, better storage and enhanced packaging facilities. The initiative is also expected to help dairy cooperatives meet growing consumer demand while ensuring quality assurance and hygienic processing standards.

The dairy sector plays a crucial role in India's rural economy, particularly in states such as Gujarat where cooperative dairy institutions have transformed the livelihoods of millions of farmers. Through projects like Madhur Dairy Unit-2, the government aims to further modernise dairy infrastructure and strengthen the cooperative model that has long supported inclusive rural development.

The Ministry of Cooperation has consistently emphasised the importance of technology-enabled systems and institutional reforms in strengthening cooperative societies. By integrating automation, advanced machinery and streamlined operational processes, the new dairy plant is expected to improve efficiency while reducing wastage and operational costs. During the programme, Union Minister Amit Shah will unveil the plaque of Madhur Dairy Unit-2 and undertake a detailed visit of the milk processing facility and viewing gallery. The visit is expected to showcase the technological capabilities and modern infrastructure installed at the plant. The Minister will also formally inaugurate the plant by launching its operational systems from the control room.



Briefs :

Power Supply Shortage Looms Over Punjab and Haryana as Himachal Diverts Electricity

Shimla : The Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board has announced a massive reduction in its electricity supply to Punjab and Haryana under the traditional power banking system. Instead of storing and sharing the usual 1,800 million units of power from previous years, the board is planning to store only about 400 million units this season. This substantial drop means that neighboring Punjab and Haryana will now have to look for alternative solutions, such as finding other states to trade with or purchasing expensive electricity directly from the open market to fulfill their power needs.

Light Rain Hits Parts of Punjab and Haryana as Severe Heatwave Persists

Chandigarh : Amidst an ongoing intense heatwave sweeping across northwest India, several parts of Punjab and isolated areas in Haryana received light rainfall. The weather department has forecast that light showers will continue to hit select locations in Punjab, with a broader chance of rain for both states. Among the areas that experienced relief were Faridkot, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, and Ludhiana, with Faridkot recording the highest downpour at 3.5 mm. Despite the temporary respite brought by these scattered showers, dust storms, lightning, and strong gusty winds, the weather department warned that severe heatwave conditions will continue to trouble residents. No major dip in maximum temperatures is expected over the next week, and strong winds traveling at speeds of up to 40 kmph will continue across the plains.

Real Estate Tribunal Rejects Special Corporate Appeal Over Gurugram Project

Chandigarh : An appeal filed by a subsidiary company of Adani Infrastructure regarding a commercial project named "The Dome Centre" in Gurugram has been rejected by the Haryana Real Estate Appellate Tribunal. The tribunal supported an earlier decision made by the local regulatory authority, which stated that the planned development does not count as a standard real estate project under the official real estate act of 2016.

High Court Questions Sports Body Over Excluding Vinesh Phogat After Pregnancy

Gurugram : The Delhi High Court strongly criticized the Wrestling Federation of India for keeping famous wrestler Vinesh Phogat out of the Asian Games selection trials, stating that the nation should celebrate motherhood instead of punishing female athletes for having children. The court also expressed anger at the sports body for calling her disqualification at the Paris Olympics a "national embarrassment," noting that the public stood by her and that administrators should look at their own systematic mistakes instead of blaming the athlete.

Police Athletes Win Top Medals at All India Sports Event in Madhuban

Karnal: Sports teams representing various police forces across India showed excellent performances on the second day of the All India Police Weightlifting Cluster held at the Haryana Police Academy. The event featured intense competitions in weightlifting, powerlifting, and yoga, drawing large crowds of spectators and senior officials who came to encourage the participants. In the women's weightlifting matches, Rajni from the Uttar Pradesh police won the gold medal in the fifty-two-kilogram category, while players from Odisha and Madhya Pradesh took home the silver and bronze medals. In the fifty-seven-kilogram group, N. Pumagal from the Tamil Nadu police secured the top gold spot. Another gold went to Abhirami from the Central Industrial Security Force in the fifty-eight-kilogram event. The men's events also saw exciting finishes, with Katar Singh of the Uttar Pradesh police winning gold in the seventy-four-kilogram bench press and deadlift category. In the sixty-six-kilogram weightlifting competition, Avijit Saha from the West Bengal police secured the gold medal. Meanwhile, the yoga competitions saw Asha Nitharwal from the Ra-



jasthan police and Rajesh Kumar from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police top their respective categories to advance into the final rounds. The prestigious grounds of the Haryana Police Academy in Madhuban, Karnal, became a vibrant arena of athletic excellence as it played host to the highly anticipated second day of the

All India Police Weightlifting Cluster. This premier sporting congregation brought together elite athletes representing various state police forces and central paramilitary units from across the nation, creating a powerful showcase of strength, endurance, and mental discipline. The multi-sport event featured intense,

high-stakes competitions spanning weightlifting, powerlifting, and yoga disciplines, successfully drawing massive crowds of local sports enthusiasts, fellow officers, and senior administrative officials who gathered to cheer on the competitors and elevate the collective spirit of the tournament. The women's division delivered an absolute spectacle of technical mastery and explosive power, with several marquee lifters dominating their respective weight categories to secure national glory for their organizations. In the highly competitive fifty-two-kilogram weightlifting bracket, Rajni, representing the Uttar Pradesh Police, put on a clinical performance to claim the coveted gold medal, leaving competitors from the Odisha and Madhya Pradesh police forces to settle for the silver and bronze spots respectively. The momentum continued in the fifty-seven-kilogram category, where N. Pumagal of the Tamil Nadu Police exhibited exceptional grit to capture the top spot on the podium, while Abhirami from the Central Industrial Security Force secured another gold for the paramilitary units with an impressive showing in the fifty-eight-kilogram event.

Three Men Die as Car Crashes Into Motorcycle on Highway

Hisar: A severe road accident on the Hisar-Delhi National Highway left three motorcycle riders dead early Sunday morning. The crash took place near Anipura village, which is located about thirty kilometers away from Hisar.

A car coming from the Rohtak side hit the motorcycle, which was traveling in the opposite direction. All three victims were between thirty-five and forty years old and belonged to Bhatla village in the Hansi district. Police officials arrived at the scene and moved the bodies to the Hansi Civil Hospital so that the necessary medical examinations could be completed.

The peaceful early morning atmosphere along the Hisar-Delhi National Highway was shattered by a devastating road traffic accident that tragically claimed the lives of three individuals. The high-speed collision occurred on a critical stretch of the national corridor, a route notorious for heavy commercial and passenger vehicle transit across the region. As the first rays of light were breaking, what was meant to be a routine journey for the travelers involved turned into a catastrophic event, underscoring the persistent dangers associated with highway travel in the coun-

try. The sheer force of the impact left an immediate scene of destruction, drawing the attention of early morning commuters and nearby residents who rushed to the site in a desperate bid to offer assistance.

The precise location of the tragedy was identified as being in the close vicinity of Anipura village, a relatively quiet rural settlement situated approximately thirty kilometers away from the main city center of Hisar.

This particular segment of the highway is often characterized by fast-moving traffic, where vehicles frequently test the upper limits of regional speed regulations. The transition from urban areas to open rural stretches along the highway often creates hazardous conditions, particularly during the dawn hours when visibility can fluctuate and driver alertness may be compromised.

For the residents of Anipura village, the sudden and deafening sound of the crash served as an alarming awakening, prompting many to immediately contact emergency services and run toward the asphalt to see if anyone could be saved.

According to preliminary structural reports and eyewitness statements collected by individuals at the

scene, the mechanics of the accident involved a direct and violent interaction between two vastly different types of vehicles. A passenger car, which was reportedly traveling at a significant rate of speed from the direction of the Rohtak side, collided with a motorcycle that was navigating the highway from the opposite direction. The stark contrast in size, weight, and protective structural framework between a standard automobile and a two-wheeler meant that the riders on the motorcycle were exposed to the absolute maximum kinetic energy of the impact. Investigators are looking into whether lane discipline violations, sudden swerving, or a lack of adequate lighting contributed to the fatal trajectory of the oncoming car.

The impact of the collision was so severe that all three victims riding on the single motorcycle sustained catastrophic injuries, resulting in their immediate demise at the crash site before any formal medical intervention could be mobilized. Emergency medical technicians who arrived shortly after the notification confirmed that the trauma experienced by the riders was incompatible with life, leaving no opportunity for resuscitation efforts on the highway.

High Court Advisor Says Pending Inquiry Cannot Block Judge's Promotion

Chandigarh: An independent legal advisor appointed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court stated that a judicial officer cannot be denied a career promotion simply because a preliminary internal complaint is pending against him. This opinion was submitted during the hearing of a petition filed by Prateek Singh Dhonchak, a civil judge working in Ellenabad. The judge claimed that the high court administration acted unfairly by stopping his promotion to a senior rank while promoting officers who were junior to him. The advisor pointed out that according to rules set by the Supreme Court, official disciplinary action against an employee only begins after a formal chargesheet is given to them. In this case, no chargesheet had been issued to the judge.

Denying a promotion or keeping the decision hidden in a sealed envelope can only happen if an employee is suspended, facing a trial, or officially charge-sheeted. Since none of these conditions were met, skipping the judge's name for promotion was legally incorrect. The advisor also mentioned that while rules state that an officer with a confirmed bad remark about their honesty cannot be promoted, no such remark existed on this judge's official record. His case was merely sent to a disciplinary committee for review, and his overall performance grade remained good. The judge had earlier raised strong questions about whether judicial officers are expected to give up their self-respect to survive in the lower judiciary, claim-

ing that the delay in his promotion was a deliberate attempt by a senior administrative judge to target him over a past disagreement. The legal landscape surrounding the promotion of judicial officers has been brought into sharp focus following an insightful submission by an independent legal advisor appointed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court. This formal opinion addresses a critical intersection of administrative authority, procedural fairness, and the career progression of members of the lower judiciary. At the core of the submission is the foundational legal principle that a judicial officer cannot be rightfully denied a career promotion simply because a preliminary internal complaint is currently pending against them.

Weather Officials Predict Thunderstorms and Lightning for Multiple Regions

Chandigarh : The weather department has predicted moderate thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds reaching speeds of up to 50 kilometers per hour across several areas including Jhajjar, Sonapat, Gurugram, and Rohtak. Officials have warned that lightning strikes could hit high spots like tall trees, power towers, and building roofs. There are also risks of flying debris, temporary water and power failures, and damage to weaker houses or small huts. The sudden change in weather could also cause traffic delays due to poor visibility and potentially disturb train or flight schedules. Residents have been strongly advised to stay inside safe buildings and keep away from weak structures during the storm. Farmers have



been told to pause their outdoor activities and keep their farm animals in safe sheds. People are also cautioned to

stay away from power lines, metal objects, and open water bodies, though weather experts mention the rain will

bring a welcome relief from the ongoing extreme heat. The regional meteorological department has issued a comprehensive weather warning forecasting moderate thunderstorms, frequent lightning strikes, and gale-force winds across several key districts of Haryana. According to the official bulletin, areas such as Jhajjar, Sonapat, Gurugram, and Rohtak are expected to experience a sudden and severe atmospheric shift, with wind speeds potentially accelerating up to 50 kilometers per hour. Weather officials have placed these regions under a state of high alert, noting that the combination of unstable convective clouds and high surface temperatures is highly likely to trigger turbulent weather matrices over the next 24 to 48 hours.

Massive Fire Damages Record Room at Gurugram Court Complex

Gurugram: A major fire broke out in the record room section of the Gurugram district courts early Sunday morning, creating a scare among lawyers and court employees. The incident has once again brought attention to the lack of proper fire safety systems in the city's public and commercial buildings. Witnesses saw thick black smoke and flames coming out of the lower court record room and immediately informed security guards and the fire department. Three fire trucks arrived at the scene to fight

the flames. The firefighting operation lasted for several hours, and during the process, a section of the building structure suddenly collapsed with a loud noise, causing panic across the court premises. No one was injured or killed in the accident, but officials are still trying to determine how many important court documents were destroyed. Fire officials suspect that an electrical short circuit inside the room might have started the fire, but a full inspection will take place only after the area is completely safe and cooled down.

Sub-Inspector Arrested in Karnal Following Rice Mill Paddy Scam

Karnal: The local police have arrested an inspector from the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department named Ramphal. The arrest is connected to a major scam involving a severe shortage of paddy stock and the illegal distribution of grain to a non-functional mill in Taraori. A local court has placed the official under a four-day police remand so investigators can uncover the full extent of the illegal network. The scam came to light after a special team led by the District Food and Supplies Controller conducted physical checks at the storage units.

They discovered that Balaji Rice Mill was short of nearly ten thousand quintals of paddy, while Vishavkarma Rice Mill lacked around twenty-six thousand quintals. Investigators also found that large amounts of grain had been officially allotted to these businesses despite the fact that they were completely shut down and did not meet basic government requirements. The police have registered two fresh criminal cases, naming the owners of both mills along with department inspectors and sub-inspectors for fraud. These new cases bring the total

number of FIRs related to the local paddy scam to eight. So far, more than forty people, including government officials, mill owners, and commission agents, have either been arrested or brought in to assist with the ongoing investigation. The administrative landscape of the Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department in Karnal faced intense scrutiny following the tactical arrest of a departmental sub-inspector, Ramphal. The arrest marks a critical advancement in a widening multi-crore paddy procurement scam that has

deeply affected the agricultural trading sector across northern Haryana. Initiated by the Karnal police under the direct oversight of a specialized investigation team, the law enforcement operation culminated in the official being presented before a local magistrate's court, where investigators successfully secured a four-day police remand. This custody window is being utilized by tracking units to break down the bureaucratic network, decode the financial ledger entries, and establish the exact nature of the collusion between departmental enforcement

staff and private commercial entities. The systemic irregularities initially surfaced following a rigorous physical verification campaign orchestrated by a high-level inspection unit under the direct supervision of Mukesh Kumar, the District Food and Supplies Controller (DFSC) for Karnal. During unannounced physical audits conducted across the storage networks of regional processing units, inspectors discovered massive deficits between the digitally recorded government allocations and the physical grain stocks actually present on-site.

High Court Waives Fee for Shifting Old Vehicles to Current Registration Code

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that vehicle owners with old registration tags do not have to pay any fees when changing over to the current state identifier, even if they want to keep their special or fancy numbers. The court cancelled a previous state government order from 2019 that forced people to pay fresh charges if they wanted to retain an equivalent choice number during the administrative shift. The legal dispute started when the state government initially declared that transferring old numbers to the new system would be entirely free, but later changed its mind and demanded payments for special sequences. The state argued that because the old numbers were officially



scrapped, citizens had to apply fresh and pay the necessary luxury charges.

However, the court rejected this logic, stating that the power to decide the validity and renewal of vehicle

identification lies only with the central government under the Motor Vehicles Act, meaning the state did not have the authority to issue such payment demands through its own memos. This judgment establishes a clear boundary, confirming that while states can manage administrative changes, they cannot use mandatory updates to collect extra money unless a specific law allows it. This ruling also helps people owning older vehicles from the time before the state borders were reorganized. If an old vehicle is currently under the local jurisdiction, its transition is viewed as a continuous registration rather than a brand-new commercial purchase, allowing owners to update their paperwork for free.

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Land Profit Dispute Leads to Triple Murder in Ambala Village

Ambala: A disagreement over money from selling soil dug up from shared farming land turned violent in Bichpari village on Saturday evening. A twenty-two-year-old youth named Abhishek allegedly shot his relatives, killing three people and leaving one woman badly hurt. The people who lost their lives were identified as Ishro Devi, Sandeep Kumar, and Mahinder Singh, while Sunita Devi is currently being treated for her injuries. Abhishek, who is studying pharmacy from a college in Panchkula through distance learning, escaped the scene on a two-wheeler after

the shooting. Sandeep's wife, Neha, filed a complaint explaining that her father-in-law, Satbir Singh, and brother-in-law, Abhishek, had sold soil from their shared fields but kept all the money for themselves. Sandeep had been asking for his fair share, and Satbir had promised to divide it once the final payment arrived, but an argument broke out that evening, leading Abhishek to bring out a gun. According to the police, Ishro Devi died right outside the house, while Sandeep and Mahinder died while being taken to a hospital in Chandigarh.

Indian Mother and Son Make History as Mayors in England

Gurugram : A family from Rohtak, Haryana, who shifted to the United Kingdom in 2013, has achieved a rare double honor. Twenty-three-year-old Tushar Kumar and his mother, Parveen Rani, have both been chosen as mayors of different councils in England.

Tushar has made history by becoming the youngest person of Indian origin to hold a mayor's position in the country. He took charge of the Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council, while his mother was elected as the very first Indian-origin mayor of the Hertsmere Borough Council.

Tushar's father, Sunil Dahiya, who runs a business, shared that Tushar was elected on May 13 and Parveen on May 20. The family originally belongs to Rohna village in Sonapat but lived in Rohtak before moving abroad. Sunil recalled that when they moved, Tushar was only ten years old and they had no specific plans. He expressed immense pride in his wife and son serving



the community simultaneously.

Tushar entered public service early, becoming a councillor at the age of twenty while studying at King's College London, where he recently graduated with a degree in politics and plans to start his master's degree this September.

Both mother and son have been actively involved in community service and even taught Hindi for free to

children born in the UK through an organization called the Hindi Shiksha Parishad.

They both ran for elections for the first time in 2023 to become councillors. Before becoming mayor, Parveen held several responsibilities, including managing parks and culture, and acting as a deputy mayor and global film envoy. Tushar served as deputy mayor before stepping into his current

role. Tushar strongly believes that young people should not let age stop them from helping society, and while he is proud of his Indian culture, he loves serving his diverse British community.

The landscape of local governance in England has been enriched by a historic civic milestone, as an Indian-origin family originally from Rohtak, Haryana, achieved an extraordinary double

Brain Dead Teenager Saves Six Lives Through Organ Donation in Rohtak

Rohtak: The family of a fourteen-year-old boy from a village in Jhajjar made a generous decision to donate his organs after he was declared brain dead at a hospital in Rohtak. The young boy had suffered major head injuries during a road accident and could not be saved despite the best efforts of the medical team. His selfless family decided that his organs should help others, marking the fifth successful organ donation at the hospital within two months. Doctors successfully removed the boy's liver, kidneys, and eyes. His two kidneys were given to patients at the same hospital, while his corneas will help two blind individuals see again. To save the remaining organs, the police forces of Jhajjar, Rohtak, and Delhi worked together through the night to create a clear traffic route called a green corridor. This allowed an ambulance to carry his liver over a distance of seventy kilometers to a Delhi hospital in less than an hour, where it was split to save two more patients. The medical board conducted multiple detailed tests over several hours to

confirm the boy's condition before the surgeries began. Everyone involved worked quickly because every minute is vital during organ transplants. The boy's grieving father stated that there could be no better deed than his son giving life to six people, ensuring that the teenager's memory lives on forever.

In a profound act of humanity amidst overwhelming personal tragedy, the family of a fourteen-year-old boy from a village in Jhajjar made the generous decision to donate his organs after he was declared brain dead at a hospital in Rohtak. The young teenager had suffered critical head injuries during a severe road accident and, despite the exhaustive, round-the-clock efforts of the trauma and medical teams, could not be saved. Recognizing that their devastating loss could mean a miraculous second chance at life for others, his grieving family selflessly consented to the organ procurement, marking the fifth highly successful organ donation achieved at the Rohtak medical institution within a brief span of just two months.

Sonepat Police Arrest Two Brothers After Armed Shootout

Sonepat: The local police caught two suspects following a short gunfight on Sunday morning, less than ten hours after a young man was murdered.

The shooting took place in the Mohana area.

The trouble started late Saturday night in Bhatgaon village when two people on a motorcycle shot twenty-seven-year-old Bittu three times in the head, while his friend Sagar managed to run away safely.

Bittu and Sagar were walking back to their village after finishing their factory shifts.

As they reached Badwasni road, two brothers from their own village, identified as Mohit and Prince, attacked them with guns.

Bittu died right at the spot. Investigators discovered that the attack was caused by an old family dispute.

Five years ago, Sagar's brother had a love marriage with the sister of the attackers.

The married couple had two children and never returned to live in the village.

Six Haryana Farmers Penalized and Banned for Burning Wheat Stubble

Yamunanagar: The agricultural authorities in Yamunanagar have penalized six farmers for burning wheat crop residue in their fields. The department placed a negative red mark on the government records of these farmers on the official portal. Because of this penalty, these farmers will not be allowed to sell their crops at the government-assured minimum support price in any market for the next two crop seasons, and they were also hit with a total fine of twenty thousand rupees.

Satellite tracking systems helped the department identify nineteen fire alerts in the region this year. After checking the spots, officials found that five were false alarms and seven were accidental fires, leaving six cases of deliberate burning. This is

a decrease from last year when thirty-six alerts were recorded, leading to eighteen police cases and higher fines.

Agricultural experts explained that burning crop waste damages the soil by killing helpful microbes and reducing fertility.

The government is trying to teach farmers to use scientific methods to clear their fields instead of setting them on fire. Since the crop market entry system is linked directly to the online portal, the penalized farmers will face strict blocks when trying to trade their produce, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable farming.

The agricultural administration in Yamunanagar has taken strict punitive action against six local farmers after they were caught intentionally burning wheat crop

residue in their fields. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare officially placed a negative red entry mark against the records of these specific individuals on the state's centralized Meri Fasal Mera Byora online portal.

As a direct consequence of this administrative penalty, the six farmers have been barred from selling their agricultural produce at the government-assured Minimum Support Price (MSP) across any grain market for the next two consecutive cropping seasons.

In addition to this market restriction, the department imposed a cumulative financial penalty of twenty thousand rupees on the violators to discourage future non-compliance.

The identification of these violations was made

possible through advanced satellite surveillance technology, which actively monitors thermal anomalies across agricultural zones. During the current harvesting season, the tracking systems flagged a total of nineteen active fire alerts within the Yamunanagar region, prompting immediate ground verification by field officers. After detailed on-site inspections of every flagged location, officials determined that five of the notifications were false alarms caused by non-agricultural heat sources, while seven instances were deemed purely accidental fires that spread inadvertently.

The remaining six cases were verified as deliberate stubble burning, leading to the immediate enforcement of the administrative and financial penalties.

Weather Alert Warns of Rising Heat Wave Across Haryana Districts

Chandigarh: The weather department issued a yellow alert for eleven districts in Haryana due to an ongoing heatwave. These areas include Mahendragarh, Rewari, Jhajjar, Nuh, Palwal, Rohtak, Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar, Bhiwani, and Charkhi Dabri.

The warning will upgrade to a more serious orange alert for these eleven districts on Monday, while nine other districts will enter a yellow alert. By Wednesday, the entire state of Haryana will be under an orange alert as temperatures are expected to climb even higher.

A yellow alert means people should stay watchful, while an orange alert means they need to stay fully prepared for extreme weather. Recently, local thunderstorms brought down aver-



age temperatures across the state slightly, but every tracking station still recorded temperatures well above forty degrees Celsius. Rohtak recorded the highest temperature at over forty-four degrees Celsius, followed closely by Sirsa.

Experts stated that temperatures will rise steadily over the next few days. However, a new weather system called a Western Disturbance

is approaching the region. This system is expected to bring some relief by Thursday and Friday, bringing light rainfall, scattered thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds blowing at speeds of up to fifty kilometers per hour.

The atmospheric conditions across northwestern India are preparing for a significant shift as the regional meteorological department

issued a formal yellow alert for eleven districts within the state of Haryana, signaling the onset of an intense and prolonged heatwave. This initial tier of warning covers a vast geographic expanse, specifically targeting the districts of Mahendragarh, Rewari, Jhajjar, Nuh, Palwal, Rohtak, Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar, Bhiwani, and Charkhi Dabri.

The issuance of a yellow alert serves as an official advisory from weather scientists, urging local administrations and the general public to remain highly watchful, monitor localized weather updates closely, and recognize that the prevailing environmental conditions could pose a risk to vulnerable segments of the population if proper precautions are neglected.

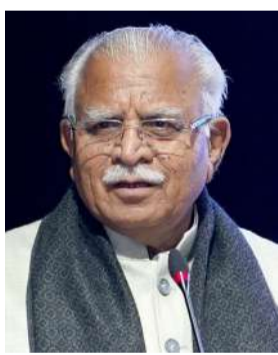
Minister Khattar Supports Voter List Verification Drive in Haryana

Karnal: Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar supported the upcoming Special Intensive Revision of voter lists in Haryana, which is set to begin on June 15.

He stated that opposition parties have been trying to make people doubtful about this project but have failed because the public understands its benefits.

The main goal of this verification is to ensure that every citizen is registered to vote in only one place and to remove duplicate or incorrect names from the system.

During his visit to villages in his constituency, Khattar explained that many residents from local areas have moved abroad or to different cities, yet their names are still active on the village voting rolls. He



mentioned that while Haryana does not have a massive problem with fake voting, similar cleanup drives brought major improvements in states like West Bengal and Assam.

He promised that real voters will face no trouble during this verification process.

The minister also praised the state government's deci-

sion to provide free bus rides for students appearing for the NEET exam on June 20 and 21.

He explained that since the exam is being held again, the government wants to make travel stress-free for students.

Khattar also announced plans to distribute free bicycles to five hundred schoolgirls from poor families who have to walk long distances, and mentioned that new libraries will be opened in nearly four hundred villages to help local youth study for competitive jobs.

The political atmosphere in Haryana has intensified ahead of the major electoral roll update scheduled for the middle of next month. Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar publicly declared his strong

support for the upcoming Special Intensive Revision of voter lists across the state, which is officially scheduled to commence on June 15.

Speaking to residents and party workers, the senior leader emphasized that this extensive administrative exercise is essential for protecting the integrity of the state's democratic processes, ensuring that the voice of every legal voter is accurately recorded and counted.

He dismissed criticisms raised by political rivals, stating that the opposition's efforts to create doubt or fear among the public regarding the transparency of the revision process have completely failed. According to the minister, ordinary citizens fully recognize the long-term governance

benefits of a clean, verified, and error-free electoral roll. The primary objective of this intensive door-to-door verification campaign is to establish a flawless system where every single eligible citizen is registered to exercise their franchise in only one specific geographic location.

This massive cleanup operation is designed to identify and systematically remove duplicate entries, clear out the names of deceased individuals, and fix administrative errors that have accumulated over successive election cycles.

By utilizing modern data cross-checking techniques alongside physical verification, the state election machinery aims to minimize irregularities.

Severe Heatwave Appears Set to Continue Across Northwest and Central India

Gurugram : A harsh heatwave will continue to trouble the central and northwestern parts of India for another week. The India Meteorological Department has issued a high alert for extreme heat in several areas, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Neighboring regions like Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi are also under alert as temperatures stay dangerously high, with the highest recent temperature recorded at over forty-seven degrees Celsius in Brahmपुरi.

Relief is expected around May 28 when a weather system known as a Western Disturbance will bring temperatures down by three to five degrees Celsius. Until then, most parts of the country will face daytime temperatures ranging between forty and forty-three degrees Celsius. The capital

city of Delhi has already seen multiple cases of heatstroke, with both daytime and nighttime temperatures staying much higher than normal for this time of the year.

The extreme heat has caused a massive spike in electricity use. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh held an emergency meeting to make sure both cities and villages get non-stop power supply, increasing the state's total electricity generation capacity.

Sadly, the ongoing weather has already caused more than forty deaths from heatstroke in southern states like Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, while a few deaths have also been confirmed in Odisha.

A severe and unrelenting heatwave is projected to grip the central and northwestern regions of India for at least another week, prompting authorities to brace for extend-

ed environmental stress. The India Meteorological Department has issued its highest level of alert for extreme thermal conditions across multiple major states, specifically naming Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra as areas facing critical risk. Neighboring northern plains including Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and the National Capital Region of Delhi are similarly positioned under stringent weather warnings as ambient temperatures remain at dangerously elevated levels.

The intensity of this current weather system was highlighted by recent data from Brahmपुरi, which recorded an oppressive peak temperature exceeding forty-seven degrees Celsius, underscoring the absolute severity of the atmospheric conditions enveloping the subcontinent.

Supreme Court Questions High Court Over Civil Service Recruitment Case

Gurugram : The Supreme Court has demanded that the investigating officer of the Haryana Civil Service recruitment scam appear before it with all case documents. The top court questioned why the Punjab and Haryana High Court canceled a fraud chargesheet against eight officials from the 2001 batch. The judges wondered why the high court kept the case pending for fifteen years without a final decision instead of letting the investigation finish or canceling the entire compromised exam.

The high court had previously cleared the officers because they were not named in the initial police complaint from 2005 and were only added eighteen years later without a fresh investigation.

However, the Supreme Court stopped that clearance order after an appeal was filed by a political leader named Karan Dalal, who originally challenged the appointments.

The top court stated that long delays are not a valid reason to throw away a serious investigation into government corruption.

The judges expressed strong concern that if they find widespread evidence of cheating, handwriting changes, and overwriting on the exam sheets, they will cancel the entire selection process.

They criticized the high court for taking over the job of the police by analyzing exam papers itself instead of letting the investigators do their work.

The original complaint claimed that back in 2002, unqualified people were given government jobs in exchange for money and fa-

vors, and the Supreme Court is now determined to review the matter thoroughly.

The Supreme Court of India has taken a remarkably firm stance on accountability and institutional delays by demanding that the investigating officer overseeing the Haryana Civil Service recruitment scam appear before it with all relevant case files.

The bench raised critical questions directed at the Punjab and Haryana High Court, asking why a fraud chargesheet against eight high-ranking officials from

the 2001 batch was abruptly canceled.

The judges expressed deep frustration over why the high court chose to keep the case pending for an astonishing fifteen years without reaching a final decision, pointing out that the lower court should have either allowed the state's criminal investigation to conclude naturally or taken the decisive step of canceling the entire compromised examination process altogether.

This legal confrontation follows a previous decision by the high court to clear the

accused officers of all charges. The high court's reasoning was based on the fact that these specific individuals were not named in the initial police complaint registered back in 2005, and were instead added to the case eighteen years later without any fresh investigation being conducted.

However, the Supreme Court stated that clearance order after receiving an appeal from political leader Karan Dalal, who has spearheaded the challenge against these controversial appointments since the beginning.

Leader Joins Local Farmers in Strike Against Canal Construction Plans

Rohtak : A massive protest by local farmers and villagers has broken out over government plans to lay a cement lining on the bed of a major water canal. The protest, which has been going on for over a week, centers around fears that a concrete canal bed will completely stop water from soaking into the ground. Activists explain that the current flowing water naturally refills the local underground supply, keeping nearby water wells working for both drinking and farming. While the residents are fine with the canal walls being reinforced, they strongly object to sealing the

bottom with concrete.

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda recently visited the protest site to listen to the villagers' complaints and offer his support. Local leaders pointed out that a similar construction project on another nearby canal a few years ago caused the surrounding well water to turn completely salty. To resolve the issue, the protesters are demanding that the canal bed remain natural dirt, that proper bathing steps be built along the banks, and that nearby villages receive clean drinking water pumped directly from the canal.



Famous Cricket Star and Bollywood Wife Spotting Sparks Internet Frenzy

Dharamshala: Cricket legend Virat Kohli and his wife, actor Anushka Sharma, have arrived in town for the big upcoming match. Their arrival comes just before Royal Challengers Bengaluru takes on the Gujarat Titans in the crucial first Qualifier game. Videos of the celebrity couple quickly spread all over social media platforms. Fans gathered in large numbers at the airport to get a look at the batsman, while tight security surrounded the couple. Wearing casual clothes, the sports star waved to his supporters as his wife walked next to him, with videos capturing their arrival trending online almost immediately.

The picturesque hill town of Dharamshala, known for its serene landscapes and majestic mountain backdrops, was recently thrust into the center of a massive digital whirlwind following the high-profile arrival of two of India's biggest icons. Cricket legend Virat Kohli and his wife, acclaimed Bollywood actor and producer Anushka Sharma,



ma, touched down in the scenic location, instantly sparking an unprecedented wave of excitement among locals and visiting fans alike. The couple, often collectively referred to as "Virushka" by their millions of dedicated followers, has long been a subject of intense public fascination, and their latest public appearance proved that their star power remains as potent as ever. Every movement they made from the moment they stepped off the

aircraft was closely monitored, setting the stage for a weekend where sports and entertainment would merge seamlessly in the public eye. The timing of their arrival could not have been more dramatic or consequential for cricket enthusiasts, as it directly preceded one of the most highly anticipated matches of the current sporting season. Royal Challengers Bengaluru is scheduled to face off against the formidable Gujarat Titans in

a crucial first Qualifier game, a high-stakes encounter that has kept sports analysts and fans on the edge of their seats for weeks. As a foundational pillar and the undisputed talisman of the Bengaluru franchise, Virat Kohli's presence in the city signifies the calm before the impending cricketing storm on the field. The immense pressure of the upcoming playoff game seemed to be countered by the steady, supportive presence

of his wife, creating a compelling narrative of personal partnership amidst intense professional competition. As soon as the news of their impending landing leaked to the public, the quiet atmosphere of the local airport was completely transformed into a bustling hub of anticipation and chaotic energy. Fans from various parts of the region, along with many who had traveled long distances just to catch a glimpse of the sporting icon, began gathering outside the terminal gates hours before the scheduled arrival time. The crowd grew exponentially with each passing minute, filled with individuals sporting royal blue jerseys, holding up handmade banners, and chanting slogans of encouragement for the star batsman. This massive convergence of supporters turned the routine airport exit into a major public event, showcasing the deep cultural impact that cricket and cinema hold over the national psyche.

Exciting Cricket Action Ahead as Tournament Reaches Final Stages

Mumbai: The Rajasthan Royals have officially made it to the tournament playoffs after a strong win at the Wankhede Stadium. They needed this victory to secure a spot in the top four teams. Even though opposing players Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya scored runs, the Royals managed to win in a very impressive way. Now, Rajasthan will travel to Chandigarh to play against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator match. Meanwhile, Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans will compete against each other in the first Qualifier match at Dharamshala. The intense race for the tournament postseason has finally reached a definitive conclusion, establishing the elite quartet that will fight for the ultimate championship glory. In a high-stakes encounter that kept cricket fans on the absolute edge of their seats, the Rajasthan Royals officially punched their ticket to the coveted playoffs following an incredibly dominant performance at the historic Wankhede Stadium. Entering the match with their destiny entirely in their own

hands, the Royals knew that nothing short of a definitive victory would suffice if they wanted to break into the top four standings and keep their championship aspirations alive. The atmosphere inside the stadium was thick with tension, as both teams understood the massive ramifications of this single fixture on the grander tournament narrative. The victory was far from handed to them, as the opposing lineup featured some of the most destructive and feared clean-hitters in modern short-format cricket who threatened to derail Rajasthan's plans at multiple intervals. Most notably, the highly dynamic batting duo of Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya put up a fierce, resilient fight, showcasing their immense class and experience by keeping the scoreboard ticking at a rapid pace. Suryakumar displayed his trademark innovative strokeplay, piercing gaps with surgical precision, while Hardik used his brute power to clear the boundary ropes, keeping the opposition's hopes alive and mounting immense pressure on the

Rajasthan bowling unit. Their collective run-scoring effort threatened to snatch the momentum away, turning the contest into a tactical chess match between the bat and the ball. Despite the heavy onslaught and the formidable resistance mounted by these two elite international stars, the Royals refused to lose their composure under the blinding lights of Mumbai. Instead, they managed to systematically dismantle the opposition's master plan in a thoroughly clinical and impressive manner, executing their bowling and fielding strategies to absolute perfection during the most critical moments of the game. Key breakthroughs at pivotal junctures halted the momentum of the chasing side, proving that Rajasthan possesses the structural resilience and tactical discipline required to thrive in pressure-cooker situations. This commanding victory not only secured their survival in the competition but also sent a powerful statement of intent to the remaining three franchises left in the tournament.

Fighting Champions Put On Unbelievable Show for Packed Crowd

Mumbai: Local combat sports fans got to see a wonderful night of martial arts action at an event organized in Borivali. This special fight night gave new and rising athletes a great chance to show off their skills, power, and determination. The very first fights set a great mood for the evening, as Neeraj Vishwakarma controlled his opponent Sushrut R. Salunkhe perfectly to get a smart win. After that, Jashraj Gohil used quick movements to beat Atharve Tiwade. In another very close fight, Akash Kharde made the right moves at the right time to defeat Nafees Shaikh. For the final match of the evening, Sumit V. Kolekar gave a fantastic performance to defeat Harsh Singh, ending the entire event beautifully. The bustling suburb of Borivali in Mumbai was recently transformed into a vibrant epicenter of athletic excellence as it played host to an extraordinary night of combat sports that left an indelible mark on the local martial arts community. The event, which drew a



massive and enthusiastic crowd, was specifically conceptualized to provide a prominent platform for the region's emerging and rising athletes, offering them a rare opportunity to display their hard-earned skills, immense physical power, and unwavering determination before a live audience. From the moment the gates opened, the palpable energy of the spectators signaled that this would be no ordinary exhibition,

but rather a fierce proving ground for the next generation of martial artists. The organizers meticulously structured the fight card to ensure a steady progression of intensity, laying the foundation for an unforgettable evening of high-stakes competition. The initial bouts of the evening did not disappoint, immediately establishing a highly competitive and electric atmosphere inside the packed arena. Taking to

the canvas first, Neeraj Vishwakarma delivered a masterclass in tactical discipline and spatial awareness as he faced off against a formidable opponent in Sushrut R. Salunkhe. Throughout the duration of the match, Vishwakarma demonstrated superior cage presence and ring generalship, systematically neutralizing Salunkhe's offensive attempts while implementing a calculated game plan of his own.

Captain Wins Toss and Chooses Defensive Strategy in Critical Match

Kolkata: The Kolkata Knight Riders are playing against the Delhi Capitals in a game where everything is on the line for their playoff dreams. To stay in the running for the next round, Kolkata absolutely must win this game. However, their future also depends heavily on what happens in the match between Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals, which was happening at the same time in Mumbai when the coin was flipped. During the toss, Kolkata's captain Ajinkya Rahane won and chose to field first. The official line-up for Kolkata includes Ajinkya Rahane, Manish Pandey, Cameron Green, Rovman Powell, Rinku Singh, Tejasvi Dahiya, Anukul Roy, Sunil Narine, Saurabh Dube, Varun Chakaravarty, and Karthik Tyagi. The atmosphere inside the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata was thick with nervous energy as the home team prepared to take the field for a match of supreme mathematical importance. The Kolkata Knight

Riders found themselves in a high-stakes, do-or-die situation where their entire post-season destiny hung precariously in the balance during this final stretch of the league stage. Facing off against a dangerous Delhi Capitals unit, Kolkata knew that nothing short of a comprehensive victory would suffice if they wanted to keep their championship aspirations alive for another week. The pressure of the moment was further amplified by the realization that their hard work throughout the long season had culminated in this single, high-pressure evening where execution under stress would separate the contenders from the eliminated. However, the complexity of Kolkata's path to the tournament playoffs extended far beyond the boundaries of their own playing field, creating a multi-layered narrative that gripped fans across the country. Even if the Knight Riders managed to secure a flawless victory against Delhi, their ultimate qualification was still heavily dependent on

external factors playing out hundreds of miles away. At the exact moment the coin was being flipped in Kolkata, a parallel battle of equal consequence was unfolding at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai between the Mumbai Indians and the Rajasthan Royals. This logistical intersection meant that team strategists, players, and spectators alike were constantly keeping one eye on the scoreboard in Mumbai while trying to maintain complete focus on the immediate task at hand in front of their home crowd. When the two opposing captains walked out to the center of the pitch for the ritualistic coin toss, the collective anxiety of the stadium reached a visible peak. Kolkata's veteran captain, Ajinkya Rahane, stood alongside his counterpart under the bright stadium floodlights, fully aware that his first major decision of the evening could heavily influence the tactical direction of the entire contest. Luck favored the home side early as the coin landed

in Rahane's favor, granting him the immediate tactical advantage of choosing whether to set a target or pursue one. Without hesitation, the experienced skipper opted for a defensive strategy, electing to field first and put the opposition under pressure from the very opening delivery. Rahane's decision to bowl first was a calculated move rooted in a deep understanding of modern short-format cricket dynamics, pitch behavior, and atmospheric conditions. By sending the Delhi Capitals out to bat, the Kolkata management aimed to exploit any early moisture or movement available in the surface before the pitch settled into a more batting-friendly state later in the evening. Furthermore, opting to chase allowed the Knight Riders to know exactly what target they needed to achieve, a crucial factor when net run rate calculations might come into play depending on the live updates filtering in from the concurrent match in Mumbai.

Legendary Sports Icon Explains Why Heroes Sometime Make Mistakes

Mumbai: Famous former batsman Sunil Gavaskar shared that while every cricket player wants to be a good role model for youth, they can still make mistakes because they are regular human beings. Speaking at a special media event, he talked about the massive pressure on modern athletes and how fast social media reacts to everything today. Without pointing out any specific player or recent incident, he explained that it is normal for people to get angry or emotional when a game gets intense. He mentioned that most players do try their best to behave well because they know that young kids look up to them. The bustling metropolis of Mumbai, a city deeply inter-

twined with the history and evolution of Indian cricket, recently served as the backdrop for an insightful discourse on the psychological and social realities of modern sports. Legendary former batsman Sunil Gavaskar, a figure whose name is synonymous with discipline and technique, addressed a gathering of sports journalists and media professionals at a specially organized event. His address did not focus on tactical field placements or batting averages, but instead delved into the complex human element that exists beneath the structured uniform of elite athletes. Gavaskar used his platform to bridge the gap between public expectations and the inherent

flaws of human nature, offering a seasoned perspective on why even the most revered sporting heroes occasionally stumble in the public eye. Central to his message was the foundational reminder that behind the larger-than-life personas celebrated on billboards and television screens, professional athletes remain regular human beings susceptible to the same emotional vulnerabilities as anyone else. While the public often views sports icons through a lens of perfection, expecting them to exhibit flawless behavior under all circumstances, Gavaskar emphasized that the reality of competing at the highest level involves navigating an absolute pressure cooker of



stress. The transition from an ordinary individual to a national symbol of hope creates a unique psychological burden, where the line between the celebrated public hero

and the flawed private individual becomes increasingly difficult to maintain. This duality forms the core of the friction often witnessed when a player reacts negatively

during a high-stakes match. The legendary batsman took great care to frame his observations broadly, deliberately choosing not to point out any specific modern player or comment on any single recent controversial incident on the field. This objective approach allowed the audience to focus on the systemic and psychological aspects of celebrity athlete culture rather than getting bogged down in temporary media gossip or individual finger-pointing. By elevating the conversation above the immediate news cycle, Gavaskar sought to foster a deeper, more empathetic understanding of the unique environment that contemporary sportspeople inhabit. His commentary

served as a blanket analysis of the modern sporting landscape, applicable across different teams, formats, and eras of the game. A significant portion of his discussion was dedicated to the unprecedented impact of modern digital media and the lightning-fast speed at which social media platforms react to every minor occurrence on the field. Gavaskar noted that in the current era, an athlete's actions are dissected, replayed, and judged by millions of internet users within mere seconds of happening in real-time. This hyper-connected reality leaves absolutely no room for error and completely eliminates the grace period that athletes in previous generations might have enjoyed

to cool down and reflect after a heated moment. The immediate and often unfiltered nature of online commentary amplifies the consequences of a mistake, turning a brief emotional lapse into a prolonged national debate. The intense, tribal passion inherent in elite competitive cricket was also highlighted as a primary catalyst for the raw emotions that occasionally boil over during a match. Gavaskar explained that when an athlete has dedicated their entire life to mastering a skill and is playing in a critical tournament where everything is on the line, it is entirely normal to experience moments of extreme anger, frustration, or overwhelming excitement.

Fast Matches Bring Massive Energy and Joy to Local Racket Sport Fans

Navi Mumbai: The third edition of the Padel Premier League Team Cup took place over two days at the VPadel Arena in Wadala. The tournament showcased high-speed games where teams used smart tactics and great teamwork, which kept the crowd very excited. In the first game, the Phantoms duo of Pranav and Advait played incredibly well to defeat Vaibhav and Ranjeet with a score of seven to one. The next match was much closer, with Nihar and Divyank just managing to beat Anurag and Ojas with a five to four score after a tie-breaker. The tight competition continued in the third game as Vishal and Jain defeated Kavin and Jappan five to three in another close tie-

breaker. The third edition of the Padel Premier League Team Cup recently concluded at the VPadel Arena in Wadala, delivering a spectacular two-day feast of high-octane racket sport action. The tournament successfully brought together local enthusiasts and curious newcomers, creating an electrifying atmosphere that highlighted the rapid rise of padel within the regional sporting landscape. Spectators were treated to a display of blistering pace, tactical ingenuity, and seamless teamwork, with each passing match elevating the collective energy inside the packed venue. The unique, enclosed court dynamics of padel ensured that the rallies were long, fast-paced, and

filled with dramatic angles, keeping the crowd thoroughly entertained from the opening serve to the final match point. The competitive tone for the tournament was established immediately in the opening fixture, which saw a highly synchronized performance from the Phantoms pairing of Pranav and Advait. Facing off against the duo of Vaibhav and Ranjeet, Pranav and Advait displayed an exceptional understanding of court positioning and net dominance, leaving their opponents with very little room to counter. Utilizing aggressive volleys and sharp overhead smashes, the Phantoms duo systematically dismantled the defensive structure of Vaibhav and Ranjeet. Their clinical execution

and relentless pressure resulted in a commanding seven-one victory, a statement performance that sent a clear warning signal to the rest of the competing teams in the tournament. The momentum shifted dramatically into a battle of fine margins during the second match of the schedule, which provided the audience with its first taste of absolute gridlock. Nihar and Divyank squared off against Anurag and Ojas in a grueling, back-and-forth encounter where neither side was willing to concede an inch on the court. Both teams traded crucial service breaks and engaged in exhausting tactical rallies, pushing the set into a high-stakes tie-breaker to determine the ultimate victor.

Top Mind Sports Stars Move Forward into Huge National Tournament

Mumbai: Several of the best chess players in the country have successfully entered the final eight stage of the India Rising tournament. These top players include highly ranked Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, Raunak Sadhwani, and Karthikeyan Murali. A young player named M Pranesh also joined them after fighting his way through a tough secondary qualification path. This entire competition is run by JioBLAST and the Esports Foundation to give local talents a clear chance to reach global stages. The story of Pranesh is especially inspiring because he comes from a humble background and previously



needed public donations to travel for his games. The organizers stated that seeing a mix of famous grandmasters and new faces shows how much deep talent exists across the nation. The highly competitive

arena of Indian mind sports reached a definitive milestone as several of the nation's premier chess virtuosos successfully navigated their way into the prestigious final eight stage of the India Rising tournament. This

high-stakes tournament has brought together an elite field of strategic minds, showcasing the immense depth of analytical talent currently dominating the national circuit. Among the marquee names securing their positions in the quarter-final brackets are world-renowned Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, Raunak Sadhwani, and Karthikeyan Murali. The progression of these highly ranked grandmasters ensures that the upcoming knockout phases will feature a masterclass in elite-level chess, drawing intense interest from enthusiasts and analysts who track the global trajectory of Indian chess.



Godrej Properties awards Rs 1,100 cr contract to Tata Projects

Mumbai : Mumbai-based real estate developer Godrej Properties officially informed the stock exchange that it has awarded construction contracts worth around Rs 1,100 crore to Tata Projects to construct three luxury residential projects in Gurugram.

Significantly, this deal is the first known collaboration between the Godrej Group and Tata Projects in the residential construction segment.

Godrej Properties stated that the collaboration is aimed at improving construction efficiency, quality standards and project delivery timelines across its upcoming developments, while Tata Projects said that the partnership aligns with its experience in executing large-scale urban infrastructure and residential projects.

Commenting on the partnership, Godrej Properties Chief Operating Officer Sandeep Navlakhe said,



"Our partnership with Tata Projects is a strategic step towards strengthening execution across some of our most important luxury developments.

Golf Course Road represents one of India's most competitive and quality-conscious residential markets, and delivering here demands a strong focus on precision, scale, and consistency".

"Through this collaboration, we aim to further enhance delivery timelines, construction excellence, and on-ground efficiency, while continuing to create homes that are thoughtfully designed and aligned with evolving customer expectations," Navlakhe added.

The partnership was struck, even as developers

continue to focus on the luxury housing market in major metropolitan regions like Gurugram, where premium projects have witnessed increasing interest from affluent buyers and investors.

The three projects to be constructed by Tata Projects are located on Golf Course Road, which is known to be one of Guru-

gram's premium residential corridors.

As per the deal, Tata Projects will undertake the core and shell construction work for the buildings, namely Godrej Sora, Godrej Astra and Godrej Samaris.

Godrej Samaris is an upcoming luxury residential development spread across 7.41 acres in Sector 53, Gurugram. The project forms part of Godrej Properties' broader expansion strategy in the National Capital Region's (NCR) premium housing market.

The deal is expected to strengthen Tata Projects' presence in Gurugram's luxury residential segment. The company has previously been involved in large infrastructure and urban development projects across India, including the New Parliament Building, Mumbai's Atal Setu bridge as well as the Noida International Airport.

Singareni CMD directs officials to ensure uninterrupted coal production during monsoon

Hyderabad : In view of forecasts indicating the onset of the Southwest monsoon within the next ten days, the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has initiated special measures to ensure uninterrupted coal production during the rainy season.

The Company Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti on Saturday conducted a comprehensive review meeting with General Managers of all areas and directed officials to take advance precautionary measures to prevent disruption to coal production during the monsoon.

According to the company, nearly 95 per cent of Singareni's coal production currently comes from open cast mines, where heavy rains often disrupt mining operations due to water accumulation.

To tackle the issue, SCCL has already installed more than 100 heavy-duty pumps and motors across its open cast mines for dewatering operations.

The CMD instructed of-

ficials to arrange additional company-owned and private pumps wherever necessary and strengthen haul roads to prevent water stagnation near overburden and coal benches.

He also directed the concerned General Managers at the Corporate Office to expedite tender-related procedures to ensure the availability of adequate pumping equipment before the onset of heavy rains.

Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti reviewed mine-wise preparedness plans related to monsoon management and instructed officials to closely monitor weather advisories issued by the Meteorological Department.

The CMD particularly interacted with Area General Managers of open cast mines that had suffered major production losses during rains in the past two years and advised them to remain extra vigilant this monsoon season.

Highlighting the growing power demand due to international developments, he stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted coal supply to

thermal power plants having Fuel Supply Agreements with Singareni.

He also reviewed coal production, transportation and overburden removal achieved by various areas during the current financial year and directed officials to maximise coal output before the onset of the monsoon to offset possible production losses during the rainy season.

The CMD called for optimum utilisation of heavy machinery and effective deployment of manpower and urged officials to create awareness among employees about the challenges facing the company and motivate them to contribute towards organisational growth.

The meeting was attended by Director (Operations) L.V. Suryanarayana, Director (Projects & Planning) K. Venkateswarlu, Director (Personnel & Finance) Gowtham Potru, Director (E&M) M. Tirumala Rao, ED (Coal Movement) B. Venkanna, GM (Coordination & Marketing) T. Srinivas and other senior officials.

Pudumjee Paper reports 18 pc EBITDA, completes Rs 110 cr capex

Chennai : Pudumjee Paper Products Ltd. maintained steady revenues at Rs 807.88 crores, compared to Rs 809.08 crores last year.

This stable performance was driven by an increased sales volumes of 1,675 MT of paper. To pass manufacturing cost savings directly to customers and sustain market value, the company lowered its average selling price per MT.

Backed by strong operational efficiency, the company maintained a consistent EBITDA margin of 18% for both fiscal periods.

The company has successfully completed its Rs 110 crore capital expenditure program. This investment went into setting up a solar power plant, installing an advanced AFBC boiler, and modernizing critical parts of three paper-making machines to improve efficiency. The new 15.4 MW Solar

Power Plant at Bhalwani, near Solapur, was operationalized in December 2025. It will meet about 35% of the company's annual power needs, reducing manufacturing energy costs and lowering its carbon footprint by an estimated 27,000 MT annually, a company release said here today.

Due to updated regulatory requirements, the company is currently applying for fresh environmental clearance to construct its upcoming project at Mahad. The company continues to focus on manufacturing biodegradable and compostable specialty papers with barrier properties to protect packaged contents. These papers serve as raw materials for sustainable packaging in high-growth demand sectors, including food products, pharmaceuticals, hospital supplies, hygiene, and confectionery.

Central Bank of India organises Retail Loan Fair in Pune

Pune : As part of its initiative towards safeguarding customer interests, public lender Central Bank of India has organised a special customer outreach fair to provide information about its various retail loan schemes, said the bank's Executive Director Mahendra Dohare today.

He also informed that a dedicated farmers' fair highlighting financial assistance schemes for farmers will be organised soon.

The bank regularly conducts customer fairs across the country to reach out to customers and spread awareness about its financial products and services. During the fair, customers were informed about home loans, vehicle loans, mortgage loans, personal loans and pension-linked personal loans.

Dohare stated that home and vehicle loans play a vital role in boosting

the economy. He emphasised that the bank offers all types of loans at highly competitive interest rates, along with simplified and speedy processing and minimal paperwork.



He further said that customers can apply for loans through the bank's digital lending platforms and official website. After receiving approval, customers can complete the remaining formalities at their nearest branch.

To ensure quality, fast and secure banking services, the bank is making ex-

tensive use of advanced technology. The bank's mobile application offers regular banking transactions, along with multiple investment options. UPI and internet banking facilities are

also available for customers, Dohare said. Highlighting the growing threat of cybercrime in the digital era, Dohare said customers often fall prey to fraud by responding to suspicious links and phone calls or by sharing one-time passwords (OTPs). The bank regularly conducts awareness campaigns and

also educates customers about cyber safety during its monthly customer fairs.

He also noted that the bank has introduced several schemes for rural customers. Special training programmes are being conducted through skill development centres to make rural youth employable, while financial assistance is being extended for starting small-scale industries and businesses.

Appealing to customers from retail, corporate and MSME sectors to take advantage of the bank's schemes, Dohare said the current geopolitical situation has created major challenges for MSME industries. To support them during this difficult period, the bank has launched special financial assistance schemes aimed at helping businesses remain stable and resilient, he added.

India to purchase USD 500 billion worth of US goods over five years: Marco Rubio

New Delhi : US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Sunday said India has committed to purchasing \$500 billion worth of US goods over the next five years, with a focus on energy, technology, and agriculture.

Rubio highlighted Washington's expanding partnership with India during his ongoing visit, sharing photographs from meetings with senior Indian leaders and discussions focused on trade, security, and regional issues.

He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. "Huge thanks to @USAmbIndia Sergio Gor and our American diplomats for their efforts. Because of their great work, India has committed to purchasing USD 500 billion in U.S. goods over the next five years focusing on energy, technology, and agriculture. They're doing terrific work on behalf of President Trump and the American people!" Rubio said.

Prime Minister Modi also shared details of the meeting saying, "Happy to receive the US Secretary of State, Mr. Marco Rubio. We discussed sustained progress in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and issues related to regional and global peace and security. India and the United States will continue to work closely for the global good."

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said, "Great to join Secretary Rubio for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We had a productive discussion on ways to deepen US-India cooperation across security, trade, and critical technologies - areas that strengthen both our nations and advance a free and open Indo-Pacific. India is a vital partner to the United States!"

The meeting is being seen as another significant step towards strengthening strategic and economic ties between India and the United States.

Market valuation of six of top-10 firms spikes by over Rs 74,000 cr

New Delhi : The market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms spiked by Rs 74,111.57 crore in a week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer. Reliance Industries added Rs 24,696.89 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 18,33,117.70 crore.

From the pack, the gainers were Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) while HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India and Hindustan Unilever faced erosion from their valuation.

HDFC Bank's meap dipped by Rs 2,094.35 crore to Rs 11,79,974.90 crore and that of ICICI Bank surged Rs 14,515.93 crore to Rs 9,06,901.32 crore. State Bank of India declined by Rs 12,784.4 crore to Rs 8,76,077.92 crore. LIC's valuation climbed Rs 9,076.37 crore to Rs 5,14,443.69 crore while Bajaj Finance edged higher by Rs 3,797.83 crore to Rs 5,70,515.57 crore. The valuation of TCS jumped Rs 19,338.68 crore to Rs 8,38,401.33 crore. Larsen & Toubro went up by Rs 2,685.87 crore to Rs 5,40,228.21 crore, Hindustan Unilever eroded by Rs

16,212.18 crore to Rs 5,17,380 crore and the market valuation of Bharti Airtel dropped by Rs 20,229.67 crore to Rs 11,40,295.49 crore. Indian stock market on Friday ended with gains led by some heavyweights like banking, including ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank. During the session, the market remained in positive territory but gains were capped by elevated crude oil prices and rising concerns about inflation. At close, Sensex gained 231.99 points or 0.31 percent at 75,415.35, while the Nifty rose 64.60 points or 0.27 percent to settle at 23,719.30.

Fuel pump accuracy to improve as government tightens verification rules

New Delhi : The Centre five additional categories of fuel dispensing systems under the ambit of Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs). The newly included categories are petrol and diesel dispensers, CNG dispensers, LPG dispensers, LNG dispensers, and hydrogen dispensers.

The inclusion of CNG, LNG and hydrogen dispensers comes at a time when India is rapidly expanding its infrastructure for cleaner and alternative fuels.

The Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has amended the Legal Metrology (Govern-

ment Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013, to expand the scope of verification services for fuel dispensing systems and strengthen the country's legal metrology infrastructure.

The Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has amended the Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013, expanding the scope of verification services for fuel dispensing systems and strengthening India's legal metrology infrastructure.

According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the move is expected to improve

the availability of verification services, enhance operational efficiency, and support the growing adoption of cleaner fuels across the country.

With the latest additions, GATCs are now authorised to verify and re-verify 23 categories of weights and measuring instruments under the Legal Metrology framework.

The government has also notified verification charges for the newly included dispensing systems.

The verification fee for petrol and diesel dispensers has been fixed at Rs 5,000 per nozzle, while CNG, LPG, LNG and hydrogen dispensers will attract a veri-

fication fee of Rs 10,000 per nozzle. The amended rules also empower state governments to notify additional categories of weights and measures that can be verified through GATCs based on local requirements.

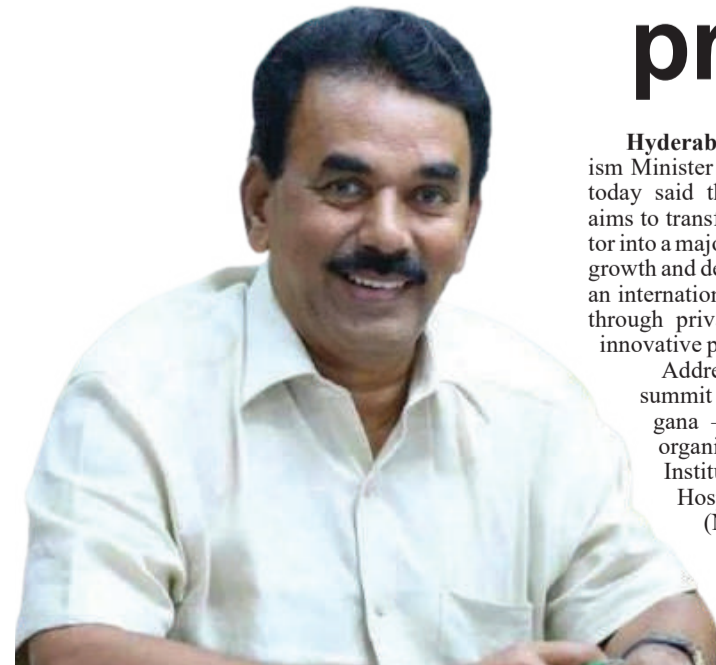
Before the amendment, GATCs were authorised to verify 18 categories of instruments, including water meters, clinical thermometers, gas meters, energy meters, breath analysers, weighing instruments, flow meters and vehicle speed meters.

Officials said the expansion of the GATC framework is expected to reduce the burden on state legal metrology departments and en-

sure faster verification and calibration services for fuel dispensing units across urban as well as rural areas. The move is also aimed at improving transparency and accuracy in fuel measurement, thereby protecting consumer interests.

The Ministry stated that strengthening the legal metrology ecosystem would play an important role in supporting India's transition towards sustainable energy solutions and modern fuel infrastructure. The revised framework is expected to encourage greater private participation and adoption of advanced dispensing technologies in the fuel retail sector.

Telangana to fast-track tourism projects through private partnerships: Minister Jupally



Hyderabad : Telangana Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao today said the state government aims to transform the tourism sector into a major engine of economic growth and develop Telangana into an international tourist destination through private partnerships and innovative projects.

Addressing the tourism summit "Destination Telangana - The Road Ahead" organised at the National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NITHM) in Gachibowli here, Jupally said the government would extend complete support for the

development of the tourism sector and fast-track tourism projects through private participation.

The summit was organised as part of the state government's "99 Days Public Governance - Progress Plan" programme marking the conclusion of Tourism Week celebrations.

The Minister said the government had introduced a new tourism policy aimed at transforming Telangana into a global tourism destination and invited industrialists and business organisations to invest in the sector.

He assured investors that permissions would be granted without obstacles if proposals along with Detailed Project Reports were submitted.

Under the "Ease of Doing Business" initiative, the government would provide all necessary incentives and support to entrepreneurs, he added.

The Minister stated that unused government assets would be allocated for tourism purposes on long-term lease basis to facilitate easier management of tourism projects.

He encouraged investors to submit innovative and creative proposals and announced that the government would soon issue Expression of Interest notifications for development of selected tourist destinations.

The government itself would bear the cost of project designs and estimates for selected organisations, he said.

Pointing out the lack of basic amenities at several tourist destinations in the state, including drinking water, restrooms, accommodation and restaurants, the Minister called upon private players to develop modern infrastructure such as mobile glass houses and canvas tents.

He stressed that tourism was not merely a source of entertainment but a crucial sector capable of strengthening both the state and national economy.

The Minister noted that development of tourism would boost allied industries and generate large-scale employment opportunities for youth. He said the government was committed to creating infrastructure capable of attracting both

domestic and international tourists and referred to projects such as the proposed ropeway at Bhongir Fort.

Special Chief Secretary for Tourism, Language and Culture Vani Prasad, TGTDCC Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy, Tourism Director Lakshman Rajinith Naik, NITHM Director Venkataramana, Archaeology Department Director Prof. Arjuna Rao and several tourism industry representatives attended the summit.

He said the government's long-term vision for tourism would not only position Telangana as a globally recognised travel destination but also significantly contribute to economic growth, infrastructure development and employment generation across the state.