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PG 02 Omar Abdullah Signals NC Shift to Assertive Politics on Identity, Rights

PG 03 Delhi Govt Launches Crackdown on Illegal Hotels, Guest Houses After Fire Tragedy



PG 06 Haryana speeds up deregulation reforms to boost ease of doing business



PG 07 India await fitness call on Rohit, Kohli ahead of Afghanistan ODIs



PG 08 Stock Markets ends with little change, investors remain cautious ahead of RBI policy decision

PM Modi to Launch Rs 22, 655-Crore Development Push Across Gujarat, Daman and Lakshadweep

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat and the union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu on June 5, where he will inaugurate, dedicate and lay the foundation stone for port infrastructure projects worth Rs 885 crore in Lakshadweep.

According to the release, the projects in Surat are aimed at strengthening road connectivity, healthcare services, power infrastructure and industrial development. A key highlight of the programme will be the dedication of Packages VI and VII of the eight-lane access-controlled Vadodra-Mumbai Expressway, which is expected to improve high-speed transportation, logistics efficiency and economic connectivity between Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for the

new terminal building of NAMO Airport, dedicate NAMO Hospital to the nation, and unveil projects worth around Rs 2,970 crore. He will also lay the foundation stone for port infrastructure projects worth Rs 885 crore in Lakshadweep.

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The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for the

four-laning of critical sections of National Highway-56, a project intended to improve connectivity in tribal regions and enhance access to the Statue of Unity, one of the country's major tourist destinations.

Among the healthcare initiatives, Modi will inaugurate

a 200-bed Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital in Surat. The facility will provide secondary healthcare services across multiple specialties and include a central laboratory, emergency and trauma care services, and other supporting infrastructure

for workers and residents. The release said the Prime Minister will also inaugurate major utility and industrial projects, including expansion of Gujarat's transmission network under the Inter-State Transmission System to enhance power evacuation capacity. Other initiatives include power distribution upgrades in Valsad under the Revamped Reforms-Based Distribution Sector Scheme, effluent treatment and disposal infrastructure in the Dahanu Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region and Sarigam GIDC, and utility infrastructure at the Jambusar Bulk Drug Park.

In Daman, Modi will inaugurate and dedicate projects worth around Rs 1,340 crore, including the new terminal building of NAMO Airport and NAMO Hospital. The airport

terminal is expected to significantly improve regional air connectivity and support economic activity, while the district hospital has been designed to serve nearly 1,500 outpatients daily and strengthen access to healthcare services.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for projects worth around Rs 1,630 crore in the union Territory. These include an iconic bridge, the Daman Convention Centre and a National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) campus. The government said the projects are expected to boost tourism, attract investment, generate employment and improve civic infrastructure.

In addition, Modi will launch major maritime infrastructure projects for Lakshadweep worth around Rs

885 crore. The projects include the development of port facilities on both the eastern and western sides of Kalpeni Island and Kadmat Island. The planned multipurpose jetties will be capable of accommodating large passenger and cruise vessels of up to 300 metres in length and are expected to improve passenger and cargo handling, fisheries-related services, fuel distribution, ice supply and boat repair facilities.

The government said the port projects would strengthen maritime connectivity, support the livelihoods of local fishing communities, promote tourism and contribute to the socio-economic development of the island territory.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to address public gatherings in both Surat and Daman during the visit.



Heavy rain, gusty winds batter Delhi-NCR; mercury drops sharply

New Delhi : Gusty winds, heavy rain and thunderstorms battered Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) on Thursday, bringing relief from the intense summer heat as temperatures plunged across several areas.

Ayanagar recorded the sharpest drop in temperature, with the mercury falling from 41.7°C at 1 pm to 22.7°C at 3 pm, a decline of 19°C, after the station received 27.6 mm of rainfall in two hours during the afternoon, according to data shared by officials from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The downpour triggered a temperature drop of nearly 15°C or more in several parts of Delhi-NCR, including Gautam Buddha Nagar (15.7°C), Dadri (15.7°C), Gurgaon (15.5°C), Hindon (15.2°C), Mayur Vihar (14.9°C) and Pushp Vihar (14.8°C).

According to IMD data, Mayur Vihar and Ridge recorded 24.5 mm and 19 mm of rainfall, respectively, placing them in the moderate rainfall category between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm on Thursday. Palam (10.7 mm), Rajghat (12.8 mm) and Pusa (8 mm) recorded light rainfall during the



same period. Strong winds and rain also led to uprooted trees and waterlogging in parts of Noida, according to visuals shared on social media.

Squally winds of up to 93 kmph were recorded in parts of Delhi-NCR. Surface winds in Gautam Buddha Nagar and Dadri gustted to a maximum of 93 kmph, while stations at Palam and Hindon recorded wind speeds of up to 65 kmph between 1 pm and 3 pm, IMD officials said.

Safdarjung, Delhi's base weather station, recorded light rainfall and wind speeds of up to 36 kmph, bringing temperatures down by 9°C, from 40°C at 1 pm to 31°C at 3 pm. The maximum temperature at the station settled at 40.5°C, close to normal, while the minimum temperature was recorded at 29.7°C, 2.8°C above normal.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert for Friday and forecast a further decline of 3-4°C in maximum temperatures over the next three days. Minimum temperatures are expected to fall by around 2°C over the next 24 hours, with no significant change thereafter.

Maximum and minimum temperatures on Friday are likely to remain between 36-38°C and 24-26°C, respectively, according to the IMD's evening bulletin.

Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Madurai among world's 10 most heat-vulnerable cities: Oxford Study

New Delhi : Ahmedabad, Nagpur, and Madurai in India are among the list of top-ten cities in the world that are most vulnerable to heat, according to a new study published in the journal "Sustainable Cities and Society."

Researchers from the University of Oxford analysed 205 global cities with a population of over 1 million to determine where people are most at risk from rising global temperatures. The study took into account factors beyond temperatures and humidity, expanding the analysis using data on population age, access to air conditioning, tree cover, electricity prices, and

poverty. The analysis indicated that more than 95% of the most-at-risk cities are in South and Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

India, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Ghana host the largest number of cities with high risk scores, with the highest number of Indian cities figuring in the top ten list, according to an official press statement.

Al Basrah in Iraq emerged as the city most vulnerable to extreme heat, with Ahmedabad in India ranking second. The remaining cities in the top 10 were Bamako (Mali), Nagpur (India), Quezon City (Philippines), Baghdad (Iraq), Madurai

(India), Faisalabad (Pakistan), Lagos (Nigeria) and Hyderabad (Pakistan). "It isn't just exposure to hot temperatures that matters for risk," explained the lead author Nethmi Jayaratne Kariyawasam, a researcher at the Oxford Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment.

"Our study shows that heat risk planning needs to explicitly address not just exposure to high

temperatures, but vulnerability and coping capacity," said Radhika Khosla, co-author and Associate Professor at the University of Oxford.

Warning against the risk of worsening global warming through a vicious cooling cycle, she stressed the need to reduce over-reliance on air conditioning, an energy-intensive form of cooling. "To scale adaptation and thermal comfort for all, we must adopt a nuanced approach to keeping people safe, with passive cooling measures and low-energy technologies such as fans and coolers serving as the first line of intervention," Khosla added.



Kharge to file Rajya Sabha nomination in Bengaluru today, Rahul Gandhi to accompany

New Delhi : Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will file his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday, June 5, in the presence of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul Gandhi's participation in the nomination process has been confirmed through the Congress party's travel schedule for June 5, highlighting the importance attached by the party leadership to Kharge's candidature.

The filing of nomination papers

comes ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections for seats falling vacant in Karnataka.

Several senior Congress leaders from both the state and national levels are expected to attend the event at the Vidhana Soudha in a show of support

for Kharge, who currently heads the party and remains one of its most influential leaders.

A veteran politician from Karnataka, Mallikarjun Kharge has enjoyed a distinguished parliamentary career spanning both Houses of Parliament. Before becoming Congress president in 2022, he served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and has played a central role in the party's organisational and legislative affairs.

Rahul Gandhi's presence is being seen as a reflection of unity within the Congress leadership and the party's

continued political focus on Karnataka, where it is currently in power.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and other senior state leaders are also expected to be associated with the nomination process.

The Rajya Sabha, Parliament's Upper House, is composed of representatives elected by members of state legislative assemblies.

Karnataka is among the states where elections are being held to fill seats that are set to fall vacant upon the completion of the terms of incumbent members.



Tax relief for Foreign Investors signals govt's bid to stem Capital flight, but raises questions on economic priorities

New Delhi : The union Cabinet's reported recommendation of an ordinance to ease tax rules for foreign investors marks the latest attempt by the Narendra Modi government to shore up investor confidence amid a weakening rupee, record foreign capital outflows and growing concerns over the pace of domestic investment.

While the proposed move is being viewed by markets as a signal that New Delhi is willing to recalibrate its tax regime to retain overseas capital, it has also triggered a broader debate over whether short-term measures can address deeper challenges confronting the economy.

According to media reports, the Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal from the finance ministry to issue an ordinance providing tax relief for foreign investors in certain categories of securities. Although official details have yet to be made public, reports suggest the measure could include changes to the tax treatment of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) investing in Indian government securities.

The reported move comes at a delicate moment for the Indian economy. The rupee has

weakened by around 6 per cent against the US dollar, reflecting a combination of global uncertainties, sustained foreign capital outflows and rising geopolitical tensions linked to the conflict in West Asia. Foreign portfolio investors have reportedly withdrawn a record Rs 2.25 lakh crore from Indian equities since January, placing pressure on both financial markets and the currency.

Against this backdrop, policymakers appear increasingly focused on preserving India's attractiveness as an investment destination. Reports indicate that the ordinance may form part of a broader package coordinated with the Reserve Bank of India, which is expected to announce additional measures following the conclusion of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

The reported tax easing also reflects concerns that India's taxation framework has gradually become less competitive for global investors. At present, foreign investors in government securities are subject to a 20 per cent withholding tax on interest income and a 12.5 per cent long-term capital gains tax. Before July 2023, the withholding tax rate on government securities, state

development loans and rupee-denominated bonds stood at 5 per cent, making Indian debt instruments comparatively more attractive.

In recent years, foreign investor groups have repeatedly sought a review of India's capital gains taxation regime. They have argued that the simultaneous imposition of securities

transaction tax and capital gains taxes increases investment costs and reduces the competitiveness of Indian markets relative to other emerging economies. Tax experts have also pointed out that successive increases in both short-term and long-term capital gains taxes have coincided with efforts to deepen India's integration with global capital markets, creating what some investors view as conflicting policy signals.

For the government, the logic behind offering tax relief is straightforward. Lowering the tax

burden on foreign investors could encourage greater participation in government securities, increase capital inflows and provide support to the rupee at a time when external vulnerabilities are becoming more pronounced. Additional inflows into debt markets could also help stabilise financing conditions and ease pressure on policymakers

grappling with global uncertainty. Yet the proposal has sparked criticism from the opposition, which argues that attracting foreign capital alone cannot resolve what it sees as fundamental weaknesses in the domestic economy.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, accused the government of responding to economic concerns with temporary fixes rather than structural reforms. Referring to reports of a possible ordinance

eliminating the 12.5 per cent long-term capital gains tax on FPIs investing in government securities, Ramesh said, "The Modi Govt is clearly in panic mode and is under siege from within its ecosystem on the current economic situation."

According to Ramesh, the central economic challenge is not the taxation of foreign investors but the weakness of private corporate investment within India. "The real problem is that private corporate investment is very tepid within India. Those who can and must invest in India are either investing abroad or postponing investments at home," he said.

The Congress leader argued that despite record corporate earnings, private corporate investment as a share of GDP has declined significantly. He maintained that tax concessions for overseas investors may generate positive headlines but would do little to address structural issues affecting domestic investment decisions.

"Band-aid ordinances may provide headlines but are no substitute for addressing the structural causes of depressed rates of private corporate investment," Ramesh said. He

cited stagnant real wages, widening income and wealth inequalities, growing concentration of economic power and what he described as an atmosphere of uncertainty created by the misuse of investigative agencies as factors discouraging investment.

The criticism highlights a longstanding debate within economic policy circles. One school of thought argues that attracting foreign capital is essential for maintaining macroeconomic stability, particularly during periods of currency volatility and global uncertainty. Another contends that sustainable growth ultimately depends on stronger domestic demand, rising household incomes and greater confidence among Indian businesses to expand capacity and undertake fresh investments.

The government's broader response suggests that it is attempting to balance both objectives. Alongside the reported tax relief proposal, authorities are said to be considering a government-guaranteed credit line for businesses, support measures for exporters and adjustments to duties, including on fuel, to cushion the impact of



external shocks arising from the West Asia conflict.

Whether the proposed ordinance succeeds in reversing investor sentiment remains uncertain. Foreign investors typically assess a wide range of factors beyond taxation, including economic growth prospects, currency stability, regulatory predictability and geopolitical risks. Tax relief may improve the attractiveness of Indian assets at the margin, but analysts note that sustained inflows are more likely to depend on broader confidence in the economy's medium-term trajectory.

For now, the ordinance proposal underscores the challenges facing policymakers as they navigate a period marked by global volatility, capital outflows and competing demands for economic support. It also reflects a growing recognition that India's ability to attract both foreign and domestic investment will remain central to sustaining growth in an increasingly uncertain international environment.





Omar Abdullah Signals NC Shift to Assertive Politics on Identity, Rights

Srinagar: The National Conference's decision to hold a protest in New Delhi for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and constitutional guarantees marks a significant political shift for Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. After nearly two years of adopting a cautious and cooperative approach towards the Centre, Omar now appears to be recalibrating his politics amid growing internal pressure and public dissatisfaction.

The off-site meeting at Dachigam National Park was not merely a routine review of governance. It was, in many ways, a political stocktaking exercise for the National Conference government, which came to power in October 2024 with a strong mandate but has struggled to deliver on its core political promises.

The party's announcement that its MLAs, ministers, and MPs will protest in Delhi on the first day of Parliament's Monsoon Session sends a message that the NC leadership believes silence and accommodation are no longer politically sustainable.

Since assuming office, Omar Abdullah had consciously avoided direct confrontation with New Delhi. His strategy appeared rooted in the belief that engagement with the Centre would eventually yield the resto-



ration of statehood, especially after repeated assurances from the union government and observations from the Supreme Court that statehood should be restored "at the earliest." However, the prolonged delay, coupled with limited administrative powers enjoyed by the elected government, has increasingly exposed Omar to criticism both within and outside his party.

The frustration among NC legislators reflects a deeper political crisis. Many leaders believe the party

has failed to aggressively pursue the issues that formed the backbone of its 2024 election campaign, particularly the restoration of Article 370-related constitutional protections and full statehood. The perception that the government has little real authority over governance has further damaged the party's image.

This discontent has found its sharpest expression in Srinagar MP Ruhollah Mehdi, who has openly accused the leadership of betraying the mandate. His exclusion from the

Dachigam meeting is politically significant, highlighting widening cracks within the party.

The symbolism of the Dachigam meeting is also notable. Holding the meeting in a secluded, no-network zone reflected the seriousness of the deliberations and perhaps the leadership's desire to avoid distractions while addressing mounting internal anxieties. At the same time, opposition parties quickly used the optics to mock the government, portraying it as isolated and disconnected from public sentiment.

Yet, despite the criticism, the NC's latest move appears to be aimed at salvaging its image and core base. By shifting the focus back to statehood and constitutional guarantees, Omar Abdullah is attempting to reclaim the party's traditional political space and reconnect with an electorate that increasingly questions what has changed politically since the elections. The planned Delhi protest is therefore not just a demonstration against the Centre; it is also an effort to reassure the party's cadre and supporters that the NC has not abandoned its ideological commitments. Whether this reset will strengthen Omar Abdullah politically or expose deeper contradictions within his leadership remains to be seen.

One more TMC councillor of KMC arrested for allegedly assaulting woman

Kolkata: A councillor of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), Biswajit Mondal, was arrested on Thursday in connection with allegations of harassment and assault of a woman, police officials said. The arrest marks the latest development in a series of controversies that have recently engulfed the civic body.

Mondal, who represents Ward 114 and is affiliated with the All India Trinamool Congress, was taken into custody following a complaint lodged at the Regent Park Police Station. Police initiated action after examining the allegations made by the complainant.

According to the complaint, the woman alleged that she was harassed and molested by the councillor on two separate occasions. The first incident was said to have occurred in March 2024, while the second allegedly took place on May 9 this year. The complainant further claimed that she had approached the police after the first alleged incident in 2024, but no action was taken on her complaint at that time. The allegation has raised



questions regarding the handling of the earlier complaint and whether proper procedures were followed. Mondal is a three-term councillor and is considered a prominent political figure within the civic administration. He has also been widely reported to be close to Mamata Banerjee, adding political significance to the case.

His arrest comes at a time when the Kolkata Municipal Corporation is already facing considerable turbulence due to multiple criminal cases involving elected representatives and a series of resignations by senior office-bearers. With Mondal's arrest, he becomes the fifth KMC councillor to be taken into custody in re-

cent days. The developments have intensified scrutiny of the civic body and raised concerns over governance and internal discipline within the ruling establishment.

The recent wave of arrests began with the registration of multiple FIRs that led to the arrest of Ward 123 councillor Sudip Polley on allegations of extortion. The case triggered further investigations and additional police action involving other elected representatives. Subsequently, three more councillors were arrested. These included Sachin Singh, Arijit Das Thakur, and Mahesh Sharma. Most of the cases against them were reportedly linked to extortion-related allegations.

Briefs :

Delhi LG calls for strict action against unauthorised constructions

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Thursday chaired a review meeting of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to discuss a comprehensive action plan aimed at strengthening urban governance, improving civic infrastructure, and enhancing structural safety across the national capital. Sandhu emphasised the need for the effective implementation of a comprehensive action plan to identify, halt, and demolish unauthorised constructions. He also called for a robust regulatory framework to ensure strict enforcement of building bylaws, penalise illegal constructions and expansions, and establish absolute institutional accountability across all municipal zones. The Lieutenant Governor directed that the proposed framework should be submitted to his secretariat at the earliest. He reiterated the need for stringent enforcement of building regulations to curb illegal expansions and instructed the civic body to implement a time-bound strategy to decisively tackle unauthorised constructions. The LG also reviewed key civic priorities, including the desilting of storm-water drains ahead of the monsoon, road and pavement repairs for dust mitigation, and intensified garbage clearance to improve sanitation standards across the city.

Hundreds mourn Gurugram family lost in devastating Delhi fire

New Delhi: "Manor", the Sector 43 residence of Vivek Aggarwal, became the centre of large-scale mourning on Thursday as over 500 people visited to offer condolences following a deadly fire. The tragedy, which left multiple members of the family dead, drew an outpouring of grief from neighbours and acquaintances, many of whom gathered outside the property throughout the day. Locals described the atmosphere as overwhelming, with a steady stream of visitors from the surrounding area and the family's extended circle. A teenager from the extended family said Vivek Aggarwal and his wife, Tarjani, had treated him with deep affection. "They fed me with their own hands like I was their son," he said, recalling his bond with the couple. "My little sisters are now gone," he added, referring to their daughters.

Parents' body flags lapses in CBSE's OSM evaluation system, teacher deployment

New Delhi: The (DPA) has alleged that the CBSE rollout of the (OSM) system for Class 12 answer sheet evaluation was rushed and implemented without adequate preparation, training or feedback from teachers. The government and CBSE have maintained that the OSM system was introduced to enhance transparency, accuracy and efficiency in the evaluation process. The board has asserted that the digital system eliminates errors in totaling and mark transfer, ensures greater accountability in assessment and provides a more standardised evaluation mechanism. DPA president Aprajita Gautam claimed that the trial run for the digital evaluation system was conducted over a short period and involved only a limited number of teachers. "The trial run was done for a very short period. Proper feedback was not taken from teachers. The sample size was also very small because the focus was more on whether the system could handle the load," Gautam said.

Delhi Govt Launches Crackdown on Illegal Hotels, Guest Houses After Fire Tragedy

New Delhi: In the aftermath of the deadly Malviya Nagar fire incident, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has adopted a stringent approach toward illegal constructions and fire safety violations, convening a high-level meeting to formulate a comprehensive action plan aimed at preventing similar tragedies in the future.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, the meeting was called to address concerns related to unauthorised buildings, illegal hotels and guest houses, and widespread violations of fire safety regulations across the national capital. The government intends to strengthen enforcement mechanisms and enhance accountability among officials and property owners.

The Delhi government has indicated that it will launch a strict campaign against establishments operating without the required approvals and permissions.

Authorities are also expected to intensify inspections and take action against properties found violating building regulations and safety norms.

Officials said the pro-



posed drive would focus on identifying illegal constructions and commercial establishments that pose risks to public safety.

The administration aims to ensure that compliance with fire safety requirements becomes a non-negotiable aspect of urban governance.

Senior representatives from multiple agencies have been invited to participate in the meeting at the Delhi Secretariat. These include officials from Delhi Police, the Revenue De-

partment, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Fire Service, and Delhi Jal Board, among others.

The broad participation of different departments reflects the government's in-

attention to develop a coordinated strategy rather than relying on isolated interventions by individual agencies. Officials believe inter-departmental cooperation will be critical for effective implementation.

Reaffirming her government's commitment to public safety, Rekha Gupta stated that no individual found responsible for lapses leading to the Malviya Nagar fire would be spared. She stressed that accountability must extend to building owners, officials, and any other persons whose negligence may have contributed to the tragedy.

The Chief Minister emphasized that preventing future disasters requires a comprehensive framework that combines strict enforcement of safety standards, regular monitoring, and a strong accountability system. According to her, piecemeal measures would not be sufficient to address the underlying issues.

Delhi Police PCR unit adds 32 new mobile patrol vehicles

New Delhi: In a move aimed at improving emergency response capabilities and enhancing public safety, the Control Room unit of Delhi Police has inducted 32 new Mobile Patrol Vehicles (MPVs) into its fleet. The newly added vehicles will be deployed across various districts of the national capital to improve police response time and strengthen field operations.

The addition of the new patrol vehicles is expected to significantly boost the mobility of Police Control Room (PCR) units, enabling personnel to respond more quickly and efficiently to distress calls. Authorities believe the enhanced fleet will contribute to better policing outcomes and greater public confidence in law enforcement services.

According to police officials, the induction forms part of a broader effort to modernize operational infrastructure and improve emergency response mechanisms

across Delhi. Faster deployment of personnel to incident locations remains a key objective of the initiative.

The new MPVs are expected to increase police visibility on roads and in residential areas, thereby enhancing both preventive policing and rapid intervention capabilities. Officials said a visible police presence often acts as a deterrent to crime and helps reassure citizens.

The vehicles were formally flagged off by David Lalrinsanga from the Delhi Police Headquarters. Lalrinsanga currently serves as the Special Commissioner of Police overseeing the Special Police Unit for Women and Children and the Special Police Unit for North Eastern Region (SPUNER). The flag-off ceremony marked the operational launch of the new PCR mobile units, which will now be integrated into the existing network of patrol vehicles deployed throughout the city. Senior

police officials and personnel attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, police officials emphasized that the induction of the new vehicles is intended to reduce response times, particularly in areas that witness a high volume of PCR calls. Timely response remains a critical component of effective policing and emergency management.

Officials noted that certain districts consistently generate a large number of emergency calls, making it essential to strengthen resources in those areas. The new vehicles will help distribute operational workloads more effectively and improve service delivery.

The upgraded fleet is expected to enhance the operational readiness of the Police Control Room unit. Improved mobility will enable personnel to reach incident sites more quickly, whether responding to law-and-order situations, accidents, crimes, or other emergencies.

Delhi intensifies food safety drive; 217 samples collected, action initiated against 12 violators

New Delhi: Acting on the directions of Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh, the Department of Food Safety has intensified surveillance, inspections, and enforcement activities across the national capital, leading to the collection of 217 food samples during May and the initiation of legal action against 12 food business operators found violating prescribed food safety standards.

The intensified drive forms part of the Delhi Government's broader strategy to strengthen food safety systems, curb adulteration, and ensure that consumers have access to safe and hygienic food products. Authorities have stepped up inspections and monitoring activities across markets, manufacturing units, restaurants, and other food establishments.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to public health, Dr. Singh stated that the administration follows a zero-tolerance policy towards food adulteration and violations of food safety norms. He emphasized that protecting consumer health remains one of the government's key priorities.

"The Delhi Government is committed to ensuring that every citizen has access to safe and wholesome food. The Depart-

ment of Food Safety is undertaking rigorous surveillance, enforcement and compliance measures across the city. We will continue to strengthen food safety systems, take strict action against violators and safeguard public health in the National Capital," the minister said.

He further asserted that food adulteration would not be tolerated under any circumstances and warned that strict action would continue against those found violating provisions of food safety laws. According to him, enforcement efforts are being strengthened to deter non-compliance and promote accountability within the food industry.

Official data released by the Department of Food Safety shows that 217 food samples were collected from various food business establishments during May as part of routine surveillance and enforcement activities. The sampling exercise covered a wide range of food products available in different parts of the city.

The collected samples were subjected to laboratory testing to assess compliance with standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Such testing forms a crucial component of the regulatory framework aimed at ensuring food

quality and consumer safety. During the month, authorities received 145 food analysis reports from laboratories. Of these, 133 samples were found to be compliant with established food safety standards, indicating that the majority of tested products met regulatory requirements. However, 12 samples were found to be non-conforming to the prescribed standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act. Following the findings, the department initiated appropriate legal proceedings against the concerned Food Business Operators (FBOs) in accordance with statutory provisions.

Officials stated that enforcement actions are intended not only to penalize violations but also to encourage greater compliance among businesses. Regulatory authorities believe that consistent monitoring and strict action can significantly improve food safety standards across the city.

One of the major enforcement actions during May involved a coordinated operation conducted by the Department of Food Safety and Delhi Police. During the operation, officials uncovered a substandard masala manufacturing unit operating in the Khari Baoli market area.

Malviya Nagar fire tragedy: Accountant, Manager under police scanner; 60 phones and 30 passports recovered

New Delhi: In a significant development in the Malviya Nagar guest house fire tragedy, in which 21 people were killed, the guest house's accountant, Jay Mishra, and manager, Rakesh, have come under the scanner of Delhi Police. Sources said that all work related to licences, No Objection Certificates (NOCs), and other regulatory approvals was allegedly handled in the name of accountant Jay Mishra.

Investigators suspect that the guest house owner, arrested accused Lavkesh Bajaj, carried out several operational activities of the guest house using the names of his accountant and manager.

Construction-related and other administrative works at the property in the congested Hauz Rani area were also allegedly executed through them.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police have recovered around 60 mobile phones and 30 passports during the investigation of the rooms in the guest house that was engulfed in a massive blaze on Wednesday morning, leaving 21 dead, including many foreign nationals, and left many others injured. Police sources said that during a room-by-room search of the guest

house, Flourish Stay B&B, officers recovered approximately 50 to 60 mobile phones.

Investigators noted that even after the fire had been extinguished, the rooms remained extremely hot, indicating the intensity of the blaze and the dense smoke that engulfed the building.

Around 30 passports were also recovered during the search.

So far, five victims have been identified, while efforts to establish the identities of the remaining deceased are underway.

Post-mortem examinations are being conducted.

According to police, most of the victims did not suffer severe burn injuries.

Preliminary findings suggest that the majority died due to suffocation and inhalation of toxic smoke.

Most of the foreign nationals staying at the guest house had arrived in India on medical visas.

Investigators revealed that the guest house accommodated nearly 80 foreign guests every month.

Mandatory C-Forms for foreign nationals were reportedly maintained and submitted to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), with the details also reflected in Delhi

Police records.

The investigation has uncovered several serious safety lapses.

Officials found that the building's windows and glass panels were completely sealed, preventing smoke from escaping.

The basement entrance was locked, and rescuers reportedly took nearly 10 minutes to gain access.

The basement door was locked from the inside, and six to seven people were later rescued from the area.

During the rescue operation, teams also encountered an iron mesh barrier nearly 2.5 feet high in the basement passage, which took approximately 10 minutes to cut through.

Police have further found that the building lacked adequate ventilation and did not have an emergency exit, allowing smoke to spread rapidly throughout the structure and trapping occupants inside. Delhi Police investigations are ongoing, and efforts are underway to trace both individuals.

Out of the 21 deceased, 18 are reported to be foreign nationals, from countries including Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Liberia, Nigeria, and Mozambique.

Editorial

Inferno Deals a Severe Blow to Credibility!

When a major tragedy strikes the nation's capital, its repercussions are not confined merely to the domestic political sphere; rather, they inflict a severe blow to India's image and credibility on the global stage. The horrific fire that engulfed the 'Lemon Green' hotel and restaurant in Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday morning claiming the lives of 21 innocent citizens who perished in the blaze is not merely an accident or an unfortunate incident; it stands as a stark testament to the negligence of the administrative machinery and the corrupt governance that permeates the system. The gravity and intensity of this tragedy are rendered even more appalling by the fact that, of the 21 citizens who lost their lives in this inferno, a staggering 18 were foreign nationals. Delhi is not merely India's capital city; it is regarded as a pivotal hub that represents the nation on the international stage and serves as a gateway welcoming guests from across the globe. When people from every corner of the world travel to the capital to experience India's culture and progress, the entire responsibility for their lives and safety rests squarely with the nation's government. In a city of such sensitivity, for foreign guests to meet such a fiery end is an utterly shameful and humiliating affair tantamount to a loss of face for the nation on the international stage. As news of this incident spread rapidly across global media outlets, India's tourism sector and its claims regarding safety standards have suffered a massive setback, resulting in immense disrepute for the country.

In the wake of this horrific tragedy, political parties have, true to form, begun engaging in mud-slinging and playing the politics of mutual recrimination. However, rising above this futile political cacophony, the most critical and pivotal question remains: Was even the slightest consideration given to the safety of the patrons and guests visiting this hotel at the time its commercial licenses were being issued? Based on the information revealed by investigative agencies and the media, it is evident that all rules and standards regarding fire safety were blatantly and openly violated at this hotel. In reality, whenever a hotel or restaurant is established, ensuring the safety of its patrons' lives constitutes the primary and legal responsibility of the establishment's operator. From a legal standpoint, granting permission to such establishments before all safety criteria have been fully met is considered an unpardonable offense. Although this hotel was officially granted permission in 2024, the Delhi Fire Service had, prior to that, explicitly refused to issue the requisite safety certification and No-Objection Certificate (NOC). Despite this, the true question one that exposes the very roots of corruption is: who granted this hotel the liberty to commence operations in defiance of the Fire Service's directives? How was such permission granted, and under whose patronage did this hotel continue to operate unhindered until now?

Delving into the root causes of this incident exposes yet another horrifying and repulsive instance of administrative malfeasance. According to the original regulations, the Lemon Green Hotel had been granted an official license to operate only six rooms; however, driven by an insatiable greed for profit, the hotel management was illegally operating a staggering 25 rooms. This clearly demonstrates that the local administration and investigative authorities turned a blind eye to this grave illegality and remained completely inert. When this hotel first commenced operations, the Aam Aadmi Party was in power in Delhi; currently, the Bharatiya Janata Party holds the reins of governance. However, in a democracy regardless of which political party is in power administration remains a continuous and uninterrupted process. Therefore, instead of shirking responsibility and wasting time trading barbs with one another, political parties must accept moral accountability for the deaths of those 21 innocent citizens. The fact that approximately three major fire incidents have occurred in Delhi within just the last five days serves as irrefutable proof of how lethargic and negligent the city's safety mechanisms have become. The lane in which the hotel building stands is extremely narrow and heavily congested.

The most shocking revelation is that this entire multi-storied hotel had only a single narrow doorway serving as both the entrance and the exit; consequently, the moment the fire broke out, the entire building effectively transformed into a death trap. Due to the narrow access routes and administrative delays, fire tenders arrived at the scene only after a significant delay by which time, the lives of innocent people had already vanished into thin air.

For a nation currently racing along the path of significant economic and strategic progress on the global stage, such incidents of negligence occurring within its capital city prove to be utterly detrimental and fatal. The current incident serves as a grim reminder of the tragic catastrophe that occurred in Delhi a few years ago, when a massive fire at a renowned cinema claimed the lives of countless citizens. What remains most astonishing is that, even after such monumental crises, the government machinery and the administration still fail to wake up to reality. These incidents serve as a harsh wake-up call a stinging reality check that exposes the malpractices and failings of the entire system for all to see. It is precisely due to the negligence, corruption, and cavalier attitude toward duty displayed by government officials that 21 individuals have had to pay the ultimate price with their lives.

The pivotal question now is whether the Central Government and other state governments across the country will, at long last, learn a lesson from this horrific episode. Although the immediate impact of this tragedy was felt in Delhi, its message serves as a resounding alarm bell for the hotel and tourism sectors in every state across the nation.

In a healthy democracy, the value of human life must always transcend any political advantage or commercial profit. As long as we fail to ensure 100% strict compliance with fire safety regulations in our public buildings, hotels, and restaurants and as long as we continue to shield corrupt officials such inhumane tragedies will inevitably persist. The fire at the Lemon Green Hotel is not merely a blaze that engulfed a single structure; it represents a moral collapse a stark exposure of the limitations inherent in our country's safety laws and their enforcement. A mere superficial inquiry into this matter will not suffice; instead, the contractor operating illegal rooms, the corrupt officials who granted approvals despite the absence of fire safety clearances, and the management that turned a blind eye to safety protocols must face rigorous legal punishment and be sent to prison. Only then can we hope to curb such tragedies in the future and ensure that every citizen of the country as well as our guests visiting from abroad can live with the assurance of a safe and secure environment.

While trumpeting the nation's development and modernity, strengthening fundamental safety mechanisms must be the true formula for a prosperous India this is the ultimate truth that has emerged from the anguished cries of the innocent victims in Delhi. It is not sufficient to simply shift the entire responsibility for this tragedy onto the hotel management. Along with those who violated the regulations, the officials who provided them protection must also face severe punishment. Safeguarding the life of every citizen is the paramount responsibility of any government.

Germany Proposes Expanded Research Exchange and Dual-Degree Partnerships with India

India and Germany today explored a future-oriented partnership in quantum communication, photonics, quantum satellite communication, space technologies and deep-tech innovation when Mario Voigt, Minister-President of the Free State of Thuringia,



Germany, currently on India visit, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh. The meeting brought together representatives from government, research institutions and industry from both sides to identify pathways for connecting innovation ecosystems and accelerating collaboration in frontier technologies.

The meeting was attended by Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General, CSIR, along with senior officials from the Department of Science & Technology, Department of Space, DRDO and other scientific institutions. The German delegation was led by Mario Voigt and included Christiane Kilian, Member of the Executive Board, Foundation for Technology, Innovation and Research Thuringia, besides representatives from government, research organisations, industry and technology institutions.

Welcoming the delega-

tion, Dr Jitendra Singh said India and Germany share a strong partnership rooted in science, technology, innovation and people-to-people ties. Recalling the celebration of 50 years of India-Germany Science and Technology Cooperation in 2024, he said scientific collabora-

tion has emerged as one of the strongest pillars of bilateral engagement and continues to create new opportunities in frontier areas of research, innovation and industrial development.

Recognising Thuringia's emergence as a major European hub for photonics, optics, quantum technologies and advanced manufacturing, both sides explored opportunities for long-term institutional partnerships in frontier technologies. The discussions focused on leveraging the complementary strengths of India and Germany and promoting deeper engagement among governments, scientific institutions, startups and industry to accelerate the translation of research into globally competitive technologies, products and innovation-driven enterprises.

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted the major initiatives undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to strengthen India's research and innovation ecosystem. Referring to the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and other measures aimed at promoting industry-linked research and innovation, he said India is increasingly creating platforms that connect ac-

ademia, research institutions, startups and industry, enabling scientific knowledge to be translated into practical solutions and economic value.

The Minister said that India today hosts the world's third-largest startup ecosystem and offers significant

opportunities for international collaboration across biotechnology, healthcare, water technologies, artificial intelligence, clean energy, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and space technologies. He said India's innovation landscape is increasingly driven by collaboration between public institutions, industry and entrepreneurs, creating new opportunities for global technology partnerships.

A major focus of the meeting was cooperation in quantum technologies and photonics, areas identified by both sides as critical to future technological competitiveness. Particular attention was given to opportunities in quantum communication, quantum satellite communication, optical ground stations, quantum networks and advanced photonics technologies, where India and Thuringia possess complementary strengths and capabilities.

The German side shared details of ongoing European initiatives relating to quantum communication infrastructure and optical communication systems, including developments under the EuroOGS network, which seeks to advance standardisation and interop-

erability in optical ground station technologies. Discussions also covered possibilities for scientific engagement, exchange of expertise and future collaboration involving research institutions, technology organisations and innovation ecosystems from both sides.

The discussions reflected the growing strategic importance being attached globally to quantum technologies and the increasing need for international collaboration in the field. Dr Jitendra Singh shared the progress achieved under India's National Quantum Mission, including advances in secure quantum communication and related technologies. Both sides exchanged perspectives on emerging developments in quantum computing, quantum communication and associated infrastructure and recognised the potential for deeper cooperation in research, standards development, talent exchange and technology partnerships.

Dr Jitendra Singh also highlighted India's expanding portfolio of mission-mode programmes in frontier technologies, including the National Quantum Mis-



sion, IndiaAI Mission, National Green Hydrogen Mission and biotechnology initiatives. He said these programmes are creating new opportunities for collaborative research, innovation-led growth and technology partnerships.

In the context of future technology partnerships, discussions also touched upon opportunities for mission-oriented collaboration in photonics and allied fron-

tier technologies, drawing upon the complementary strengths of India and Germany in optics, photonics, quantum technologies and innovation-driven manufacturing.

The meeting also deliberated on strengthening cooperation in the space sector, building upon the longstanding partnership between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR). Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted India's growing space capabilities, recent policy reforms encouraging private participation and international collaboration, and the increasing contribution of startups to the country's expanding space economy.

The Minister noted that India has successfully launched eleven German satellites through Indian launch vehicles and reiterated India's commitment to expanding international cooperation in space research, technology development and commercial applications. The two sides discussed potential collaboration in satellite communications, optical communications, human

and private enterprises. The discussions emphasised the importance of translating research outcomes into deployable technologies, scalable products and globally competitive deep-tech enterprises.

Dr Jitendra Singh said India's scientific progress is increasingly being driven by integrated partnerships involving academia, research laboratories, startups and industry. He added that India welcomes collaborations that facilitate the exchange of researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and doctoral scholars while creating pathways for joint technology development, industrial innovation and commercialisation.

The Minister also highlighted the contribution of the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IG-STC) and other bilateral mechanisms that have supported industry-oriented research projects, innovation partnerships and researcher exchange programmes over the years. He said the next phase of India-Germany scientific cooperation offers significant opportunities in quantum technologies, photonics, artificial intelligence,

advanced manufacturing, space technologies and deep-tech entrepreneurship.

The two sides expressed confidence that closer engagement among governments, scientific institutions, industries and startups would further strengthen the India-Germany strategic partnership and create new opportunities for innovation-led growth, technological advancement and solutions to global challenges.

Cabinet approves Scheme for support to NCRPB for replacement of old trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR area

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a landmark two-year scheme aimed at reducing air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region and promoting cleaner mobility. The scheme will be funded through the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). It will be implemented in collaboration with the participating States and Union Territories of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

With a total financial outlay of Rs.9,585 crore, including Rs.5,041 crore from the Central Government and an estimated Rs.1,601 crore in tax concessions from the participating States, the

scheme seeks to incentivize owners of trucks and buses registered in the Delhi-NCR region that comply with BS-IV or earlier emission norms to replace them with BS-VI or stricter emission-compliant vehicles, or electric vehicles (EVs). By accelerating the transition to cleaner transport technologies, the scheme is expected to significantly reduce vehicular emissions and contribute to improved air quality across the Delhi-NCR region.

Air pollution in the Delhi-NCR remains a severe public health challenge, particularly during winter months. As per the report on "Source Apportionment of Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10) in the NCR" prepared by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), published in August 2018, the transport sector contrib-

utes 14% of PM 2.5, 40% of Carbon Monoxide (CO), and 63% of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions in the Delhi-NCR. Within the transport sector, trucks and buses account for 36% of PM 2.5 emissions with only 3% of the total fleet. It is estimated that a single Pre-BS heavy-duty vehicle emits as much as 14 BS-VI compliant vehicles. Even a BS-IV vehicle emits 2.7 times more than a BS-VI counterpart. Hence, the newer fleet is expected to reduce the vehicular pollution substantially. The scheme will benefit approximately 2.07 lakh (1.91 lakh trucks and 16,329 buses) owners in Delhi-NCR (comprising Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh). For BS-III or older vehicles, scrapping at Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities is mandatory, while BS-IV vehicles may either be scrapped or sold outside NCR in non-NCAP cities/

towns. Owners must then purchase and register a BS-VI or stricter norms compliant or electric vehicle within NCR. However, in Delhi, Light Goods Vehicles purchased under the scheme must be electric, while buses must be BS-VI CNG or electric only. Government vehicles are excluded from the scheme. The Centre will provide 5% interest subvention on loans for five years, monthly fuel vouchers worth up to Rs.4,800 depending on vehicle category, and lump-sum benefits for EV purchases or Certificate of Deposit trading. State governments will waive registration fees and grant up to 100% motor vehicle tax concessions for new vehicles and 50% for used vehicles for 10 years. State Government will also waive of pending liabilities on the old vehicles participating in the scheme. Participating Auto OEMs will offer 8% discounts on

ex-showroom prices. Implementation will be fully digital through an integrated portal, which will enable real-time eligibility checks, automated interest subvention claims, monthly fuel voucher credits, and monitoring of pollution reduction outcomes. The benefits by central government will continue for 5 years from the date of registration of the new vehicle, ensuring sustained impact beyond the two-year enrolment window. The scheme will be monitored by an Empowered Committee, chaired by Cabinet Secretary with CEO, Niti Aayog, Secretaries of MoHUA, MoRT&H, MoPNG, DFS, Chief Secretaries of states in Delhi NCR as members, and Member Secretary of NCRPB being the member convenor. At the district level, District Collectors/ District Magistrates will be implementing and monitoring the scheme.

Youth Engagement Across 100 Border Villages

The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through its flagship platform Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), has launched the first phase of the Viksit Vibrant Village Program (VVVP) 2026, a unique youth-led initiative designed to deepen grassroots engagement, strengthen national integration, and promote sustainable development in India's border regions. The programme seeks to connect young citizens with frontier communities while fostering a sense of responsibility and participation in nation-building.

The Viksit Vibrant Village Program 2026 is being implemented in two phases and aims to create meaningful interactions between youth volunteers and residents of strategically important border villages. By facilitating direct exposure to life in remote frontier areas, the initiative seeks to bridge the gap between urban and rural India while highlighting the significance of border communities in the nation's development journey.

A total of 500 MY Bharat volunteers have been selected to participate in the programme

following a nationwide online quiz competition that attracted more than three lakh participants from across the country. The overwhelming response reflects the growing enthusiasm among India's youth to contribute actively to national development and social transformation.

The selected volunteers represent all States and Union Territories, ensuring that the programme embodies the spirit of unity in diversity. Their participation brings together young people from different cultural, linguistic, and social backgrounds, creating opportunities for mutual learning and understanding while strengthening the fabric of national integration. Under Phase-I of the initiative, 250 volunteers have been deployed across 43 identified border villages located in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. These volunteers will spend seven days immersed in village life, engaging with local communities and gaining firsthand insights into the realities and challenges faced by residents living in remote frontier areas. The second phase of the programme, scheduled to commence later

this month, will involve the remaining 250 volunteers who will be deployed across 50 additional border villages. Through this two-phase approach, the government aims to ensure wider geographical coverage and maximize the impact of youth participation in border-area development. One of the defining features of the programme is its immersive residential format. Volunteers will stay in the villages and closely interact with local residents, Panchayati Raj Institutions, district officials, and security personnel. This direct engagement is expected to help participants better understand the socio-economic conditions, cultural traditions, and developmental aspirations of border communities. The initiative also offers young participants an opportunity to appreciate the strategic importance of India's frontier regions. Through interactions with security agencies and local administrations, volunteers will gain a deeper understanding of the role border villages play in maintaining national security, preserving cultural heritage, and supporting economic growth in remote areas. The seven-day im-

ersion programme has been carefully designed around several thematic areas, including border awareness, cultural exchange, community living, governance, socio-economic assessment, village development planning, volunteerism, and national integration. These themes aim to provide a holistic learning experience while encouraging youth to become active contributors to community development. As part of their field activities, volunteers will conduct household surveys to gather information about local conditions and developmental needs. The data collected during these surveys is expected to contribute to a better understanding of village-level challenges and opportunities, helping stakeholders formulate more effective development strategies. Participants will also take part in Gram Sabha meetings and engage with local governance structures. Such interactions will provide valuable insights into democratic decision-making processes at the grassroots level and enable volunteers to appreciate the role of community participation in local development planning.



Briefs :

Rohtak Launches Strict Cleanliness Drive to Remove Illegal Garbage Dumps

Rohtak: In preparation for an upcoming national cleanliness assessment, the Rohtak Municipal Corporation has launched a major campaign to clean up city streets and public spaces.

The civic body has spotted 28 illegal locations across the town where local residents or private trash collectors have been unlawfully dumping waste.

Special sanitation teams have now been set up to watch these areas closely.

The monitoring teams will inspect these spots frequently and fine anyone caught throwing trash in unauthorized places. The Municipal Commissioner has ordered workers to make sure no garbage is visible on any public road or lane. He stated that enough warning time has been given, and it is now time to show real results on the ground.

The city is also working to improve its daily home-to-home waste collection system to give everyone a healthier living environment.

The city of Rohtak has officially embarked on an extensive and rigorously structured cleanliness campaign aimed at completely transforming the urban landscape and eliminating unsightly waste from its public areas.

One in Five Voters in Sirsa Unlinked; Door-to-Door ID Verification to Begin

Sirsa: Around 20 percent of voters in Sirsa have not yet been successfully matched with older official election archives, leading authorities to launch a major home-verification drive. Additional Deputy Commissioner Arpit Sangal announced that while 80 percent of residents are already safely linked, the remaining unverified citizens must show official documents to confirm their eligibility so that no genuine voter gets left out of the system.

Starting June 15, election workers will visit local homes to check identities and update details like names and home addresses. Depending on their age, residents will need to show specific papers such as school certificates, PAN cards, or passports. Political parties are also working alongside the official teams to keep the process completely transparent. Residents will have until August 30 to check the draft lists and file any objections or corrections.

The election administration in Sirsa has announced a comprehensive voter roll verification initiative following the discovery that approximately twenty percent of the local electorate remains unlinked to historical official election archives. This massive administrative undertaking is designed to clear up discrepancies and ensure the absolute integrity of the electoral rolls before any upcoming democratic exercises. Additional Deputy Commissioner Arpit Sangal broke down the figures, explaining that while eighty percent of the registered population has already been successfully matched and verified within the database, the remaining one-fifth requires direct, physical verification to protect their voting rights.

Contractual University Teachers Demand New Job Security Law

Panipat: Members of the Haryana Universities Contractual Teachers Association met with Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda to request a new law that protects their jobs. The teachers requested the government to pass a formal job security bill so they can be regularized, similar to school guest teachers, based on previous court orders.

The minister listened to their concerns during a public grievance meeting and assured the teachers that the government is carefully looking into the legal options to protect them.

The association leaders mentioned that around 1,400 contract professors have been teaching in state universities for many years. They explained that a proper law would give them the mental and financial peace needed to focus on teaching their students well.

The higher education landscape in Haryana is currently witnessing a significant push for labor reform as members of the Haryana Universities Contractual Teachers Association have actively intensified their advocacy for long-term employment stability.



Representatives of the academic body recently organized a formal delegation to meet directly with the state's Education Minister, Mahipal Dhanda, in Panipat. The primary objective of this high-level meeting was to formally present a comprehensive grievance regarding the systemic vulnerabilities faced by temporary faculty members. The educators are forcefully advocating for the introduction of a completely

new, robust job security law tailored specifically to the higher education sector.

During the focused interaction, the leadership of the association articulated the deep-seated anxieties that plague the contractual teaching community due to the persistent threat of sudden job termination.

The teachers strongly requested the state government to draft, introduce, and pass a formal job security bill within the state legislative assembly.

Such a legislative framework, they argued, would establish a clear, structured pathway through which temporary university professors could eventually be absorbed into permanent or regularized positions. They emphasized that without statutory protections, the academic workforce remains highly volatile, which ultimately degrades the administrative continuity of the state's premier educational institutions.

To strengthen the legitimacy of their current demands, the delegation drew a direct and deliberate parallel to existing legislative precedents within Haryana's broader education system.

Government Teams to Check Every House in Karnal for Accurate Voter Lists

Karnal: The district administration is starting a major door-to-door verification campaign to make sure the local voting records are completely accurate and updated. Karnal Deputy Commissioner Anand Kumar Sharma explained that the main goal of this intensive clean-up drive is to remove the names of people who have died, moved away permanently, or have double entries. He made it clear that this exercise is only meant to fix errors and will not remove any genuine, honest voters.

Special booth-level workers will visit every house three times between June 15 and July 14, 2026, to verify family details. Young people who turn 18 years old on or before July 1, 2026, will also get the chance to sign up and get their voter cards.

The initial list will be published in late July, and people can submit complaints or fix mistakes until mid-September before the final list comes out. Citizens can also call a free government helpline at 1950 for any quick assistance.

The district administration of Karnal has officially announced the launch of an exhaustive, highly structured door-to-door verification

campaign aimed at achieving flawless accuracy within the local electoral rolls.

This intensive public initiative is designed to completely overhaul and update the existing voting records, ensuring that the democratic registry reflects the true, current demographic reality of the region.

Karnal Deputy Commissioner Anand Kumar Sharma detailed the strategic scope of the operation, emphasizing that a pristine voter list is fundamental to the execution of fair and transparent elections. The administrative machinery is being fully mobilized to execute this massive data-cleaning exercise across every municipal ward and rural pocket of the district.

According to the directives issued by the senior administrative leadership, the primary objective driving this rigorous cleanup campaign is the systematic elimination of invalid entries that distort the voter base. Over time, electoral lists naturally accumulate discrepancies due to various life events, making regular maintenance an absolute necessity for civic integrity.

Specifically, the field teams have been mandated to identify and re-

move the names of individuals who have passed away, ensuring that deceased citizens do not remain active on the rolls. This measure is crucial for preventing any potential misuse of voter credentials and maintaining an indisputable record of the eligible electorate.

In addition to addressing the names of deceased individuals, the verification drive will focus heavily on identifying residents who have permanently migrated away from Karnal. As people relocate for employment, marriage, or personal reasons, their continued presence on the local rolls creates administrative bloat and skews voter turnout statistics.

The door-to-door teams will verify the current residential status of every registered individual, ensuring that those who no longer live in the district are properly flagged for removal. This process helps streamline the voter registry, aligning it strictly with the active, physically present population of the constituency.

Another critical flaw that the administration aims to rectify during this intensive operation is the presence of duplicate entries across different polling booths.

Gurugram to Get Huge New Government Hospital with 600 Beds

Gurugram: The Haryana government has finally given the green light for building a brand-new Civil Hospital in Gurugram, appointing a state infrastructure corporation to lead the project. This massive healthcare facility will cost 1,054 crore rupees and will be built near the Police Lines area. The project brings huge relief to local residents who have faced massive healthcare shortages since 2019, when the old hospital building was torn down because it was unsafe to use.

Health Minister Arti Singh Rao announced that the hospital will be constructed in two separate stages to start helping people as quickly as possible. In the first part of the project, a modern 400-bed facility will be set up to handle immediate medical needs. Later on, another 200 beds will be added, creating a large 600-bed medical center.

The minister has ordered all departments to finish the official paperwork quickly so construction stays right on time to offer high-quality medical care to lakhs of people.

The public healthcare landscape in Gurugram is on the verge of a historic transformation as the Haryana government has formally granted administrative approval for the construction of a state-of-the-art Civil Hospital. This highly anticipated decision marks a critical milestone for the region's in-

frastructure development, addressing a long-standing demand for robust public medical facilities. To ensure the project is executed with the highest level of professionalism and efficiency, the state administration has officially appointed a specialized state infrastructure corporation to lead the development. This designated agency will take full charge of the engineering, design, and execution phases, ensuring that the entire complex complies with modern structural and medical standards.

The financial commitment backing this monumental healthcare initiative is immense, with the state government allocating a total budget of 1,054 crore rupees for its complete execution. This substantial capital investment underscores the government's determination to build a world-class medical institution capable of serving a rapidly growing urban population. The funds will be utilized not only for the basic structural layout but also to equip the facility with cutting-edge medical diagnostic machinery, advanced surgical suites, and comprehensive life-support systems. By dedicating such a massive budget, the administration aims to create a landmark institution that will serve as the backbone of public health services in the district.

Geographically, the state has strategically selected a

premium and highly accessible location for the new medical complex, choosing an expansive plot situated near the prominent Police Lines area.

This location was meticulously chosen to ensure that residents from all corners of the city, as well as adjacent rural blocks, can reach the emergency and outpatient departments without facing extreme traffic bottlenecks. The proximity to major urban pathways means that ambulances and emergency vehicles can navigate to the hospital with minimal transit delays, a factor that is absolutely critical during life-saving medical emergencies. The site preparation and initial clearing protocols are expected to commence swiftly to prepare the ground for foundation work.

The official approval of this mega-hospital brings a profound sense of relief to local residents who have spent the last several years navigating a severely strained public healthcare system. For more than half a decade, low-income households and general citizens in Gurugram have voiced intense frustrations over the lack of adequate, affordable medical resources within the city core. The absence of a centralized district hospital forced thousands of patients to travel long distances or rely heavily on overburdened secondary clinics for routine and specialized treatments.

Gurugram Government Buildings Evacuated After Fake Bomb Threat Email

Gurugram: The Municipal Corporation office and the Mayor's office in Gurugram were evacuated on Thursday after receiving a bomb threat via email. The threatening message was sent under the name of a fake group called the "Khalistan National Army," claiming that explosions would take place at the offices and at several prominent Hindu temples in Delhi and Haryana.

The email also threatened to damage railway tracks between Chandigarh and Delhi over the coming days. Security teams, including bomb disposal units and police dogs, rushed to the municipal building and searched it thoroughly for hours. Around 1,000 staff members were safely moved out. Fortunately, nothing dangerous was found, and the police are now tracking down the person who sent the hoax email. A high-security alert gripped the city of Gurugram on Thursday morning when a targeted bomb threat forced the immediate shutdown and evacuation of key government administrative buildings. The central headquarters of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, located in Sector 34, alongside the official chambers of the city's Mayor, became the primary focus of an intensive security response. Panic rippled through the administrative offices as senior district and police authorities received an anonymous elec-



tronic message explicitly claiming that improvised explosive devices had been planted on the premises. The communication was received around 10:06 am, a peak operational hour when the multi-story complex was fully occupied by public servants, regional officers, and visiting citizens. The alarming nature of the digital dispatch compelled local law enforcement and administrative heads to immediately activate standard emergency safety protocols to ensure the absolute protection of human life. Beyond housing the primary municipal governance wings, the targeted sector building also accommodates the regional offices of the Central Board of Secondary Education and the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. Given the dense concentration of vital public services within a single infrastructure, the potential risk

factor was magnified significantly, prompting senior police officials to declare an immediate red alert. Security managers wasted no time in sounding the internal alarms, bringing all routine bureaucratic operations to a sudden, absolute halt.

As the evacuation order echoed through the corridors, a highly coordinated and disciplined effort was executed by internal security teams to clear the sprawling government complex. Approximately 1,000 staff members, including high-ranking municipal officers, clerical employees, and civilian visitors, were systematically escorted out of the building's various wings and guided toward designated safe assembly zones outside. Public Relations Officer Satyabir Singh Rohilla confirmed that the building was entirely vacated within a short span of time following the receipt of the

threatening electronic mail. The swift evacuation prevented the outbreak of a dangerous stampede, ensuring that the massive volume of people exited the hazardous perimeter calmly. Once the entire facility was successfully cleared of civilian presence, specialized counter-terror and emergency response teams assumed complete operational control of the Sector 34 premises. Frontline units from the Gurugram Police, accompanied by heavily equipped Bomb Disposal Squads and highly trained canine units, rushed to the site to initiate an exhaustive sweeping operation. The technical personnel systematically partitioned the multi-story structure into specific search grids to ensure that every office, storage closet, ventilation duct, and basement corridor was meticulously analyzed for any traces of volatile compounds.

MP Urges Youth Not to Sell Family Lands for Illegal Migration Routes



Kurukshetra: Member of Parliament Naveen Jindal has requested young people and their parents to stop selling their ancestral lands to fund illegal travel abroad through dangerous "donkey routes."

Speaking at a massive job fair, Jindal emphasized that the world needs Indian talent, but youth should learn proper skills and move abroad safely through legal job pathways instead of risking their lives.

The job fair brought big international companies

from sectors like aviation, healthcare, and manufacturing directly to the local youth, offering open positions in countries like Germany, Canada, and Australia.

The MP highlighted that local skill centers are already training thousands of rural youth for free.

One parent shared how the MP stopped him from selling his land to human smugglers and instead helped his son get free training for a legal job abroad.

Child Rights Chief Inspects Medical and Care Centers in Kaithal

Kaithal: The head of the Haryana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Tripti Sheoran, visited the local Civil Hospital, a children's ashram, and various childcare centers to check on their facilities. Sheoran stated that there will be absolutely no compromises when it comes to the safety, health, and growth of children and women in the state. During her hospital visit, she checked the newborn intensive care unit and maternity wards, expressing satisfaction with the medical care. At a local daycare center, she noticed a delay in food supplies and immediately ordered officials to fix the problem. Because of the intense summer heat, she also ordered the immediate installation of air coolers and air conditioners to keep the children comfortable. The social welfare landscape and institutional care framework in Haryana are currently undergoing a rigorous assessment as the highest levels of the state's child protection

administration have initiated an extensive series of field evaluations. Tripti Sheoran, the newly appointed head of the Haryana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, spearheaded a comprehensive administrative inspection across several public utilities and care homes in Kaithal district. This high-profile operational tour was strategically designed to evaluate the baseline infrastructure, medical capacity, and safety protocols governing the institutions charged with looking after vulnerable demographics. The state leadership has signaled that this district-wide inspection is part of a broader, uncompromising regulatory push to standardize institutional care. During her extensive tour of the municipal limits, the Child Rights Chief focused heavily on the state of specialized public health facilities, conducting a detailed walkthrough of the local Civil Hospital complex. Sheoran personally visited

the highly sensitive Newborn Intensive Care Unit to inspect the operational readiness of life-support systems, thermal incubators, and specialized neonatal monitoring machinery. Given that newborn health remains a critical metric of public health excellence, the commissioner engaged directly with the pediatricians, nursing staff, and medical supervisors on duty to evaluate patient-to-nurse ratios and the availability of emergency drugs. The administrative audit also extended to the hospital's primary maternity wards, where she reviewed the overall standard of postpartum care and maternal hygiene. Following her thorough examination of the clinical environments, Tripti Sheoran expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the immediate medical care and professional dedication demonstrated by the Civil Hospital's healthcare staff. However, she emphasized that maintaining these optimum standards requires

continuous vigilance and proactive equipment maintenance. The commissioner made it clear that the state administration views the health of mothers and infants as an absolute priority, meaning that any drop in facility upkeep would face strict disciplinary consequences. This positive medical evaluation provided a baseline of reassurance regarding the district's primary healthcare infrastructure, but the inspection tour soon shifted toward more vulnerable community-based operations. Transitioning from clinical spaces to institutional housing, the Child Rights chief directed her delegation to conduct an unannounced, exhaustive review of a prominent local children's ashram. These residential sanctuaries house orphaned, abandoned, or marginalized children who rely entirely on state-regulated infrastructure for their shelter, education, and psychological rehabilitation. Sheoran systematically in-

spected the living quarters, communal dining halls, educational rooms, and recreational zones of the ashram to ensure that the facility complies with the stringent statutory guidelines laid out in the Juvenile Justice Act. She interacted directly with the resident children to gauge their comfort levels, emotional well-being, and the quality of regular mentorship provided by the institutional caretakers. During her deep interactions with the administrative heads of the various childcare centers, Tripti Sheoran delivered an unequivocal, headline policy statement regarding the state's absolute responsibilities toward its youth and female population. She declared in no uncertain terms that there will be absolutely no compromises, bureaucratic leniency, or fiscal shortcuts permitted when it comes to safeguarding the personal safety, physical health, and long-term development of children and women across Haryana.

Haryana speeds up deregulation reforms to boost ease of doing business

Chandigarh : The Haryana government has intensified its compliance reduction and deregulation drive, introducing a series of reforms aimed at simplifying approvals, reducing regulatory burdens and strengthening the state's ease of doing business ecosystem.

The progress of the initiative was reviewed on Thursday during a high-level meeting chaired by Haryana Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi and Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, KK Pathak. Senior officials were directed to accelerate reforms designed to create a more transparent, technology-driven and investor-friendly governance framework.

Rastogi said the objective of the reforms is to remove unnecessary procedural hurdles and ensure faster, simpler and more efficient delivery of government services to citizens, entrepreneurs and investors.

Officials informed the meeting that major changes have already been implemented in areas such as land-use permissions, industrial approvals, environmental clearances and self-certification systems. As part of these measures, the documentation required for obtaining



Change of Land Use (CLU) permission has been reduced from 19 documents to just three. In addition, an Auto-CLU mechanism has been introduced for industrial zones to speed up approvals.

Commissioner and Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Dr Amit Kumar Agrawal, said nearly 70 per cent of Haryana's geographical area no longer requires CLU permissions, providing greater flexibility to landowners and investors. He added that the state is exploring the expansion of automated approval systems to additional categories.

The government has also introduced reforms in industrial development, in-

cluding greater flexibility in industrial land use, project modifications, subleasing and plot management. Officials said measures allowing the subdivision of industrial plots are expected to make industrial land more affordable and accessible for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

To facilitate investment, the Haryana Enterprise Promotion Centre (HEPC) is being strengthened as a single-window platform that will help investors obtain approvals from multiple departments through a streamlined process.

The meeting was informed that Floor Area Ratio (FAR), ground coverage and

setback norms have also been liberalised to enable optimum utilisation of industrial land and encourage industrial growth.

A key component of the reform programme is the adoption of self-certification and third-party certification systems. Occupation Certificates for low-risk buildings are now being issued through self-certification, while third-party verification mechanisms are being expanded for higher-risk projects. Similar reforms are being implemented in pollution control and fire safety approvals.

Officials said the Haryana State Pollution Control Board has reduced the pro-

cessing time for Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate approvals from 30 working days to 21 working days. Auto-renewal facilities have also been introduced for eligible industries, reducing compliance costs and procedural delays. The state government is also working on simplifying regulations for private educational institutions by easing land and infrastructure requirements. Similar initiatives are being pursued in higher education to create a more facilitative regulatory environment.

In the healthcare sector, efforts are underway to streamline approvals through a single nodal mechanism and simplify registra-

tion requirements for medical practitioners. Reforms in the tourism sector are also being implemented to encourage hospitality projects, affordable accommodation and greater private investment. The Chief Secretary reviewed progress on a proposed centralised digital repository that will provide easy access to State Acts, Rules, Regulations, Government Orders and policy documents. The initiative is expected to improve transparency and regulatory certainty for businesses and citizens alike.

Rastogi said the compliance reduction and deregulation programme would further strengthen Haryana's position as a preferred destination for investment, manufacturing, innovation and employment generation, while promoting efficient governance and improved public service delivery.

Several senior officials, including Assistant Chief Secretary Anurag Aggarwal, Director General Fire Services Shekhar Vidyarthi, Director General Industries and Commerce Yash Garg, Director Town and Country Planning Amit Khatri, and Haryana State Pollution Control Board Chairman Vinay Pratap Singh, attended the meeting.

Five Arrested in Fatehabad for Fatal Attack on Local Youth

Sirsa: Local police and crime investigators have caught five men involved in the murder of a youth named Sachin. The suspects were planning to escape to Haridwar when police caught them during a joint operation on Wednesday evening. The arrested individuals were brought before a judge on Thursday and kept in custody for deeper questioning.

The suspects told the police that they had an ongoing fight with Sachin for months and only wanted to beat him up to teach him a lesson, claiming they did not mean to kill him. However, police records show that one of the main accused, Deepak, has a long history of violent crimes since his teenage years, including illegal weapons possession, shooting, and another murder case. Police are still looking for 15 other unidentified people who helped in the attack.

The district police and crime investigation units in Fatehabad have achieved a major breakthrough in their ongoing investigation into the murder of a local youth named Sachin, successfully apprehending five principal suspects connected to the fatal assault. The arrests were executed during a highly coordinated, time-sensitive joint operation conducted on Wednesday evening. Acting

on precise intelligence regarding the movements of the accused, law enforcement teams managed to intercept the individuals just as they were actively planning to flee the jurisdiction and escape to Haridwar to evade the law. Following their apprehension, the five suspects were formally brought before a local magistrate on Thursday, where the police successfully secured their custody for deeper, multi-layered interrogation.

During the initial rounds of questioning under police custody, the apprehended individuals confessed to their direct involvement in the physical confrontation but attempted to minimize the gravity of their actions. The suspects told investigators that they had been embroiled in an ongoing animosity and personal dispute with Sachin that had stretched across several months. They claimed to the interrogators that their primary objective on the day of the incident was merely to corner the victim and beat him up to teach him a lesson, asserting that they had no prior intention of causing his death. However, the sheer brutality of the physical assault contradicts these defensive claims, and law enforcement is treating the case as a premeditated act of extreme violence.

Man Receives Life Imprisonment for Kidnapping and Killing Minor Girl in Nuh

Gurugram: A special fast-track court in Nuh has sentenced a man to life in prison for kidnapping and murdering a seven-year-old girl. The judge also ordered the convict, named Abbas, to pay a fine of 17,000 rupees. The tragic incident took place in 2024 when the young girl disappeared while playing outside her house in Doha village.

After the family reported her missing, the police arrested Abbas for questioning. He eventually led the police to a mustard field where he had hidden the girl's body. The police department gathered strong evidence and testimonies for the trial, which successfully proved the crimes in court and led to the strict life sentence.

The judicial system in Haryana has delivered a definitive judgment in a severe criminal case, as a special fast-track court in Nuh formally sentenced a man to life imprisonment for the kidnapping and murder of a seven-year-old girl. The court, specifically established to handle sensitive cases involving crimes against children with maxi-

mum speed and legal precision, concluded its thorough trial by finding the accused, identified as Abbas, guilty on all primary charges. In addition to the maximum term of physical confinement, the presiding judge imposed a financial penalty of 17,000 rupees on the convict. This decisive legal outcome marks the conclusion of a high-priority prosecution that had drawn significant attention from both local communities and regional child safety advocates.

The origin of this tragic legal case dates back to 2024, when a profound wave of anxiety and grief gripped the quiet locality of Doha village after a young female child suddenly vanished from her familiar surroundings. According to the official case files presented during the trial, the seven-year-old victim had been playing routinely outside her family home when she was abruptly separated from her safe environment. When the child failed to return after an extended period, her anxious family members initiated a frantic search throughout the immediate neighborhood. Recognizing that the circumstances

pointed toward a potential abduction, the family quickly approached the local police station to lodge a formal missing person report, prompting an immediate mobilization of law enforcement resources.

Upon receiving the formal complaint, the Nuh district police instantly activated their emergency search protocols, deploying specialized teams to gather intelligence, interview potential witnesses, and map out the victim's final known movements. Through localized intelligence gathering and tracking suspicious activities within Doha village, investigators quickly zeroed in on Abbas as a primary person of interest in the disappearance. The suspect was formally taken into police custody for rigorous, structured interrogation to determine the whereabouts of the missing minor. Under intense questioning by seasoned crime investigators, the suspect's alibi collapsed, and he eventually confessed to the crime, leading the police recovery team directly to a secluded mustard field where he had hidden the young girl's body.

Bad Weather Warning for Most Parts of Haryana

Chandigarh: The weather department has issued an alert for moderate thunderstorms, lightning, and hail across many areas of Haryana. This bad weather condition is expected to last until Thursday evening. Strong winds running at speeds between 40 and 60 kmph are highly likely to hit places like Charkhi Dabri, Bhiwani, Tosham, Jhajjar, Bahadurgarh, Rohtak, Hansi, Hisar, Narnaund, Fatehabad, Sonapat, Ganaur, Samalkha, Gharaunda, and Karnal. The weather office stated that this specific alert remains active until 8:15 pm on Thursday. Additionally, a milder warning has been issued for other parts of the state, including Gurugram, Faridabad, Panchkula, and Ambala, where lighter thunderstorms with wind speeds of 30 to 40 kmph might occur.

Residents are advised to stay safe indoors and avoid standing under trees or near electric poles during the storm. The atmospheric conditions across the northern plains of India have taken a volatile turn as the regional meteorological center in Chandigarh has officially issued a comprehensive, high-priority severe weather warn-



ing encompassing a vast majority of districts in Haryana. This urgent environmental alert highlights the imminent threat of moderate to severe thunderstorms, frequent cloud-to-ground lightning strikes, and destructive hailstorms capable of damaging standing crops and weak infrastructure.

According to the state weather forecasting division, this sudden shift in the local climate is driven by a strong western disturbance interact-

ing with localized low-pressure pockets, creating highly unstable atmospheric columns.

The administration is actively disseminating this information to ensure that rural and urban populations alike take necessary precautions before the severe weather systems make landfall. The temporal window for this heightened environmental hazard is explicitly bounded, with meteorologists predicting that the most severe phas-

es of the convective storms will persist directly through Thursday evening.

The weather department has stressed that the rapid formation of massive cumulonimbus clouds across the region will lead to a sudden and dramatic drop in visibility alongside sharp temperature fluctuations within a matter of minutes. Because these localized storm cells can intensify rapidly without much visual warning, the active monitoring systems are updating their

radar data continuously to track the movement of the squall lines. The strict timeline of the alert serves as a guide for local district magistrates to keep emergency response teams on standby through the critical evening hours. A defining and highly dangerous characteristic of this approaching weather front is the predicted onset of extremely high-velocity winds and severe squalls across specific central and western zones of the state. The meteorological briefs indicate that strong, gusty winds running at sustained speeds fluctuating between 40 and 60 kilometers per hour are highly likely to sweep through both urban centers and open rural landscapes. Winds of this magnitude possess enough kinetic energy to uproot weak trees, snap decaying branches, displace unsecured tin roofs, and knock down temporary hoarding boards or construction scaffolds. Consequently, municipal corporations within the high-alert zones are being quietly urged to monitor high-rise structures and ensure that public spaces are cleared of loose debris that could become dangerous airborne projectiles.

Farmers in Yamunanagar Protest Against Proposed Trade Deal with America

Yamunanagar: Farmers belonging to the Bharatiya Kisan Union held a protest march to voice their anger against a proposed free trade agreement between India and the United States. Led by their local leader, the protesters marched through the streets, shouted slogans against the policy, and handed over an official complaint letter meant for the Prime Minister through the local district deputy commissioner.

The farmer leaders explained that this international trade deal is a massive threat to small Indian businesses and the rural economy.

They stated that American farmers receive huge financial support and subsidies from their government, making it impossible for debt-burdened Indian farmers to compete with them. They warned that if the deal goes through, cheap foreign crops will flood Indian markets, and they will intensify their protest if the government ignores them.

The agricultural community in Yamunanagar has escalated its resistance against global trade policies as hundreds of farmers



aligned with the Bharatiya Kisan Union organized a massive protest march through the city's primary commercial centers.

This public demonstration was specifically staged to voice deep-seated apprehensions and anger regarding a proposed free trade agreement currently being discussed between the governments of India and the United States.

Moving in a disciplined yet highly vocal procession, the demonstrators traversed the municipal thoroughfares, raising rhythmic slogans designed to draw public atten-

tion to the potential economic pitfalls of the international treaty.

The march culminated at the mini-secretariat, where senior organizational representatives formally handed over a detailed memorandum addressed directly to the Prime Minister.

The official complaint letter was received by the local district deputy commissioner, who assured the farm leaders that their grievances would be forwarded to the union ministry through proper administrative channels. By channeling their protest through formal state repre-

sentatives, the agricultural unions are seeking to exert direct pressure on federal policy makers before any binding international treaties are finalized.

The leadership of the union emphasized that the manifestation of dissent on the streets of Yamunanagar is a reflection of a wider, systemic anxiety taking root across the country's rural landscapes.

They argued that the federal government must prioritize the protection of domestic livelihoods over expanding international trade volumes.

Gurugram Man Arrested for Killing His Brother Over an Alcohol Dispute

Gurugram: The police have arrested a 23-year-old man named Aman for allegedly killing his older brother after a bad argument about drinking alcohol. The incident happened in Daulatabad village, where police discovered the body of the 26-year-old victim with severe head wounds. Family members told investigators that the older brother was a heavy drinker and had been involved in an argument at

their old house.

According to the police, the victim had invited another person over to drink alcohol.

When the younger brother asked the guest to leave, a physical fight broke out between the two brothers. During the fight, Aman allegedly hit his brother on the head with a brick and a spade, causing injuries that killed him.

The police have taken

the accused into custody for further questioning.

The Gurugram Police have formally arrested a twenty-three-year-old man in connection with the fatal assault of his older sibling following a violent domestic altercation within the district limits. The suspect, identified as Aman, was taken into custody by law enforcement officials after a severe dispute between the family members escalated into

physical violence. The tragic incident took place within the residential boundaries of Daulatabad village, where responding police officers discovered the body of the twenty-six-year-old victim. A preliminary examination of the scene revealed that the victim had suffered catastrophic head trauma, prompting the immediate launch of a formal homicide investigation by local detectives.

Government Minister Checks Development Projects and Complaints in Rewari

Rewari: Haryana Minister Ranbir Gangwa held an important meeting with the district development committee to review ongoing public works. The minister ordered the team to properly spend the approved development budget of 14.20 crore rupees for the current year across all local neighborhoods based on their population. He asked them to keep a close eye on the projects to ensure the building quality is excellent. The minister also listened directly to the problems faced by local citizens. Out of 14 public

complaints brought forward, 10 were solved immediately on the spot. In one specific case, a resident complained that a government department was not approving her home building plan even after she bought the land plot. The minister took serious note of this delay and ordered the local Deputy Commissioner to fix the issue immediately.

The public administration and infrastructural oversight in Rewari district have received a major boost following a high-level intervention by the state's executive leader-

ship. Haryana Minister Ranbir Gangwa traveled to the region to chair a comprehensive review meeting with the members of the district development committee. This crucial administrative assembly was specifically organized to systematically evaluate the progress, timelines, and logistical challenges facing various ongoing public works projects across the territory. The minister's arrival signals a growing emphasis by the state government on local accountability, ensuring that state-allocated resources are

being converted into functional public utilities without facing bureaucratic delays. During the detailed briefings with urban planners, engineers, and department heads, the minister focused heavily on fiscal discipline and the strategic allocation of public funds. Minister Ranbir Gangwa issued a strict, binding directive to the administrative team, ordering them to properly and exhaustively utilize the approved development budget of 14.20 crore rupees that has been cleared for the current fiscal year.



India await fitness call on Rohit, Kohli ahead of Afghanistan ODIs

New Delhi: India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has said the fitness of senior batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be monitored over the next few days before a final decision is taken on their availability for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Afghanistan.

Rohit's participation remains uncertain after he suffered a hamstring injury during IPL 2026, while Kohli is also under a cloud after picking up a hamstring strain while scoring an unbeaten 75 in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's title-winning IPL final in Ahmedabad on June 1.

The Indian team management is also keeping a close watch on Hardik Pandya's fitness. The all-rounder missed a few matches for Mumbai Indians in IPL 2026 due to back spasms, and his readiness for the ODI series is yet to be confirmed.

Addressing the media ahead of India's one-off Test against Afghanistan, starting



in New Chandigarh from Saturday, ten Doeschate said the medical team would take the final call before any announcement is made.

"Official communication will come on that. It's obviously big news when it's someone like Virat or Rohit (is ruled out), but the same protocols will be in place. We'll assess the fitness of

those guys, and we've got a few days now to decide whether they're fit enough to play and be part of the squad and make adjustments accordingly.

"But I'm sure some official communication will come through as soon as the medical team has made a decision on that," said ten Doeschate.

The assistant coach also spoke about the challenge of balancing player workloads between international cricket and the IPL, especially when centrally contracted players are carrying injuries into the closing stages of the tournament.

"I think it's a very individualistic thing. With the Indian hat on, we want the

players to be at their absolute best when they're on international duty, and that's a case of managing it case by case. So I appreciate that it's a big time of year for those players.

"The IPL is a showpiece domestic competition, so it's striking a balance between those two things. I think with the workload guys had going into that last IPL, or certainly a large proportion of the contracted players, I think we've done fairly well out of it, and injuries happen."

He added that protecting players does not necessarily mean keeping them away from cricket but ensuring they are at their peak when international commitments demand it.

"You can't protect guys by not playing them, but we certainly need to identify the key parts of the international schedule and make sure our best players are uninjured but also physically at their peak when we need them the most," he added.

Indian U-18 Men's & Women's teams gear up for semi-final clashes at Asia Cup

Kakmigahara (Japan): The Indian U-18 Women's and Men's Hockey Teams are set to compete in the Semi-Finals of the Under-18 Asia Cup 2026 on Friday after impressive performances in the pool stages here.

The Indian U-18 Women's Hockey Team finished at the top of Pool A after winning all three of their matches in dominant fashion. The team scored an incredible 30 goals while conceding only two throughout the Pool stage.

Preview: India began their campaign with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Malaysia before registering a convincing 3-1 win against Korea. They then produced a fantastic performance in their final pool match, defeating Singapore 25-0 to seal top spot in the standings.

Nousheen Naz has been India's leading scorer with 10 goals so far in the tournament, while Geethasri Nammi has netted five goals. Captain Sweetie Kujur has scored four goals, while Priyanka Minz has added three goals to India's tally.

India will now face China, who finished second in Pool B with two wins and a draw, in the Semi-Final on June 5 at 9:30 AM IST.

Speaking ahead of the crucial encounter, Indian U-18 Women's Team coach



Rani said, "The journey so far has been fantastic. This is the first time these girls are playing in an international tournament, and they have stepped up to the occasion and performed brilliantly."

"We have approached this tournament one match at a time, and now our complete focus is on the Semi-Final against China. It does not matter what the opposition does, our priority is to play to our standards, play

attacking hockey, and convert our chances," she said.

"The girls are very fit and coordinate well amongst themselves. They will fight hard for every ball, play to our strengths, capitalise on counter-attacks, and give

their best to secure a place in the final," she added.

Meanwhile, the Indian U-18 Men's Hockey Team finished second in Pool A with three wins and one defeat. India scored 32 goals and conceded only six during their campaign so far.

The men's team opened their tournament with a commanding 13-0 victory against Kazakhstan before suffering a 2-4 defeat against hosts Japan.

England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt fit for opener, but only to bat

London: All-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt, 33, has missed all of England's international summer so far because of a calf injury, but says she expects to be fit for the tournament opener against Sri Lanka at Edgbaston.

She will also play in England's two warm-up matches against India and Australia in Cardiff next week, but says she will not be bowling in those and will likely play as a specialist batter for most of the tournament.

"Maybe further down the line in the tournament, I might need to get a few overs in," she said.

"But we've got a bowling line-up that covers all bases, so I might not be needed but we will make a call on that further down the line.

"Batting feels really good [in the nets], thankfully that is something that I have been

able to do consistently so I'm really happy with where I'm at."

England ended their pre-World Cup summer with an eye-catching win against India on Tuesday, chasing 181 at Taunton to win the series, having previously beaten defending champions New Zealand, according to BBC Sport.

After the game, head coach Charlotte Edwards confirmed Sciver-Brunt would be slotting back in at number three. Her inability to bowl suggests all-rounders Dani Gibson and Freya Kemp will retain their places, while Alice Capsey almost certainly confirmed her spot with her stunning 81 in the chase.

Given Capsey's performances and Heather Knight's return to form, opener Sophia Dunkley looks most vulnerable to make way for Sciver-Brunt.

Major records that may be broken at Women's T20 World Cup

Dubai: As the attention turns to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England and Wales, the world's finest T20I sides are gearing up to leave their mark.

The 10th edition of the tournament is already bound to be the biggest-ever with the most number of participating teams ever (12) to go with a record-prize money pool up for grabs.

While the tournament is expected to be the most closely-contested T20 World

Cup ever, a host of records that can be broken at the big stage adds to the anticipation.

Major milestones that can be crossed at the upcoming marquee event:

Australia's superstar all-rounder Ellyse Perry has the most appearances in the tournament history (47) and is on the verge of a historic T20 World Cup record, according to ICC.

Perry is three games away from becoming the

first-ever player across men's and women's cricket to play 50 games in the tournament history.

Perry will walk into the event as the most successful player having been part of six title-winning Australian squads. The 35-year-old is among the seven players at the upcoming tournament, who have featured in all nine previous editions.

Other than Perry, Harmanpreet Kaur (India), Chamari Athapaththu (Sri

Lanka), Marizanne Kapp (South Africa), Stafanie Taylor (West Indies), Sophie Devine and Suzie Bates (New Zealand) will also mark their 10th tour in as many editions of the tournament.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur is four matches short of becoming the first-ever player with 200 appearances in T20I history (men and women).

Kaur, who has played 196 games for India, coinci-

dentally made her T20I debut for India at the Women's T20 World Cup in 2009, which was also played in England.

Australia's experienced pacer Megan Schutt needs only two wickets to reach the 50-mark at the Women's T20 World Cup. Schutt, who has played in five editions of the tournament, holds a staggering record of 48 scalps from 29 outings, averaging 11.72 and boasting an economy of 5.65.

Matteo Berrettini tired of retiring as injury strikes again

Paris: Matteo Berrettini said he is "tired of retiring" from matches as injury ended his hopes of a maiden Grand Slam title at the French Open. The 30-year-old had lost the first set of his quarter-final to fellow Italian Matteo Arnaldi and trailed 5-2 in the second when a hip problem forced him to end the contest early. He had already spent time off court for a medical timeout early in the second set and, having pulled up sharply chasing a ball in what proved to be the final game of the match, sat disconsolate in his chair with a rueful look on his face for several seconds before embracing his opponent at the net. Berrettini lost to Novak Djokovic in the 2021 Wimbledon final but his career



since then has been plagued by numerous injury setbacks - a huge factor in him being yet to add to that sole appearance in a Grand Slam tournament, according to BBC Sport. "It was really hard to retire because I thought that wasn't the right thing, mostly because I

have done it many times and I'm tired of retiring," said Berrettini. "I didn't want the tournament to end like this." Berrettini's only previous retirement from a Grand Slam match was at the 2023 US Open. He also made an early exit from the 2021 ATP Tour Finals because of an abdominal injury, while last season he had to pull out midway through matches in Madrid and Rome in the run-up to the French Open. But the former world number six, who had missed the previous four French Opens because of injury problems, is determined to take the positives from reaching a seventh Grand Slam quarter-final in his first outing at Roland Garros since 2021.

Perez to hire Mourinho if he wins Real Madrid election

Madrid: Florentino Perez has announced that Jose Mourinho will return as Real Madrid head coach if he is re-elected club president in Sunday's elections.

Mourinho's commitment to return to the club he coached between 2010 and 2013 has been an open secret for weeks, especially after Fulham confirmed on Tuesday that Marco Silva will not continue at the club.

Silva, who has the same agent Jorge Mendes as Mourinho, is expected to

take over at Benfica from Mourinho.

Perez's announcement came after his election rival Enrique Riquelme announced earlier in the day that former Real Madrid and Spain defender Fernando Hierro will be his pick to take charge of the club's youth system.

Hierro would work alongside club legend Raul Gonzalez, whom Riquelme plans to appoint as Real Madrid's Director of Football should he be elected by the

club's approximately 95,000 members, according to Xinhua.

Mourinho's three years at Real Madrid saw the club win one La Liga title, one Copa del Rey and one Spanish Super Cup during a period where the club was slightly overshadowed by Pep Guardiola's FC Barcelona.

The period was also marked by increasingly difficult relations between the two clubs and their respective players, widely considered a factor in Spain's early

exit from the 2014 World Cup.

Perez's pledge to bring back Mourinho now puts pressure on Riquelme to name his own preferred head coach.

Both candidates are also expected to outline potential transfer targets in the run-up to the vote, with Inter Milan right-back Denzel Dumfries and Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konate among those reported to be on Real Madrid's radar this summer.

FIFA World Cup Group C preview: Brazil enters group under scrutiny

Mexico City: Brazil headlines Group C as it seeks a sixth World Cup title, with Morocco aiming to build on its historic run in Qatar and Scotland and Haiti making long-awaited returns.

The group will be played entirely in the United States, with Brazil carrying the weight of expectation and its three rivals looking to seize a rare opportunity on the global stage.

Brazil team: Brazil enters the World Cup after an unconvincing qualifying campaign and a change of manager. The South American giant remains the most successful team in World Cup history, but its last title came in 2002 and recent tournaments have been marked by disappointment.

The team's route to North America was unusually turbulent. Concern reached a tipping point following a 4-1 loss to Argentina in Buenos Aires in March 2025, which led to the dismissal of head coach Dorival Junior.

Carlo Ancelotti, who has won five UEFA Champions League trophies in a decorated managerial career at club level, was brought in to steady the situation and guide Brazil through qualification. Results improved enough for Brazil to secure

its place at the finals, although a fifth-place finish in South American qualifying underlined the scale of the challenge facing Ancelotti.

Since taking charge, Ancelotti has favored an attack-minded 4-2-4 system. The approach is designed to maximize the pace and skill available in the forward line, while asking the midfield pair to provide protection for the defense.

Injuries have complicated those plans. Absentees include Real Madrid forward Rodrygo, who was ruled out of the tournament with a knee injury, and Chelsea winger Estevao, who has a torn hamstring.

Questions over Neymar's role dominated the buildup to squad selection. The 34-year-old has not represented his country since suffering a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in October 2023.

The former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain forward earned a place in the squad after showing encouraging form for Santos, but a calf injury has cast doubt over how much he will feature.

Brazil's attacking options remain its greatest strength. The team showed in recent friendlies that it is likely to rely heavily on

speed in transition and direct counterattacks. That strategy mirrors the approach Ancelotti used successfully at Real Madrid. Defensive concerns remain.

The country that once produced a seemingly endless stream of elite full-backs - Cafu, Roberto Carlos and Marcelo, just to name a few - no longer appears as secure in those positions. As a result, maintaining balance between attack and defense could be decisive.

Despite the doubts, Brazil arrives with the weight of history behind it and an expectation to compete for the ultimate prize.

Star player: Vinicius Junior will carry much of Brazil's attacking hopes. The Real Madrid forward has established himself among the world's leading players at club level with his pace, vision and vastly improved finishing. Yet with just nine goals in 48 international appearances, the former Flamengo prodigy has unfinished business in national team colors. If Brazil is to challenge for the title, Vinicius will be expected to provide the inspiration.

Player to watch: Endrick may not begin the tournament as a regular starter, but the 19-year-old could become one of Brazil's most

influential players before it ends. The Real Madrid forward revived his fortunes after a loan move to Lyon in January with 16 goal contributions in 21 games for the French club.

With opponents likely to focus heavily on Vinicius and Brazil's established stars, Endrick could emerge as an important alternative attacking threat, according



to Xinhua.

Morocco team: Morocco arrives with lofty expectations after becoming the first African team to reach a World Cup semifinal in Qatar. Preparation for this tournament, though, has not been entirely smooth.

Walid Regragui left his role as manager in March following a controversial end to Morocco's Africa Cup of Nations campaign. Mo-

hamed Ouahbi has since taken charge.

The former under-20 coach arrives with a strong reputation after leading Morocco's youth side to world title. His preferred system gives significant freedom to attack, particularly down the right flank. The challenge will be helping his players deal with pressure to perform given the team is no

longer considered an outsider. Star player: Achraf Hakimi remains the face of Moroccan football. The full-back has built an elite career with clubs including Real Madrid, Borussia Dortmund, Inter Milan and Paris Saint-Germain.

His success has made him one of the country's most recognizable football figures. The 27-year-old's ability to contribute at both

ends of the pitch will be central to his team's fortunes.

Player to watch: Midfielder Neil El Aynaoui has quickly become an important part of Morocco's plans. Strong in possession and effective at recovering the ball, he combines defensive discipline with attacking flair.

After establishing himself at Lens, he continued his development with Roma. The 24-year-old's versatility and energy could prove vital if Morocco is to replicate its achievements from four years ago.

Haiti team: Haiti's return to the World Cup represents one of the tournament's most remarkable stories. The Caribbean team will make its first appearance since 1974 after overcoming considerable obstacles during qualification. Because of the country's security crisis, Haiti was forced to play its qualifying matches away from home. It earned its ticket to football's biggest stage with a 2-0 win over Nicaragua last November as it clinched top spot in its group. Head coach Sebastien Migne has built a disciplined side that combines defensive organization with attacking intensity, making it a constant counter-attacking threat. The team enters the tournament as one of the lowest-ranked partici-

pants and will be considered an underdog in every group match. Even so, qualification alone has generated enormous pride.

Star player: Duckens Nazon is the symbol of Haiti's ambitions. The experienced striker finished among the leading scorers in qualifying and remains the team's primary attacking threat. His influence extends beyond goals, providing leadership and belief within the squad.

For Haiti to challenge more established opponents, Nazon will need to deliver at the biggest moments.

Player to watch: Ruben Providence could become one of the tournament's surprise performers. The winger is known for his speed, direct dribbling and willingness to take on defenders.

Having passed through the youth academies of Roma and Paris Saint-Germain, the 24-year-old possesses the technical quality that can unsettle any defense.

Scotland team: Scotland returns to the World Cup for the first time since 1998 after securing qualification with a dramatic victory over Denmark. Steve Clarke has transformed the team since taking charge in 2019.

Under his leadership, Scotland has qualified regu-

larly for major tournaments and restored belief among supporters after years of disappointment.

Recent results have been mixed, but the team retains a strong collective identity and a manager who commands respect from his players.

Scotland has never progressed beyond the group stage at a World Cup, a statistic that should provide additional motivation.

Star player: Scott McTominay has become the heartbeat of the Scotland side. The Napoli midfielder's goal in the decisive win over Denmark secured a place in Scotland's football folklore, while his growing influence at club level has elevated his standing even further.

Scotland relies heavily on his ability to impact matches with his box-to-box dynamism.

Player to watch: Ben Gannon-Doak, 20, is regarded as one of Scotland's brightest young talents. The Bournemouth winger's pace and direct style offer a different dimension to the attack. Injuries have interrupted his progress, but his potential remains clear. If given opportunities on the World Cup stage, he could become one of the breakout players of the group.



MARKET

BSE Sensex			Nifty 50			Nifty 500			Nifty Next 50			Nifty 100			Nifty Bank			Nifty Midcap 100		
Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change	
74,360.01	0.019%		23,416.55	0.047%		22,497.70	0.20%		70,010.95	0.22%		24,427.70	0.08%		54,307.85	0.22%		60,966.65	0.46%	
Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open	
74,346.17	73,935.83		23,405.60	23,282.45		22,451.85	22,362.40		69,856.40	69,672.70		24,408.30	24,291.90		54,185.95	53,918.85		60,687.20	60,568.70	
High	Low		High	Low		High	Low		High	Low		High	Low		High	Low		High	Low	
74,544.24	73,807.30		23,465.30	23,247.30		22,559.85	22,328.35		70,425.55	69,530.15		24,486.80	24,255.40		54,461.00	53,829.40		61,273.95	60,379.60	

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Titan Company	4,231.00	3.48
Eternal	254.35	2.98
Coal India	481.65	1.98
Cipla	1,398.70	1.71
Adani Enterpris	2,972.80	1.61

Top Losers

Company	Current	% Loss
Infosys	1,201.30	-1.74
Bajaj Finserv	1,709.80	-1.42
Hindalco	1,125.60	-1.17
SBI Life Insura	1,764.90	-1.08
UltraTechCement	10,997.00	-0.94

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Jun 05	156,000.00	1,668.00 1.08
Silver Jul 03	266,826.00	3,868.00 1.47
Crudeoil Jun 18	8,885.00	-355.00 -3.84
Naturalgas Jun 25	317.60	7.70 2.48

TMUS Launches Global Technology Centre in Hyderabad; Expands India GCC Footprint

Hyderabad: TMUS Global Solutions (T-Mobile USA) today inaugurated its Global Technology Centre in Hyderabad, marking a major expansion of the company's international technology footprint and reinforcing India's role in global capability delivery.

The 2.5 lakh sq. ft. facility was inaugurated by Telangana IT, Electronics, Communications, Industries & Commerce Minister D. Sridhar Babu, who described the investment as validation of Hyderabad's ability to deliver high-quality technology talent at scale. The Hyderabad centre will function as a strategic innovation hub for TMUS Global Solutions, supporting capabilities across software engineering, DevOps, product development, data analytics, cybersecurity and next-generation digital solutions. The company plans to scale operations to nearly 1,000 employees by 2027.

During the inauguration, state officials held discussions with company leadership on long-term expansion plans and Telangana's

growing role as a global hub for telecom technology and digital engineering.

TMUS Global Solutions Vice President for IT Operations Chandra Gupta said the Hyderabad facility aligns with the company's long-term engineering and digital transformation priorities, citing the city's talent ecosystem and innovation capabilities as key drivers for expansion. T-Mobile USA, one of the largest wireless operators in the United States serving over 140 million customers, said the new centre will strengthen its global technology delivery network. Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad, which hosts more than 450 global capability centres employing over 3,00,000 professionals, continues to attract multinational companies across sectors including telecom, life sciences, BFSI, retail and FMCG. The addition of TMUS Global Solutions further strengthens Telangana's positioning as a preferred destination for global technology and innovation hubs, the Minister added.

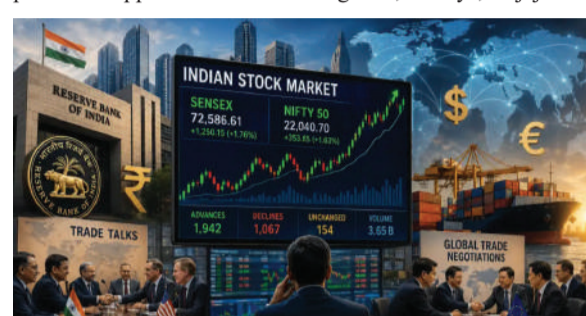
Stock Markets ends with little change, investors remain cautious ahead of RBI policy decision

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmark indices ended Thursday's trading session largely unchanged as investors adopted a cautious approach ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's upcoming monetary policy announcement. Market participants preferred to stay on the sidelines, leading to range-bound trading throughout the day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed marginally higher by 13.84 points, or 0.02 per cent, at 74,360.01. The broader Nifty 50 also ended in positive territory, gaining 10.95 points, or 0.05 per cent, to settle at 23,416.55. Despite the subdued movement in frontline indices, broader markets outperformed. The Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 advanced around 0.5 per cent each, indicating continued investor interest in mid-sized and smaller companies. Sector-wise, buying interest was visible in con-

sumer durables, capital goods, media, pharmaceutical, oil and gas, banking, and energy stocks. These sectors provided support to the mar-

ket and helped benchmark indices maintain their gains through the session. However, weakness in information technology and metal counters limited the market's upside.



Selling pressure in these sectors offset gains elsewhere and prevented the indices from posting stronger advances. Among the top performers on the Nifty, Ti-

tan Company, Eternal, Coal India, Cipla, and Adani Enterprises emerged as the leading gainers. On the losing side, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, Hindalco Industries, SBI Life Insurance, and UltraTech Cement were among the major laggards. Market breadth remained positive, with more than 120 stocks touching their 52-week highs on the BSE. Notable names included Nippon Life India Asset Management, Jindal Saw, HFCL, Syrra SGS Technology, Laurus Labs, Polycab India, Voda-

fone Idea, Federal Bank, IFCI, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Welspun Corp, and RBL Bank. At the same time, nearly 56 stocks fell to their 52-week lows. Among them were ITC, Praveg, Patanjali Foods, and Go Digit General Insurance. In individual stock action, Meesho continued to remain under pressure, extending its decline for an eighth consecutive session. The stock fell another 5.7 per cent, reflecting persistent selling interest. Meanwhile, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) dropped 4.2 per cent during the session, emerging as one of the notable losers among large-cap stocks. Energy-related counters witnessed healthy buying. Hitachi Energy India, CG Power and Industrial Solutions, and Suzlon Energy gained between 2 and 4 per cent, supported by positive sentiment in the power and infrastructure space.

Govt examining policy frameworks to accelerate affordable adoption of flex-fuel vehicles: Puri

New Delhi: The Centre is actively exploring supportive policy measures, including fuel price support and targeted fiscal incentives, to accelerate the adoption of flex-fuel vehicles across the country, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said. The move is aimed at reducing India's dependence on imported crude oil while promoting cleaner and more sustainable transportation solutions. Speaking about India's evolving mobility landscape, Puri said the country's future transportation ecosystem will be shaped by a combination of electric vehicles, biofuels, hydrogen, and renewable energy technologies.

Among these, he described flex-fuel vehicles as a practical and immediately deployable solution capable of delivering significant economic and environmental benefits. The minister emphasized that flex-fuel vehicles offer India an effective

pathway to lower crude oil imports, strengthen energy security, and support the government's broader climate commitments. By enabling vehicles to run on higher blends of ethanol, the technology can help reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels while promoting the use of domestically produced biofuels. Puri noted that increased ethanol consumption would also provide a major boost to the rural economy. Greater demand for ethanol, which is largely produced from agricultural feedstocks, can create new revenue streams for farmers and strengthen the agricultural value chain across the country. Highlighting the enormous scale of the opportunity, he said the country has one of the largest two-wheeler ecosystems in the world, with an active fleet of more than 300 million vehicles, making it an ideal platform for large-scale adoption of flex-fuel technology. According to

Puri, the transition toward flex-fuel mobility has the potential to transform the transportation sector on an unprecedented scale. If adopted widely, flex-fuel vehicles could substantially reduce fuel import bills, create stronger market demand for ethanol, and lower operating costs for consumers. He said a significant shift towards flex-fuel vehicles would deliver multiple benefits simultaneously. Besides cutting crude oil imports, it would improve energy self-reliance, generate additional income for farmers, and make vehicle ownership more affordable by providing alternative fuel options.

The minister described recent developments in the automobile sector as marking India's entry into large-scale flex-fuel mobility. He said the government's policy push, combined with growing industry participation, is creating the foundation for wider adoption of ethanol-compatible vehicles.

India recognised as world's fastest-growing economy and will remain it for over two decades: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that India is recognised as the world's fastest-growing economy and expressed confidence that the country will maintain this position for over two decades in the future.

Addressing the Citi India Conference 2026 virtually in Mumbai, the minister noted that India has consistently converted crises into opportunities by reorienting processes and business strategies to suit changing geopolitical and economic circumstances.

Goyal highlighted the recent engagements of business leaders in Canada and the United States as strong global confidence in India's economic landscape.

The minister also noted a positive response to the India-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA). "Discussions with lead-

ing investment firms and around 50 companies in New York reinforced the perception of India as the only credible alternative manufacturing hub, a trusted partner and a safe investment destination backed by democracy, rule of law, decisive leadership, technological capabilities and a vast consumer market of 1.4 billion people," the Minister said.

Referring to the interactions with leading investors in New York and Toronto, he said, "Every discussion reinforced confidence in India's future growth trajectory." He remarked that the question for investors is not whether to invest in India, but how quickly they recognize and participate in the India growth story.

Goyal highlighted India's expanding trade engagements with the world and noted that the country has signed nine free trade agreements (FTAs) in the



last three and half years covering 38 developed economies.

Pointing towards the recently concluded India-Oman FTA, the Minister informed that at least two to three additional substantive FTA's are expected to come into effect within six months.

"India is likely to execute another three to four significant trade agreements in the coming year and operationalize all nine recently

concluded agreements over the next nine to ten months," he said.

Shedding light on some reforms, the Minister said the Jan Vishwas Act will decriminalise nearly one thousand offences across multiple central laws where there was no intention to cheat and no threat to public safety or public health.

The Minister also highlighted the recently announced Bhavya Scheme for

the development of 100 industrial parks across the country with an outlay of nearly USD 3.5 billion.

Highlighting the country's response to recent geopolitical challenges, the Minister said, "The country successfully navigated the international energy crisis despite concerns arising from developments in West Asia and disruptions affecting energy supplies from the Gulf region."

The Minister noted that India's prior efforts to diversify energy sources ensure uninterrupted availability of petrol, diesel, aviation fuel, LNG, and PNG while maintaining relatively moderate prices.

In his concluding remarks, Goyal said that India offers immense potential, possibility, and profitability through high-quality products, goods and services designed and produced competitively in the country.

Singareni CMD Calls Upon Employees to Work with Dedication to Sustain Competitiveness

Hyderabad: Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director Dr Budhaprakash Jyoti has called upon employees to discharge their duties with dedication and commitment to ensure the company's continued growth and competitiveness.

He said transforming Singareni into an organisation of international standards would bring greater recognition and honour to Telangana.

Addressing the Telan-

gana State Formation Day celebrations held at Singareni Bhavan in Hyderabad, Dr Jyoti said Singareni, one of Telangana's most important public sector enterprises, is steadily expanding its operations beyond the state and should work towards establishing a presence at the global level in the coming years.

He noted that Telangana was achieved through the sacrifices of countless youth, leaders and people from all sections of society.

Since its formation, the

state has made remarkable progress across various sectors and generated substantial employment opportunities for the younger generation, he said.

Highlighting the company's promising future, the CMD stressed the need to increase production and productivity by making optimum use of machinery in both opencast and underground mines.

He also underlined the importance of improving operational efficiency and maintaining high standards

in mining operations.

Earlier, Dr Jyoti paid floral tributes to Telangana Thalli, the Martyrs' Memorial and the portrait of Professor K. Jayashankar before unfurling the National Flag as part of the celebrations.

On the occasion, employees who rendered outstanding services to the organisation were felicitated. The awardees included L. Srinivas, AGM (Purchase), Y. Lakshminarayana, MV Driver, and D. Rudramma, an outsourcing employee.

Vamsiram Builders Acquires Raidurgam Land Parcel for ₹1,040 Cr, Plans 20-Lakh-Sq-Ft IT Park

Hyderabad: In one of the biggest commercial land transactions in Hyderabad's real estate market, Vamsiram Builders has acquired a prime 5.09-acre land parcel in Raidurgam for approximately ₹1,040 crore and announced plans to develop a landmark 30-storey mixed-use commercial tower with a built-up area of 20 lakh square feet.

The strategically located Plot P4, situated adjacent to ITC Kohinoor in Hyderabad's prime commercial corridor, was secured through an e-auction conducted by the Telangana Government Infrastructure and Investment Corporation (TGIIC), the Hyderabad based Real Estate company said in a

release here on Wednesday.

The winning bid of ₹204 crore per acre represented a premium of 46.76 per cent over the reserve price of ₹139 crore per acre, underlining the strong investor demand for premium commercial assets in Hyderabad's rapidly expanding business districts.

The proposed development will comprise premium IT office space, retail zones and a hotel within a single integrated project.

Designed in a distinctive 'U'-shaped configuration, the tower will feature a landscaped central garden and rise to a height of 145 metres across 30 floors. Vamsiram Builders Chairman and Managing Director B.

Subba Reddy said Raidurgam has emerged as the nerve centre of Hyderabad's new economy and the company intends to create a landmark project that reflects the city's growing global stature. "We are building a project that is worthy of the location and Hyderabad's global ambitions, setting new benchmarks in commercial design and functionality," he said. The company plans to engage an international architectural firm for the project and aims to complete construction within four years. The project comes at a time when Hyderabad's office market continues to witness robust leasing activity, particularly in large-format transactions.

SHF to open 25 Emerging Business branches this year

Chennai: Sundaram Home Finance (SHF) on Thursday announced plans to expand its footprint in the Emerging Business (EB) segment by opening 25 new branches across South India during the current financial year. The expansion follows the company crossing the milestone of 100 EB branches last year, reflecting its growing focus on affordable housing finance and small-ticket lending in underserved markets. The new branches will primarily be established in Tier-3 and Tier-4 towns across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. Through this expansion, the company aims to strengthen its presence in smaller towns where demand for affordable housing finance is steadily increasing. The Emerging Business segment is a key growth area for SHF and comprises Affordable Housing Finance and Small Ticket Loans. The segment caters mainly to first-time homebuyers, self-em-



ployed individuals, small business owners, and families seeking access to formal credit in semi-urban and rural markets. According to the company, the expansion strategy is designed to tap into the growing housing aspirations of people living in smaller towns and emerging economic centres. These locations have witnessed rising income levels, improved infrastructure, and increased demand for affordable housing in recent years. The company reported disbursements of approximately Rs 590 crore in the Emerging Business segment during the previous financial year. Building on this momentum,

Aditya Birla housing finance opens new branch in Kurnool

Kurnool: Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), a leading housing finance company and a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, has expanded its footprint in Andhra Pradesh with the launch of a new branch in Kurnool, as part of its broader plan to expand its pan-India distribution network.

With this addition, ABHFL's total network in Andhra Pradesh has increased to 14 branches, strengthening its presence in high-growth markets and

improving customer accessibility. Kurnool is witnessing growing demand for affordable housing, supported by rapid urbanisation, improving highway connectivity along the NH-44 corridor, and new industrial and renewable-energy projects that are expanding local employment opportunities.

Rising numbers of salaried and self-employed households, together with developer interest in budget and mid-segment housing, are driving demand from first-time buyers and emerg-

ing-income segments. The new ABHFL branch will enable the company to provide accessible, customised housing-finance solutions for purchase, construction, and home improvement across Kurnool and surrounding regions.

ABHFL offers a comprehensive suite of housing finance solutions tailored to diverse customer segments, including affordable housing, prime housing, construction finance, and loans against property, catering to salaried individuals, self-

employed professionals, self-employed non-professionals, and emerging income groups.

Backed by a robust digital ecosystem, ABHFL enables a seamless onboarding, faster approvals, and enhanced transparency, ensuring superior customer experience. To mark the launch, ABHFL is offering zero login fees along with spot loan sanctions of up to Rs 50 lakh, valid from June 3 to June 30 2026, enabling faster and more affordable access to credit for custom-

ers at these new branches.

Speaking on the expansion, Pankaj Gadgil, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, said, "Andhra Pradesh is a key growth market for us. With strong demand and rising aspirations, we are scaling our regional presence to deepen customer engagement. By combining our growing distribution footprint with robust digital capabilities, we aim to make the home ownership journey simpler, faster, and hassle-free for customers."