

Aryan Age

The Age of Truth

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PM Modi leads International Yoga Day celebrations in Kolkata

Kolkata : He performed yoga drills with grace and effortless ease, rectified the poses of amateur participants, and gave tips for healthy living – Prime Minister Narendra Modi literally led from the front at the central celebration here on the occasion of the 12th International Yoga Day. West Bengal hosted International Yoga Day under a BJP-led state government for the first time after the political change in the state, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the main celebrations at Kolkata's Red Road on Sunday amid elaborate arrangements and tight security. Prime Minister Modi arrived at the venue around 6.30 am and was greeted by chief minister Suwendu Adhikari and governor R N Ravi. Even before his arrival, large crowds had started gathering at the venue. Sources said nearly 30,000–35,000 people were expected to participate in the programme with the Prime Minister. Apart from Adhikari, several BJP MLAs also attended the event. Modi had arrived in West

Bengal on Saturday and stayed at Lok Bhavan according to protocol before heading to Red Road for the Yoga Day programme. Addressing the gathering, the



Prime Minister said International Yoga Day had evolved into a global movement beyond an annual observance. "This has become the biggest celebration of the world. The entire country is basking in the glory of Yoga. The world is getting

connected to each other and this is the beauty of Yoga," Modi said. "I want to thank the entire world for participating in Yoga Diwas," he added.



The Prime Minister also thanked Kolkata and highlighted Bengal's cultural and spiritual heritage. "I want to thank Kolkata for its cleanliness. On Yoga Diwas, to stay in Bengal is special. It is the land of Ramakrishna Paramhansa

Dev; it is the land of Vivekananda who made the world aware of Yoga," he said.

Drawing on the teachings of Rabindranath Tagore, Modi said Yoga symbolises unity and collective well-being. "Rabindranath believed that the identity of people is not staying alone but the satisfaction comes from staying united and that is the beauty of Yoga that connects people," he said. Speaking about this year's theme of International Yoga Day — "Yoga and Healthy Ageing" — the Prime Minister stressed that ageing should be viewed positively. "We can stay healthy and active even at age. Ageing is not a problem but it should be considered as an opportunity," Modi said. He added that Yoga should not be limited to the elderly. "Yoga for aging should be considered for all ages and not only for the elderly," he said. The Prime Minister also highlighted the participation in the government's year-long Yoga

initiative. "Under the Yoga 365 days programme, 30 lakh people from 130 countries participated in the programme," he said.

Apart from the main event at Red Road, several Yoga sessions were organised across Kolkata, with authorities expecting nearly 10 lakh people to participate across the city. Students, women, senior citizens and members of different social groups joined the celebrations. International Yoga Day was first observed in 2015 at Rajpath in New Delhi. Since then, the national celebrations have been hosted in cities including Chandigarh, Lucknow, Dehradun, Ranchi, Mysuru, Jabalpur, Srinagar and Visakhapatnam. This year, Kolkata joined the list of host cities. Over the last 11 years, International Yoga Day has expanded significantly and is now observed in more than 190 countries worldwide, reflecting Yoga's growing global acceptance as a tool for healthy living and mental well-being.

Over 22 lakh appear for NEET-UG retest

NEET-UG Retest Held Under Tight Security Across India



New Delhi: More than 22 lakh students appeared for the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination held across 5,440 centres in 551 cities across India and at 14 centres abroad on Sunday. The medical entrance examination was conducted under strict security arrangements after the earlier test was cancelled due to allegations of a question paper leak in Rajasthan. The National Testing Agency had cancelled the May 3 examination on May 12 following the controversy and rescheduled the test for June 21. The examination was held from 2:00 pm to 5:15 pm. However, candidates were asked to report much earlier as the examination centres opened at 11:00 am for detailed security checks. Every student underwent frisking and biometric verification before being allowed inside. The last entry was permitted only until 1:30 pm, and authorities strictly refused entry to candidates who arrived after the deadline.

officials denied entry as per the examination rules. Another issue was reported from Ajmer in Rajasthan, where a female candidate alleged that she was initially stopped from entering the examination centre because she was wearing a burqa. She said she had appeared for the earlier NEET examination on May 3 in the same attire without any problem. Her father claimed that the family requested a female staff member to conduct the security check in a private area, but the request was not accepted at first. The National Testing Agency later clarified that the candidate was allowed to enter the examination centre and successfully appeared for the test. Police officials also confirmed that the matter was resolved after senior officers clarified the rules. They said there were no further disputes at the centre and that all eligible candidates were admitted peacefully before the gates were closed. According to the official NEET-UG examination guidelines, candidates wearing articles of faith, including religious attire, are allowed to appear for the examination. However, they are required to report well before the reporting time so that proper security checks can be completed without causing delays.

In one incident, a candidate from Madhya Pradesh missed the examination after reaching the centre late. According to his family, they met with a road accident while travelling to the examination centre and had to stop for first aid before continuing their journey. Although they later reached the centre,

Over 10,000 PwD candidates, 81 with medical conditions among 22 lakh examinees, says NTA

More than 10,000 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and 81 candidates with medical conditions were among the over 22 lakh aspirants who appeared for the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination held across 5,440 centres in India and 14 overseas centres on Sunday, the National Testing Agency (NTA) said after the test concluded. Highlighting the arrangements made for candidates, the agency said extensive planning ensured that examinees requiring special assistance could take the examination without disruption. According to the NTA, special provisions were made for 81 candidates with medical conditions who were determined to appear for the examination despite health challenges. These included a candidate recovering from a road accident and another undergoing chemotherapy. Drawing attention to

one such case, the NTA in a post on X said that a NEET aspirant, Shrishti Dubey, who sustained nine fractured ribs and severe lung injuries in a road accident, was determined not to miss the re-examination. After she underwent major vascular surgery and intensive treatment, her family approached the NTA seeking special arrangements, the agency said. The NTA subsequently arranged a separate ground-floor examination room, medical support and a standby ambulance at the centre, enabling her to take the test while recovering. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also spoke to her parents, who thanked the agency and the minister for the assistance. However, authorities strictly enforced the examination rules on entry timings, denying access to candidates who arrived after the stipulated deadline.

Second suspected Ebola case reported in Israel; patient in isolation, tests underway

Tel Aviv : Israel's Health Ministry on Sunday reported a second suspected Ebola case involving a person who recently returned from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The individual was hospitalized in isolation at Sheba Tel Hashomer Medical Center after developing fever, headache, and diarrhea. Authorities said laboratory tests are underway and results are expected within the next few days. Officials stressed that no Ebola cases have been confirmed in the country so far. The ministry also confirmed that a second person who recently arrived from the DRC was earlier placed under isolation at Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa as part of precautionary protocols for suspected infections. An epidemiological



investigation is ongoing to identify potential contacts, with health officials stating that individuals will be contacted directly if necessary. They also reiterated that Ebola transmission occurs only through direct contact with bodily fluids, not through the air. In May, the World Health Organization classified the Ebola outbreak in the DRC and Uganda as a public health emergency with potential international risk. The situation remains under close monitoring as test results are awaited.

Diplomatic Storm: Meloni Rejects Trump's G7 Photo Claims

Rome: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has sharply countered former US President Donald Trump, dismissing his recent remarks as "senseless" and "unprovoked" amidst a burgeoning diplomatic dispute. The confrontation centers on Trump's claims that Meloni repeatedly sought a photograph with him during the recent Group of Seven (G7) summit held in France. Trump initially asserted to Italian broadcaster La7 that he only agreed to the picture because he "felt sorry for her," a statement Meloni vehemently denied as "made up." This public spat marks an unusual and notably personal discord between Trump and one of Europe's leading right-wing figures, who had previously aimed to foster stronger ties between Washington and the continent during Trump's potential return to the political arena. The former US President further escalated the row with a post on Truth Social, reiterating his assertion that Meloni had asked "over and over" for a photograph at the G7 gathering. Trump broadened his criticisms, accusing the Italian Premier of attempting to mend relations with Washington for domestic political gain, particularly after Italy's



alleged failure to support US actions against Iran. He suggested Meloni's standing in Italy was "poor" and linked this to her government's refusal to allow US forces access to Italian "landing strips or runways" during the conflict with Iran. Additionally, Trump revived his long-standing grievance regarding NATO contributions, arguing that the United States bears "hundreds of billions of dollars" to safeguard allies like Italy. In a robust and direct response shared on Instagram, Prime Minister Meloni refuted Trump's accusations, branding his "constant, unprovoked... senseless" comments as baseless. She firmly stated that her popularity within Italy was not contingent on her association with the US President, unequivocally adding

that "being your friend certainly has not helped it." Meloni also dismissed Trump's criticisms regarding the use of US military facilities in Italy, clarifying that such arrangements are governed by existing agreements, which Rome has consistently upheld. Concluding her sharp retort, the Italian leader advised Trump to "focus on yours," referring to his own popularity. The intensity of this exchange has caused considerable anger in Rome, prompting Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani to cancel a scheduled visit to the United States. Tajani publicly condemned Trump's remarks as "grave and offensive," stating they insulted "the whole of Italy." Prior to this escalation, Prime Minister Meloni, who leads Italy's far-right Brothers of Italy party, had expressed being "frankly stunned" by Trump's initial comments, criticizing him for allegedly showing greater deference to adversaries than to European partners. This public rupture is particularly significant given Meloni's previous efforts, unlike many of her European counterparts, to cultivate a personal rapport with Trump, positioning herself as a key transatlantic intermediary.

VHP Accuses Opposition of Exploiting Ram Temple Donation Row for 2027 Polls

New Delhi: Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) International President Alok Kumar has strongly criticised the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress, accusing them of attempting to politicise the ongoing controversy surrounding alleged irregularities in donations at the Ayodhya Ram Temple. Kumar stated that these opposition parties are primarily focused on leveraging the issue to gain an advantage in the lead-up to the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. He emphasised that their criticism against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over

the matter stems from a calculated electoral strategy rather than genuine concern. The VHP leader's remarks highlight a deepening political divide over the temple's financial management, which has recently drawn significant scrutiny. Kumar further asserted that neither the Samajwadi Party nor the Congress genuinely cherishes Lord Ram. He pointed to historical events to buttress his claims, recalling the 1990 firing incident on kar sevaks under a previous Samajwadi Party government in Ayodhya.

Additionally, he condemned the Congress party for its decision to decline the invitation to the Ram Temple's 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration ceremony). The VHP chief dismissed the opposition's suggestion for an all-party committee to investigate the donation allegations, arguing that criminal cases demand investigation by impartial, high-ranking officials through established legal methods, not by political party representatives. He challenged SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who has been vocal on the issue, to provide concrete evidence

to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) rather than engage in what he termed mere political "bluster." The controversy intensified following allegations of financial irregularities in offerings made at the sacred site. In response to a request from the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir Trust, the Uttar Pradesh government on June 14 constituted a three-member Special Investigation Team to thoroughly probe the matter. The SIT comprises senior officials: Vijay Vishwas Pant, an IAS officer serving as Divisional Commissioner, Lucknow; Kiran

S, an IPS officer and Inspector General (Range); and Neel Ratan, Special Secretary, Finance. This committee has been tasked with submitting both preliminary and final reports expeditiously. Conversely, the opposition has sharply criticised the state government's handling of the situation. Akhilesh Yadav, for instance, questioned the integrity of the inquiry and alleged widespread corruption, stating that forming SITs instead of focusing on job creation reflects the "double engine" government's "double tank of corruption."

US-Iran high-level talks begin in Switzerland



Burgenstock : High-level talks between the United States and Iran got underway in Switzerland on Sunday, Qatar said, as the Lake Lucerne summit and the first meeting began with representatives of the U.S., Iran, Qatar and Pakistan taking part. The Qatari foreign ministry said the meetings were aimed at reaching a comprehensive and lasting agreement addressing all aspects of an earlier memorandum of understanding between Washington and Tehran. Qatari foreign ministry spokesperson Majed bin Mohammed Al Ansari said specialized

groups had been formed to negotiate the terms of a final agreement, along with follow-up groups tasked with overseeing implementation of the memorandum and tracking progress, Iranian media reported. He said Qatar would continue working with Pakistan and the other parties to foster a positive environment for the talks. Iran's government, in a series of posts on X, said a meeting between its negotiating team and Qatari mediators took place, with separate talks with Pakistan also planned "as part of ongoing efforts to advance implementation" of the

14-point memorandum of understanding signed last week. Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said the 14-point memorandum, signed in Islamabad on June 18, would not be re-signed, and that Sunday's discussions would instead focus on implementation and follow-up mechanisms, according to the government statement. The Iranian delegation arrived in Switzerland late on Saturday, the government said. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held talks with Swiss counterpart Ignazio Cassis in Burgenstock in what was described as the delegation's first official

engagement in the country. Cassis, in a post on X, welcomed Araghchi to Switzerland and said the Lake Lucerne summit offered "the framework for discussion and dialogue," adding that Switzerland's role as a protecting power for Iranian interests remained in service of diplomacy and regional security. The Swiss foreign ministry said in a post on X that a U.S. delegation led by Vice President JD Vance, an Iranian delegation led by parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, and mediators from Pakistan and Qatar had all arrived at Burgenstock, with talks between the

parties set to begin Sunday. Separately, Araghchi attended a bilateral meeting between Pakistan's prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and Ghalibaf, the head of the Iranian delegation, in Islamabad to discuss regional stability and bilateral ties, the Iranian government said. Meanwhile, the Strait of Hormuz remained closed on Sunday, Iran's Fars News Agency quoted IRGC as saying. Meanwhile, President Masoud Pezeshkian has reiterated that war is not in anyone's interest, yet warned the enemies that the Iranian Armed Forces are fully prepared to defend the

country and Tehran has no fear of war. "War is not in anyone's interest, and its continuation will not benefit any party," Pezeshkian said at the 33rd Monetary and Banking Policy Conference at the premises of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) in Tehran on Sunday. "This does not mean that we are afraid of war. Servicemen from the Iranian Armed Forces, serving either in the Army or the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), as well as the people of our country, have shown that they stand strong, and will continue resiliently if the war drags on," he said.



Yogi Adityanath takes jibe at opposition

Hamirpur: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today took a swipe at the opposition saying "It is no longer that Uttar Pradesh but those who once pushed the state into the category of BIMARU are struggling for recognition today".

He further said, "These people are now facing an identity crisis, and the people reject and ignore them. After the people voted for the BJP and the lotus symbol in Hamirpur and Rath, numerous initiatives and innovations, including enhanced security, tap water connections to every household, and expressway development, have become possible."

He appealed to the people of Bundelkhand not to allow the patrons of mafias to return to power. He urged

them not to be divided on the basis of caste, region, or language, and instead promote healthy competition for development, heritage, faith, and economic growth.

The Chief Minister made these comments after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for 75 development projects worth more than Rs ₹636 crore at Swami Brahmanand Mahavidyalaya, Rath. A short film dedicated to the development of Hamirpur was also screened on the occasion.

The Chief Minister said, "Nine years ago, Bundelkhand lacked proper connectivity. Roads were riddled with potholes. Women spent their lives carrying earthen pots on their heads to fetch water. Hamirpur, situated at the confluence of the

Yamuna and Betwa rivers, struggled for water, while its youth struggled for recognition. Sand, mining, and land mafias exploited the poor. Across the country, people looked at residents of Uttar Pradesh with suspicion."

The Chief Minister said, "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has transformed over the past 12 years. Earlier in the day, millions of people across nearly 100 countries participated in Yoga Day activities. The event filled the present and the past with pride while inspiring confidence about the future. PM Modi once again presented India's identity to the world through the 12th International Day of Yoga. He also secured global recognition for the Kumbh as an intangible cultural heritage of humani-

ty."

The Chief Minister said, "Those who pursued caste-based politics used power sincerely for public welfare, formulate effective policies, and implement them properly, results follow quickly."



only to benefit their own families. For Prime Minister Modi, the entire population of 1.4 billion Indians is family, and for the state government, the 250 million people of Uttar Pradesh are family. When governments work

pressway, which has since been completed. Ammunition, artillery, and missiles are now being manufactured in Uttar Pradesh itself."

Referring to Operation Sindoor, he said, "When the BrahMos missile manufactured in Lucknow was launched against Pakistan, it was forced to plead for mercy."

The Chief Minister said, "The Har Ghar Jal scheme is bringing relief to women and girls."

Women's self-help groups are establishing themselves through initiatives such as Balini Milk Producer Company, Drone Didi, Lakshmi Didi, and BC Sakhi. Youth from Bundelkhand, including Mahoba, Hamirpur, Lalitpur, Jalaun, and Jhansi, are now being recruited into the po-

lice force. This was not the case earlier because plans were made with only Saifai in mind. Today, irrigation, drinking water, connectivity, and other projects are planned for the entire state. Once new aircraft are inducted and air services begin from Chitrakoot, Bundelkhand will enjoy excellent air connectivity. New railway facilities are also becoming available."

The Chief Minister said his government had approved a bus stand for Rath and directed the Transport Department to expedite the project. He noted that a proposal from Shahjahanpur led to the establishment of Swami Shukdevanand State University, while a proposal supported by infrastructure and property in Bhadohi resulted in the launch of Kashi

Naresh University from the current academic session.

However, he said, "The proposal from the management committee of Swami Brahmanand College had still not been received. Submit the proposal, and we will establish a university, I said, adding that legislation and procedures take time, but timely action would enable the government to implement the project quickly."

He emphasized that the university should be built with a broad vision, allowing colleges from other districts to affiliate with it, provide modern and technical education, and support skill development for the Defence Manufacturing Corridor through futuristic technologies. He also stressed the need for a medical college in Hamirpur.

674 drunk drivers nabbed in Hyderabad, Cyberabad during weekend drive

Hyderabad: Hyderabad and Cyberabad Traffic Police booked a total of 674 motorists for driving under the influence of alcohol during special enforcement drives conducted over the weekend as part of efforts to improve road safety.

Hyderabad Traffic Police, during a two-day special drive on June 19 and 20, caught 395 drunken drivers, including 331 two-wheeler riders.

16 three-wheeler drivers, 46 four-wheeler drivers and two drivers of other vehicles. Of the offenders, 151 recorded Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels exceeding 100 mg/100 ml, while nine registered BAC levels above 300 mg/100 ml.

Meanwhile, Cyberabad Traffic Police apprehended 279 offenders during a weekend special drive, comprising 228 two-wheeler

er riders, eight three-wheeler drivers and 43 four-wheeler drivers. Sixteen offenders recorded BAC levels between 301 mg/100 ml and 550 mg/100 ml.

All offenders would be produced before the court and reiterated that there would be zero tolerance towards drunken driving. They warned that motorists causing fatal accidents while driving under the influence of alcohol would be

booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which carries a maximum punishment of 10 years' imprisonment and a fine.

During the week from June 15 to 20, courts disposed of 622 drunken driving cases, imposing fines in 621 cases and ordering fine along with social service in one case, according to separate police statements on Sunday.

Telangana Govt to oppose VBG RAM G Act, explore legal options

Hyderabad: A Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted by the Telangana government has decided to formulate a joint action plan with opposition-ruled states and explore legal and constitutional options to challenge the proposed VBG RAM G Act-2025, citing concerns over its impact on rural employment and states' rights. The meeting on Saturday, chaired by Irrigation and food and civil supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and attended by Ministers Seethakka, Tummala Nageswara Rao and Dr Vivek Venkataswamy, reviewed

the implications of the proposed legislation on the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, local bodies and the agricultural sector. The committee expressed concern over the proposed 60-day employment break, stating that it could adversely affect rural workers' livelihoods and reduce employment opportunities. Members also opposed the reported move to remove Mahatma Gandhi's name from the employment guarantee scheme, stressing that his name should remain associated with the landmark programme. The sub-commit-

tee criticised the Centre's proposal to place a 40 per cent financial burden on states without consultation, terming it contrary to the principles of cooperative federalism. It also resolved to consult legal experts and coordinate with states such as Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Punjab to formulate a common strategy, including the possibility of jointly approaching the Supreme Court. The panel decided to continue its detailed study and submit a comprehensive report focused on rural welfare, employment security.

JD(U) signals generational shift, backs Nishant Kumar for larger role

Patna: In a clear indication of a generational shift within the Janata Dal (United), the party's senior leadership on Sunday endorsed Nishant Kumar as its future leader, marking the first concerted public effort to place Nitish Kumar's political legacy alongside his son's emerging role in the organisation.



Addressing the gathering, Lalan Singh said, "We have worked shoulder to shoulder with Nitish Ji for a long time. Nitish Ji not only rescued Bihar from chaos but also put it firmly on the path of development. In the coming years, the party will move even further ahead under the leadership of Nishant Kumar."

Echoing the sentiment, Sanjay Jha said that the party stands firmly behind Nishant Kumar. He added that Nishant Kumar is the future of both the JD(U) and Bihar,

and that he will carry forward Nitish Kumar's unfinished development agenda with full dedication.

Speaking on the occasion, Nishant Kumar said, "I am trying to discharge with complete honesty the responsibilities that have been entrusted to me by the party and the government. I am striving to follow in my father's footsteps. My father has done historic work for Bihar, and I will continue to advance those efforts. All of us must work together in unity to take the JD(U) to greater heights."

Lok Adalat facilitates refund of Rs 45.21 cr to 6,303 cyber fraud victims in Telangana

Hyderabad: The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB), in collaboration with the Telangana State Legal Services Authority (TSLA), banks, digital payment service providers and police units across the state, achieved a major milestone in cybercrime victim restitution by facilitating refunds worth Rs 45.21 crore to 6,303 victims of cyber fraud. The refunds were processed through a Lok Adalat conducted on June 20, highlighting the growing effectiveness of coordinated efforts to tackle financial cybercrime in Telangana. The large-scale refund initiative demonstrates how institutional collaboration between law enforcement agencies, the banking sector and the judiciary can significantly improve recovery outcomes for cybercrime victims. By enabling faster dispute resolution and streamlined settlement processes, the Lok Adalat mechanism has emerged as a critical tool for returning lost funds to victims. According to TGCSB Director Shikha Goel, the Cyberabad commissionerate

recorded the highest recovery figures in the latest Lok Adalat. Cyberabad facilitated refunds amounting to Rs 21.91 crore, benefiting 2,232 victims, making it the top-performing jurisdiction in the state. The TGCSB itself ranked second in recovery performance, facilitating refunds worth Rs 6.83 crore to 77 victims. This high refund amount relative to the number of beneficiaries indicates the presence of several large-value fraud cases handled directly by the bureau, reflecting the serious financial impact cybercrime can have on individuals and institutions. Malkajgiri emerged as another significant contributor, with refunds totaling Rs 4.04 crore benefiting 779 victims. The scale of recoveries in the region highlights the widespread nature of digital fraud and the growing burden on law enforcement agencies to address such crimes efficiently. Hyderabad also recorded substantial recovery figures, with Rs 3.22 crore refunded to 755 victims. As a major urban and technology hub, Hyderabad frequently witnesses

high volumes of cyber fraud cases, including online financial scams, phishing attacks and identity theft. Meanwhile, Sangareddy reported refunds worth Rs 1.69 crore to 167 victims. Though smaller in volume compared to metropolitan districts, the recovery reflects expanding awareness and improved reporting mechanisms even in semi-urban and rural regions. Since its establishment, TGCSB has facilitated the refund of an impressive Rs 445.41 crore to 59,953 cybercrime victims through Lok Adalats across Telangana. This cumulative achievement underlines the bureau's growing capacity to ensure timely restitution and strengthen public trust in cybercrime response systems.

Officials stated that the Lok Adalat initiative has evolved into a robust victim compensation mechanism. It now serves as a structured platform that enables faster settlement of disputes involving fraudulent digital transactions, reducing delays that victims often face in conventional legal proceedings.

JMC plans to set up 'Pink Toilets' in Jammu City

Jammu: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is planning to introduce 'Pink Toilets' at selected locations across Jammu within municipal limits, in a significant step toward improving sanitation infrastructure for women and children. The initiative is aimed at creating safer, cleaner and more accessible public hygiene facilities in the city.

Pink Toilets are specially designed public washrooms meant exclusively for women and children. These facilities are easily recognizable due to their distinctive pink colour, which helps users quickly identify them in busy public spaces. The concept has gained popularity in several Indian cities as a gender-sensitive sanitation solution.

The proposed move reflects JMC's growing focus on strengthening civic infrastructure and promoting public hygiene. By creating dedicated sanitation spaces for women and children, the Corporation hopes to address long-standing concerns related to safety, accessibility and cleanliness in public

washrooms.

According to JMC Commissioner Devansh Yadav, the municipal body is fully committed to taking concrete measures to ensure a cleaner and healthier city. He stated that sanitation remains one of the top priorities of the Corporation as it continues to improve civic amenities.

Dr. Yadav said that after expanding the network of public toilets across Jammu, the Corporation has now shifted its focus toward introducing Pink Toilets as the next phase of urban sanitation development. This initiative is expected to further strengthen the city's public hygiene ecosystem.

He also confirmed that the proposal is currently under process and that authorities are actively identifying suitable locations for setting up these facilities. Strategic placement in crowded markets, transport hubs, parks and commercial zones is expected to maximize accessibility and usage. One of the key features of Pink Toilets is the inclusion of modern amenities tailored to women's needs.

Cong demands all-party assembly committee probe into Bharat Tiwari encounter

Patna: Rajesh Ram, president of the Indian National Congress unit in Bihar, on Sunday demanded that the police encounter killing of social activist Bharat Tiwari in Bhojpur be investigated by an all-party committee of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. His demand has added fresh political pressure over the controversial incident, which has already sparked widespread public debate and intense reactions across the state.

After visiting the family of Bharat Bhushan Tiwari and interacting with villagers, Rajesh Ram described the incident as deeply troubling. He expressed solidarity with the bereaved family and assured them that the Congress party would make every possible effort to secure justice and ensure accountability.

Speaking to reporters following the visit, Ram termed the killing a highly serious matter and raised sharp questions over the circumstances surrounding the police encounter. He alleged that the conduct of the police in the case resembled that of an organised contract-killer network, making the matter even more alarming.

The Congress leader claimed that Bharat Tiwari was not an ordinary citizen but a committed social activist who consistently raised his voice for deprived and marginalized communities. According to Ram, Tiwari's activism and advocacy for vulnerable sections of society may have made him inconvenient to influential individuals and power structures.

Ram further alleged that suspicion was not limited to local police officials alone. He claimed that the role of the local administration, as well as that of the state government, was also under question, intensifying demands for an independent and transparent probe.

To ensure credibility in the investigation, Rajesh Ram called for an impartial inquiry by a multi-party committee of the Bihar Assembly. He argued that such a committee, involving representatives from different political parties, would help uncover the truth without political bias and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

He emphasized that only an investigation conducted with transparency and public confidence could address the growing concerns surrounding the encounter. According to him, an independent review was necessary to determine whether established legal procedures were followed during the operation.

Ram reiterated that the Congress party would stand firmly with Bharat Tiwari's family throughout the legal and political struggle ahead. He said the party's commitment to justice would remain unwavering, regardless of how long the fight takes.

He also warned against any attempt to suppress democratic voices. According to Rajesh Ram, silencing a citizen who raises issues concerning social justice and public welfare cannot be tolerated in a democratic system governed by constitutional principles.

The encounter in question took place on June 17 at Bilauti village under the Shahpur police station area in Bhojpur district. During the police operation, Bharat Bhushan Tiwari, known locally as a popular social activist, was killed, triggering immediate controversy and public scrutiny.

The circumstances surrounding the encounter have since become a major political issue in Bihar. Questions are being raised over whether the police action was justified, whether due process was followed and whether excessive force was used. The incident has also gained significant traction on social media, where users have expressed sharply divided opinions. While some have demanded strict accountability and transparency, others have called for patience until official investigations are completed. In response to the growing controversy, Samrat Choudhary has already ordered a judicial inquiry into the encounter. The inquiry is intended to ensure an independent, impartial and transparent investigation into all aspects of the incident. The decision to order a judicial probe is being seen as an effort by the state administration to address public concerns and reduce political tensions. A judicial inquiry could help establish a factual timeline and determine whether procedural violations occurred. As political reactions continue to intensify, the death of Bharat Tiwari has become a significant flashpoint in Bihar's political discourse.

Bihar to introduce Yoga in school-college curriculum from next year: CM

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary Sunday announced that yoga would be incorporated into the curriculum of schools and colleges across the state from next year to promote a healthy, disciplined and disease-free lifestyle among the younger generation.

The Chief Minister made the announcement while inaugurating the 12th International Yoga Day celebrations at the Pataliputra Sports Complex in Patna and participating in a mass yoga session along with thousands of people. Renowned yoga guru Swami Paramtej led the yoga practice during the event. Extending greetings to the people of Bihar and the country on International Yoga Day, Choudhary described yoga as India's ancient and invaluable cultural heritage that serves as the foundation of a healthy body, calm mind and balanced life. He noted that Bihar's Munger district is among the world's prominent centres of yoga, attracting trainees from across India and abroad who contribute to the global spread of the discipline.



The Chief Minister said yoga had gained worldwide recognition due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was now being celebrated enthusiastically in many countries. He also highlighted the Ayushman Bharat scheme, under which nearly 500 million people have been brought under health coverage.

Stating that physical training was already part of the educational system, Choudhary said the state government had decided to make yoga an integral component of the curriculum from the next academic year to further expand its reach. The move, he said, would help students develop healthy lifestyles and en-

courage yoga practice in households across the state.

"Yoga is not merely a form of exercise but a comprehensive way of life," he said, adding that regular practice improves both physical and mental health, reduces stress and enables people to lead energetic and productive lives. The Chief Minister urged people to make yoga a part of their daily routine and said he personally practises yoga and takes morning walks every day. He stressed that everyone should dedicate some time from their 24-hour schedule to yoga, describing it as a simple, accessible and effective means of maintaining good health without incurring medical expenses.

He said the government spends substantial resources every year through the Health Department to ensure public health, but regular yoga practice could help prevent many diseases and reduce healthcare burdens.

Choudhary also noted that International Yoga Day had been celebrated continuously for the past 12 years since 2014, helping elevate India's cultural heritage on the global stage. He reiterated the Bihar government's commitment to promoting sports, health and youth welfare in the state. Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Health Minister Nishant Kumar and Health Department Secretary Kumar Ravi also addressed the gathering. Among those present on the occasion were Union Minister Ramnath Thakur, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Patna Mayor Sita Sahu, Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit, Director General of Police Vinay Kumar, public representatives, senior officials, yoga instructors, sportspersons, students and a large number of citizens.

Briefs :

Devender Yadav flags poor upkeep of Delhi parks on International Yoga Day

New Delhi: Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav on Sunday extended greetings on the occasion of International Yoga Day and said that while yoga is an invaluable part of India's cultural heritage, the condition of several parks in the national capital raises concerns over public amenities and maintenance. In a statement, Yadav said that yoga promotes a healthy body and mind and added that the Congress has consistently supported the promotion of yoga and healthy living. He, however, alleged that many parks across Delhi are suffering from neglect, inadequate upkeep and sanitation issues, affecting citizens who use them for yoga, exercise and morning walks. The Congress leader claimed that residents in several areas have complained about broken pathways, poor lighting, withered greenery, garbage accumulation and a lack of regular cleaning. According to him, these issues have deprived people of a suitable environment for recreational and fitness activities. Yadav said that maintaining clean surroundings and green spaces is as important for promoting a culture of yoga as the practice itself. He urged the BJP-led Delhi government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to focus on improving public amenities and undertake maintenance work at the ground level.

Yoga is a way of life that connects mind, body & soul: Delhi CM

New Delhi: On the occasion of International Yoga Day, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta joined citizens in a collective yoga session amid the serene natural surroundings in Delhi's biodiversity-rich Asola Bhatti, Neeli Jheel. Under the theme of 'One Delhi, One Yoga', the Rekha Gupta government organised simultaneous yoga programmes across all the 70 Assembly constituencies of the national capital on Sunday. Thousands of citizens, coming from different walks of life including students, youth, women and senior citizens, enthusiastically took part in the events across the city. She noted that back in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the observance of International Yoga Day at the United Nations, a proposal that received unprecedented support from the global community. Gupta has said that yoga is not just a form of physical exercise, but a complete way of life that brings balance between the body, mind and soul while shaping one's consciousness and lifestyle. Meanwhile, Cabinet Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, senior officials of the departments concerned, students, yoga instructors and a large number of citizens were present on the occasion.

Man held for assaulting wife, 2 minor children in Delhi

New Delhi: A 34-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly assaulting his wife and two minor children at their home in southeast Delhi's Mithapur area, leaving his two-year-old son dead, the police said on Saturday. The police said a PCR call regarding a domestic violence was received at the Jaitpur police station around 1.30 pm on June 19 from Lakhpat Colony Part-II, Mithapur. A police team reached the spot and found that a woman, identified as Aarti, and her two children had allegedly been assaulted by her husband, Chandan Sharma.

PWD targets 2,000 potholes in single-day drive, Verma inspects work across Delhi

New Delhi: With the monsoon approaching, the Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) on Sunday carried out a comprehensive city-wide pothole repair drive across the national capital as part of its pre-monsoon preparedness efforts to ensure road safety and smooth traffic flow.

Engineers, field staff, and maintenance teams of the department were deployed across the city to repair identified potholes on a priority basis before the onset of heavy rains.

As part of the drive, Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma took to the streets on Sunday, personally inspecting ongoing repair works at multiple locations and reviewing the progress.

Senior officials of the department also remained on the ground to ensure that the task is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

According to departmental records, 14,757 potholes were identified on PWD roads between January 1 and June 4, 2026, out of which 12,762 have already been repaired.

To address the remaining locations before the monsoon, the department launched the special drive on Sunday, targeting more than 2,000 potholes across the city. Meanwhile, speak-



ing during the inspection, Verma said, "PWD remains vigilant throughout the year in addressing complaints related to potholes and road maintenance. With the monsoon approaching, our focus is to ensure that roads are in the best possible condition before the rains begin."

He added that the special drive reflects the department's commitment, and that more than 2,000 identified potholes are being repaired across Delhi.

He emphasized, "Road infrastructure must be built on the foundations of quality, accountability and long-term durability. Many of the potholes being repaired today are on roads construct-

ed several years ago where quality standards were not adequately maintained."

Verma also assured that quality control measures have been strengthened, with a greater level of accountability.

Notably, the work is being carried out using precise equipment and quality materials to ensure longevity, officials said.

New roads being constructed under a five-year maintenance provision, under which contractors are responsible for rectifying any defects that arise during the warranty period, the minister added.

According to Verma, the Delhi government is fo-

cusled not only on creating infrastructure but also on ensuring its sustained quality and performance through regular monitoring and timely maintenance.

The drive forms part of the government's broader pre-monsoon preparedness efforts aimed at improving road conditions, enhancing commuter safety, and delivering durable, citizen-centric infrastructure across the capital, he said.

Meanwhile, work is also being done to improve the drains across the city, while the government is close to achieving its target of desilting major drains ahead of the monsoon, so that the city does not face waterlogging issues.

Nearly 45,000 NEET candidates & parents benefit from Delhi govt's special arrangements

New Delhi: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) UG re-examination was conducted smoothly across Delhi on Sunday, with authorities confirming that the entire process remained incident-free and well-coordinated across all designated centres in the city. Officials said that the arrangements ensured a seamless experience for candidates despite the large turnout and challenging summer conditions.

The examination, one of the most significant competitive tests in the country for medical aspirants, saw thousands of students appearing at various centres across the national capital. The smooth conduct of the re-exam was attributed to advance planning, inter-departmental coordination, and strict monitoring at multiple levels.

In a major relief measure, the Delhi Government ensured special facilities for both candidates and their accompanying parents. According to officials, nearly 45,000 NEET candidates and their parents benefited from cooling zones established outside all 97 examination centres across the city.

These cooling zones were set up to provide respite from the intense summer heat, which has been particularly severe in the capital in recent weeks. The zones were equipped with seating



arrangements, drinking water, ORS packets, and other basic amenities to help families wait comfortably during the examination hours.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the feedback received from students and parents indicated that the arrangements played a crucial role in reducing stress and improving overall comfort during the examination process. She said the initiative reflected the government's focus on student welfare.

The Chief Minister added that the government had introduced what she described as a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, focusing not only on candidates but also on the well-being of parents who often accompany their children and wait for long hours outside centres.

She further highlighted that special attention was given to ensuring smooth transportation for candidates. Free travel in DTC buses was provided to all

NEET aspirants on the day of the examination, reducing travel-related stress and financial burden.

Officials noted that adequate transport arrangements helped prevent congestion and ensured that students reached their centres on time without difficulties. Additional staff and volunteers were deployed at key transit points to guide candidates.

The cooling zones also offered refreshments such as shikanji, tea, and light refreshments along with medical support.

First-aid facilities were kept on standby at all centres in case of emergencies, ensuring immediate assistance if required.

Parents accompanying candidates reportedly expressed satisfaction with the arrangements, stating that the shaded seating areas and availability of drinking water significantly eased the long waiting hours outside examination centres.

Delhi Police celebrates Int'l Yoga Day, officers say Yoga important for stress management for police

New Delhi: Delhi Police marked the 12th International Yoga Day with large-scale participation across its headquarters and all district units, highlighting the growing emphasis on wellness, stress management, and physical fitness within the force.

The main event was held at the Police Headquarters lawns in New Delhi, where Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha led the yoga session, joining senior officers and personnel in performing various asanas and breathing exercises.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers of all ranks, reflecting the widespread adoption of yoga as part of the force's routine wellness initiatives. Senior officials noted that the presence and active involvement of top leadership helped encourage wider participation among personnel.

Along with the headquarters event, yoga sessions were simultaneously organised across all police districts and units in the capital, ensuring that personnel posted

in different locations could also take part in the observance.

Special Commissioners of Police, Joint Commissioners of Police, Additional Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners of Police, and other officers actively participated in these sessions, underscoring the institutional importance given to the initiative.

The events were organised by the Welfare Division of Delhi Police under the guidance of Special CP Atul Katiyar, which coordinated arrangements across various units.

Certified yoga instructors from Delhi Police conducted the sessions in accordance with the Common Yoga Protocol, guiding participants through structured sequences of asanas, pranayama (breathing exercises), and meditation techniques.

Officials said the structured programme was designed not only to improve flexibility and physical health but also to reduce stress levels and enhance

mental resilience among personnel engaged in demanding field duties.

The yoga sessions at the Police Headquarters also emphasized the importance of integrating yoga into daily life, particularly for maintaining operational efficiency and emotional stability in high-pressure law enforcement roles.

Senior officers highlighted that police personnel often work under challenging and unpredictable conditions, making stress management and preventive healthcare essential components of their overall well-being strategy.

They further stated that yoga serves as an effective tool for improving focus, discipline, and mental clarity, which are crucial for maintaining public safety and carrying out responsibilities effectively. The event also reflected a broader institutional push within Delhi Police to promote healthier lifestyles and preventive health practices among its workforce through regular wellness programmes.

Healthy ageing message dominates Yoga Day celebrations in Delhi

New Delhi: With "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" as this year's theme, Cabinet ministers and senior government officials joined thousands of people at parks, educational institutions and heritage sites across the national capital on Sunday to mark the 12th International Day of Yoga, highlighting yoga's growing role in preventive healthcare and holistic well-being. Leading the celebrations in Delhi, Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda participated in a mass yoga session at Shantipath, where citizens, healthcare professionals, volunteers and officials performed yoga asanas and breathing exercises. Addressing the gathering, Nadda described yoga as "an ancient gift of India's civilisational heritage" that has evolved into a global movement for health and wellness. "Yoga enables us to achieve balance between the mind, body and soul. It is a continuous and lifelong practice that guides individuals towards self-improve-

ment, inner peace and holistic well-being," he said, urging people to make it a part of their daily routine. Referring to the United Nations' declaration of June 21 as International Day of Yoga following India's proposal in 2014, the minister said nearly 190 countries now observe the occasion, reflecting yoga's universal appeal. The nationwide celebrations were led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who participated in the main event in Kolkata and described yoga as a source of "consciousness, vitality and inner energy" rather than merely a physical exercise. Speaking on the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", he said healthy ageing should focus on adding vitality and purpose to life rather than simply increasing lifespan. "Our aspiration should be to become more flexible at forty than at twenty, more energetic at fifty than at thirty, and more resilient to lifestyle diseases at seventy than at fifty," the Prime Minister

said, calling yoga a discipline that nurtures physical fitness, mental clarity and emotional well-being. Across Delhi, the Ministry of Ayush, in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India and the Ministry of Culture, organised yoga sessions at 40 prominent locations, including Kartavya Path, Lodhi Garden, Central Park in Connaught Place, Talkatora Garden, Siri Fort Sports Complex, Yamuna Sports Complex and Aastha Kunj Park. A major attraction was the yoga session at the Red Fort, where thousands of participants practised the Common Yoga Protocol against the backdrop of the historic monument, symbolically linking India's cultural heritage with its traditional wellness practices. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan led celebrations at the University of Delhi's South Campus, where students, faculty members and yoga practitioners participated in the nationwide observance. "Yoga is a medi-

um of harmony for body, mind and soul, leading us towards a better and healthier life," Pradhan said, adding that integrating yoga into campus life would promote holistic development and a balanced society. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also organised a special session at Kartavya Bhawan, led by Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, who said yoga had emerged as an important pillar of preventive healthcare. She noted that yoga sessions were being organised through more than 1.87 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across the country, expanding access to wellness practices at the community level. The Ministry of Earth Sciences and the India Meteorological Department marked the occasion at Mausam Bhawan, where the Director General of Meteorology, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, urged people to adopt yoga as a daily habit. "A healthy life is a happy life. A healthy society is a happy society, and a healthy

Intense heat grips Delhi; temperatures cross 40 deg, heat spell to continue

New Delhi: A heat spell continued to grip Delhi on Sunday, with temperatures breaching the 40-degree Celsius mark and leaving residents struggling under hot and humid conditions across the capital.

According to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Ridge weather station recorded the highest daytime temperature in the city at 41.1°C, making it the hottest pocket in Delhi for the day. The intense heat led to widespread discomfort among residents, especially during peak afternoon

hours. Several other weather monitoring stations across the city also reported maximum temperatures hovering close to the 40°C mark, indicating a uniform heat pattern across different parts of the capital. At Delhi's primary observatory located at Safdarjung, the maximum temperature settled at 40.2°C. Officials noted that this represented a slight increase compared to the previous day, reflecting the persistence of hot weather conditions in the region. The minimum temperature was recorded at 28.7°C, which also remained relatively high,

suggesting warmer-than-usual nights and limited relief for residents even after sunset. Meteorological officials stated that the ongoing heat spell is expected to continue for at least the next two days, with no significant change anticipated in either maximum or minimum temperatures during this period. The persistent heat conditions have been attributed to dry northwesterly winds and a lack of significant pre-monsoon rainfall activity over the region in recent days, which has allowed temperatures to remain elevated.

Mass sessions held across Delhi, leaders urge citizens to make yoga daily habit

New Delhi: Thousands of Delhi residents participated in large-scale celebrations of International Yoga Day on Sunday, with parks, temple complexes, and public grounds across the city turning into open-air yoga studios as people gathered to practice asanas, breathing exercises, and meditation.

From early morning hours, citizens of all age groups—including senior citizens, women, children, and youth—unrolled yoga mats at various locations, reflecting widespread enthusiasm for the ancient Indian wellness practice that continues to gain global recognition.

At District Park in Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta joined hundreds of participants in a mass yoga session. He performed various yoga postures along with attendees and highlighted the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life for overall well-being.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta described yoga as "India's timeless gift to humanity," noting that it plays a vital role in strengthening the body, calming the mind, and promoting a balanced

lifestyle in today's fast-paced world.

He further stated that yoga has now achieved global acceptance as a powerful tool for physical fitness, mental peace, and emotional stability, urging young people especially to adopt it as a regular habit for a healthier and more productive future.

Meanwhile, Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh participated in a mass yoga event held at Chhath Ghat, Talab Park in Kunwar Singh Nagar, where a large number of residents from different age groups joined the session enthusiastically.

Calling yoga one of India's greatest contributions to humanity, Singh said it offers a simple yet effective path toward physical fitness, mental clarity, and spiritual well-being, accessible to people of all backgrounds.

He emphasized that yoga is not just physical exercise but a holistic lifestyle practice that promotes harmony between body, mind, and soul, helping individuals reduce stress and improve concentration.

The minister also noted that regular yoga practice

can strengthen immunity and significantly contribute to overall health, especially in urban environments where lifestyle-related disorders are increasingly common.

Singh added that the Delhi government's Health Department is actively working to integrate yoga into preventive healthcare programmes, including mental wellness and lifestyle management initiatives under various public health schemes.

He further stressed the importance of introducing yoga at an early age, suggesting that schools should encourage children to develop consistent yoga habits as part of their daily routine.

Delhi minister Parvesh Sahib Singh also took part in multiple yoga sessions across different parts of the capital, engaging with residents and spiritual groups throughout the day.

His participation began at the Digambar Jain Temple's Bhagwan Bharat Sthali Large Idol Complex in Connaught Place, where he joined Jain spiritual leaders and devotees in performing yoga and meditation exercises.

Massive fire breaks out at wine shop in Delhi's Sultanpuri; firefighter injured

New Delhi: A massive fire broke out at a wine shop in the Sultanpuri area of Outer Delhi on Saturday night, triggering panic among local residents and drawing a swift emergency response from fire and police authorities.

According to officials, the fire was first reported from the ground floor of the shop, where flames rapidly began to spread before escalating to the first floor, which was being used as a store-room for stocking goods. The presence of a large quantity of stored liquor on the upper floor further intensified the blaze, making it difficult for firefighters to immediately



contain the fire due to the high inflammable load inside the premises. Soon after receiving the alert, the fire department rushed at least five fire tenders to the spot. Firefighters launched a coordinated operation to control the flames and prevent the

fire from spreading to adjoining shops and residential structures. Locals in the densely populated area gathered outside as smoke and flames engulfed parts of the building, creating panic and prompting authorities to cord off the area to ensure

safety. During the firefighting operation, one firefighter sustained injuries inside the building. Officials said he slipped on broken glass bottles scattered across the floor while attempting to douse the flames in the affected section. The injured firefighter was immediately given first aid at the site before being rushed to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital for further treatment, where his condition is reported to be stable. Preliminary assessments suggest that the fire may have been triggered due to a short circuit in the electrical wiring on the ground floor of the shop.

Editorial

Reclaiming Our Urban Arteries

India's urban fabric, a dynamic mosaic of aspiration and adversity, often betrays a fundamental neglect of its most basic constituent: the pedestrian. Amidst the relentless sprawl and infrastructure ambitions, the simple act of walking along a footpath has become an exercise in negotiation, hazard, and often, futility. Recent judicial pronouncements, particularly from the Supreme Court, have once again spotlighted the "right to walk" as a non-negotiable aspect of urban life, underscoring a persistent failure in governance and urban planning that relegates citizens to the margins of public spaces. This isn't merely an inconvenience; it represents a profound systemic flaw, impinging on safety, accessibility, and the dignity of millions.

The legal framework underpinning pedestrian rights is robust, yet its implementation remains woefully inadequate. Landmark judgments, stretching back decades, have sought to define the delicate balance between competing claims on public spaces. The Supreme Court's pronouncement in *Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation* (1985) famously recognized the "right to livelihood" for pavement dwellers as integral to Article 21, but simultaneously affirmed the public's right to unhindered access to footpaths. This nuanced understanding was further elaborated in *Bombay Hawkers' Union v. Bombay Municipal Corporation* (1985), acknowledging hawkers' right to hawk, albeit subject to reasonable restrictions and without causing obstruction. These rulings laid the groundwork for a regulated, equitable distribution of urban space, but the reality on the ground diverges sharply from this judicial vision.

A critical instrument designed to formalize this balance is the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. This progressive legislation unequivocally recognizes street vendors as an integral part of the urban economy and society. It mandates the formation of Town Vending Committees (TVCs) in every urban local body, tasking them with conducting surveys of existing vendors, demarcating "vending zones," and issuing certificates of vending. Crucially, the Act stipulates that TVCs must comprise 40% vendor representatives, ensuring their voice in policy formulation. The intent was clear: to move from ad-hoc enforcement and harassment to a structured, regulated system that protects livelihoods while ensuring public access.

However, the efficacy of the 2014 Act has been severely hampered by dysfunctional or, in many cases, entirely absent TVCs. Across numerous cities, these committees either operate without the stipulated representation, fail to conduct surveys, or simply do not meet, leaving the informal vending sector in a legal limbo and perpetuating the very chaos the Act sought to resolve. The absence of clearly demarcated vending zones leads to indiscriminate encroachment, turning footpaths into marketplaces, parking lots, or dumping grounds for construction debris. This administrative lethargy directly contradicts the spirit of the Act and undermines the judiciary's repeated calls for pedestrian-friendly urban environments.

The consequence is a pervasive erosion of public pathways. Footpaths are routinely obstructed by a bewildering array of impediments: parked vehicles, illegally erected structures, street furniture placed without thoughtful planning, unkempt utility boxes, and mounds of garbage. This systematic failure is not only an aesthetic blight but a grave threat to public safety and accessibility. Vulnerable populations – children, the elderly, and particularly those with disabilities – find their mobility severely curtailed, if not entirely blocked. Women's safety, too, is compromised when well-lit, unobstructed pathways are non-existent, forcing them onto dangerous roadways or through dimly lit, congested areas.

The issue extends beyond informal vendors to encompass a broader failure of municipal governance. State-level statutes, such as Maharashtra's Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporations Act (1949) and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships Act (1965), explicitly mandate municipal commissioners to maintain public ways for safe and unhindered passage. Yet, these statutory obligations are routinely flouted. The failure to enforce parking regulations, clear construction waste, or control commercial encroachments highlights a deeper malaise: a lack of political will and administrative accountability. Municipal bodies, often constrained by resources or swayed by vested interests, have demonstrably failed in their primary duty to manage public spaces effectively.

The judiciary, in its role as the guardian of fundamental rights, has frequently stepped in to reiterate the importance of accessible footpaths. From the Supreme Court's forceful directives to various High Courts' interventions demanding the clearing of encroachments and proper maintenance, the judicial branch has consistently championed the pedestrian. However, court orders, no matter how emphatic, can only go so far in the absence of proactive, integrated urban planning and sustained enforcement by executive agencies.

The current socio-political landscape demands a comprehensive re-evaluation of urban priorities. The "right to walk" is not a luxury; it is a fundamental aspect of urban mobility, public health, and social equity. Addressing this requires more than piecemeal enforcement; it necessitates a holistic approach that integrates urban planning, robust municipal governance, effective implementation of the Street Vendors Act, and consistent public engagement. Town Vending Committees must be revitalized and empowered to function as intended, creating vending zones that are viable for livelihoods while respecting pedestrian rights. Investments in quality footpath infrastructure, coupled with stringent enforcement against all forms of encroachment, are imperative. Only then can our cities truly reclaim their arteries, transforming chaotic thoroughfares into accessible, safe, and dignified public spaces for all citizens.

"Aatmanirbharta is key to ensure national security on own terms"



Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has underscored the need for technological agility, strategic foresight & institutional innovation to maintain a robust preparedness amidst the uncertainties of present-day world order. Interacting with soldiers at the Eastern Air Command HQs in Shillong, Meghalaya on June 20, 2026, Raksha Mantri asserted that hybrid threats, cyber challenges, information warfare, logistics resilience, supply chain security, and drones are emerging as critical elements in the

constantly-evolving nature of warfare, and in such a situation, traditional preparedness alone is insufficient for the defence forces.

Shri Rajnath Singh reiterated the need for India to achieve Aatmanirbharta to ensure national security on its own terms. He stated that Operation Sindoor proved to be a historic success due to the nation's self-reliance efforts, spearheaded by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. "Through Op Sindoor, we demonstrated to terrorists and their handlers that India will not

compromise on its security and sovereignty. The capability, vigilance, and firm resolve of our defence forces have once again showcased India's growing strength to the world. Formations like the Eastern Air Command have emerged as active partners in this broader national vision," he added. Raksha Mantri termed the Eastern Air Command as an essential pillar of security for India's eastern frontier, commending it for playing a pivotal role in strengthening national security. "Whether

on the battlefield, during peacetime deployment, disaster response, high-altitude operations, or border management, the Eastern Air Command has consistently demonstrated professionalism, courage & commitment in every situation," he said. Shri Rajnath Singh praised the brave soldiers for efficiently discharging their duties amidst harsh and challenging conditions. "It is due to your sacrifices, dedication, and devotion to duty that the citizens are able to lead secure lives. Furthermore, whenever the nation faces a natural disaster or a crisis, you are always the first to step forward to provide assistance. This dedication to serving humanity and the nation defines your true identity. The nation will forever remain indebted to your service," he said. Underlining the importance of the Eastern Air Command's area of operations, Raksha Mantri stated that the North-East is not just a part of geographical boundaries; but is a crucial pillar of India's security, prosperity, and strategic power. He added that the re-

gion is a key component of India's Act East Policy. "Today, as India strengthens its role on the global stage, the importance of the North East has grown even further," he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh concluded his address by describing the Defence Forces as a symbol of national unity. He stated that the soldiers embody a culture in

sents more than just institutional advancement. It is a testament to the cultural values for which India is known around the world. It demonstrates that even as we embrace modernity, our culture remains firmly grounded in its core principles," he added.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Air Officer Com-



which diverse ideas flourish, cherished values endure, and mutual respect takes root naturally. "The growing role of women in the defence forces repre-

manding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia and other senior officers of the Indian Air Force were present on the occasion.

42,000 houses under PMAY-U 2.0 in Madhya Pradesh



In a major boost to the 'Housing for All' initiative in Madhya Pradesh, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal led a landmark programme at Sanwer in Indore district on 20th June 2026 in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr Mohan Yadav, benefiting over 80,000 families under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) scheme through house sanctions and Grih Pravesh. Hon'ble Minister, Urban Develop-

ment & Housing, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, and Hon'ble Minister of State - Urban Administration & Development, Smt Pratima Bagri and other Ministers of the State Government were also present at the occasion. Under PMAY-U 2.0, sanction letters were issued to over 42,000 eligible beneficiaries, involving ₹1,050 crore subsidy from the Government. Further, 38,000 families performed Grih Pravesh of their newly constructed pucca

houses in different districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Minister, Shri Manohar Lal congratulated the beneficiaries on receiving the sanction for their homes and those entering their newly constructed houses. He stated that every new home represents dignity, security and hope for families and reaffirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to realising the vision of Housing for All under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Madhya Pradesh is among the top performing States in the implementation of PMAY-U. Under PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0, more than 10.39 lakh houses have been sanctioned and 9.08 lakh houses have been completed, reflecting its commitment to provide safe, affordable and dignified homes to the urban poor. The programme marks another significant step in empowering additional 80,000 families by providing them with a permanent asset in the form of a pucca house. Beyond ensuring safe

and secured living environment, PMAY-U also enables improved access to basic services and livelihood opportunities. More, the scheme also promotes empowerment of women, by mandating ownership of houses in the name of woman of the household or joint ownership. PMAY-U has played a

transformative role in improving the quality of life of urban poor urban and other eligible beneficiaries. Through PMAY-U 2.0, the Government is continuing its efforts to expand affordable housing coverage and ensure that no eligible urban family is left behind. Under the scheme, housing dreams of additional 1 crore EWS/LIG and MIG families are being supported with financial assistance of up to



transformative role in improving the quality of life of urban poor urban and other eligible beneficia-

₹2.5 lakh rupees to construct, purchase or rent a pucca house in urban areas.

Participants of founding batch of Masters in Financial and Economic Crimes programme Visit EAC-PM

Participants of the founding batch of the (MFE) programme visited the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) recently as part of their Campus Immersion Programme, engaging in discussions on economic security, financial crime mitigation, and emerging threats to India's financial ecosystem. The interaction was attended by Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, EAC-PM; Dr. K.K. Tripathi, Joint Secretary, EAC-PM; and Dr. Sri Vatsa Sehra, Joint Director, EAC-PM. The participants were accompanied by Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Sirohi, Programme Director of MFE and Head of the School of Finance & Management at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA). The MFE programme is a first-of-its-kind inter-ministerial initiative jointly offered by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), an Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The programme aims to develop a specialised cadre of professionals equipped to address financial and economic crimes in support of the vision of Viksit Bharat.

During the interaction, participants engaged with policymakers and experts on issues including financial frauds, money laundering, illicit financial flows, cyber-enabled financial crimes, and broader economic security challenges. Discussions

and multidisciplinary approaches to tackle emerging risks. Addressing the participants, Prof. Mahendra Dev shared insights on India's evolving economic landscape and stressed the importance of strengthening institutional capabilities, en-

tions also focused on vulnerabilities within the financial system and strategies to enhance resilience against economic threats. Speakers emphasised that economic resilience requires a whole-of-nation approach involving close coordination

search, institutional capacity, and human expertise. A key highlight of the event was the formal launch of the quarterly newsletter, "Economic Security Insights," by the EAC-PM leadership, Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Sirohi, and participants of the

financial integrity, regulatory developments, emerging risks, and policy responses relevant to India's economic resilience. India's first specialised postgraduate programme in financial and economic crimes, MFE focuses on developing expertise in the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of financial offences. The programme brings together professionals from law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies, financial institutions, corporate organisations, and the legal fraternity to foster a multidisciplinary understanding of financial crime.

Combining academic instruction with practitioner-led sessions, policy engagement, and field exposure, the programme seeks to strengthen India's economic security architecture by preparing professionals capable of addressing the increasing complexity of financial and economic crimes. The visit to EAC-PM formed an important component of the Campus Immersion Programme, providing participants with firsthand exposure to policy perspectives on economic governance and reinforcing the significance of collaborative efforts in combating financial and economic crimes.



highlighted the growing sophistication of financial and economic crimes and underscored the need for technology-driven, collaborative,

hancing regulatory coordination, and promoting evidence-based policymaking to safeguard national economic interests. Delibera-

among government agencies, regulators, industry, academia, and international partners, supported by sustained investments in re-

MFE founding batch. The publication is intended to serve as a knowledge platform for advancing discourse on economic security,



Briefs :

Giant Historic Tower in Ambala to Tell the Story of India's Freedom Struggle

Ambala: A massive 63-meter-tall lotus-shaped memorial tower built at the Shaheed Smarak will showcase the historic events of the 1857 First War of Independence. The inner walls of the large structure will be covered with special exhibits, historical texts, short movies, and detailed artwork. The beautiful memorial covers 22 acres of land along the main highway and stands as a grand tribute to the forgotten heroes who lost their lives fighting for freedom. Public works officials shared that the main construction is completely finished, and they are now starting the second phase inside the tower using a budget of 12.28 crore rupees. Visitors will be able to take fast elevators up to the top floor to watch a short film inside a round dome theater, while browsing historic pictures and sculptures on the way down. The state government has finished the main setups and has invited the Prime Minister to officially open the monument to the public.

The city of Ambala is preparing to unveil a magnificent tribute to India's freedom struggle that promises to reshape how history is experienced in the region. A towering 63-meter-tall lotus-shaped memorial has been erected at the Shaheed Smarak, standing as a grand symbol of pride, remembrance, and the unyielding spirit of the nation's early revolutionaries.

Ten Dangerous Accident Zones Identified on Main Highway as Road Deaths Rise

Sonepat: Even though the total number of traffic accidents went down in Sonepat this year, the traffic police have identified 10 highly dangerous spots on National Highway-44 where fatal crashes are actually increasing.

The police have asked the national highway authority to step in immediately to fix these zones.

The dangerous areas were picked by tracking sections of the road where multiple deaths happened within a short distance, with several spots located near Kundli, Bahalgarh, and Murthal. Records show that during the first five months of the year, there were 382 traffic accidents resulting in 179 deaths.

Compared to the same time last year, the total number of crashes dropped by over a quarter, but actual deaths went up by more than seven percent, meaning the accidents happening now are much more severe.

In a formal letter, the traffic police chief asked the highway authority to quickly set up clear signboards, fix broken road lights, add rumble strips, and block off illegal path shortcuts.

The Sonepat Traffic Police have officially identified ten highly critical accident zones along National Highway-44 (NH-44) following a troubling rise in road fatalities.

Despite an overall reduction in the total number of traffic accidents across the district, these specific stretches have seen an increase in deadly crashes.

In response, law enforcement authorities have formally approached the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to demand immediate structural interventions.

Children Must Practice Yoga for Better Health, Says State Minister

Yamunanagar: The state minister for urban local bodies and civil aviation stated that yoga should be mixed directly into young children's daily schooling to guide them toward a healthier life. He explained that learning these exercises alongside normal school subjects keeps young bodies strong and active.

The minister shared these thoughts while speaking at a public event celebrating the 12th anniversary of International Yoga Day. The special program was organized by the state yoga commission and the health department at a local Ayurvedic college, running under a combined regional theme aimed at building a healthy lifestyle and keeping the youth of Haryana completely away from harmful drugs.

The call to integrate traditional wellness practices into modern education has gained significant momentum following recent statements from high-ranking government officials. The state minister for urban local bodies and civil aviation has publically advocated for a major shift in how physical



education is approached in schools, suggesting that yoga should become a core part of a child's daily routine. By introducing these ancient practices early in life, educational institutions can help guide young students toward a much healthier, more balanced future.

According to the minister, academic excellence should not come at the expense of physical well-being, and the two should instead go hand in hand. He explained that learning yoga exercises alongside normal

school subjects creates a holistic learning environment that keeps young bodies strong, flexible, and active. This dual approach to education ensures that as children develop their intellectual capabilities, they are also building a strong physical foundation that will support them throughout their lives.

The minister shared these impactful thoughts while addressing a large gathering at a prominent public event held in Yamunanagar. The occasion was particularly significant as it

marked the celebration of the twelfth anniversary of International Yoga Day, a global movement that highlights the benefits of holistic health. The event served as an ideal platform to discuss long-term health strategies for the youth, drawing attention from educators, parents, and health professionals alike.

The special program was the result of a highly coordinated effort between multiple government bodies dedicated to public welfare. It was jointly organized by the state yoga commission and

the health department, reflecting a unified governmental approach to community health. By combining resources, these departments were able to execute a comprehensive event that emphasized the practical application of yoga in daily life.

The chosen venue for this important celebration was a local Ayurvedic college, a setting that perfectly complemented the traditional ethos of the event. Ayurvedic medicine and yoga have shared historical roots focused on natural wellness and prevention, making the college an ideal backdrop for discussions on youth health. The institution's academic environment added an extra layer of depth to the minister's message regarding the educational integration of health practices.

Central to the entire program was a carefully crafted regional theme designed to tackle pressing societal challenges. The organizers focused heavily on building a sustainable, healthy lifestyle for the modern generation while simultaneously addressing systemic vulnerabilities.

Local Officials Launch Major Crackdown on Over-Built Rental Properties in Gurugram

Gurugram: Even though senior courts are still debating the rules for building four-story houses with stilt parking, developers in DLF Phase-3 have already gone further by building fifth floors illegally. Town planning officer Amit Madholia led a strict enforcement team to seal five paying-guest buildings that featured these unauthorized top floors.

During the third day of this massive cleanliness drive, workers sealed 225 rental rooms and used heavy bulldozers to tear down illegal extensions. The team also cleared out 29 unauthorized businesses operating on residential paths, closing down beauty parlors, real estate offices, and food shops while destroying illegal ramps and boundary walls. Local neighborhood associations spoke out, stating that these massive structures could not have been built overnight and questioning how local departments failed to notice the extra floors for years. The enforcement team confirmed that the strict checks against illegal constructions and commercial activities on housing plots will continue.

The millennium city of Gurugram has witnessed a major escalation in its fight against unauthorized urban

development, specifically targeting the upscale locality of DLF Phase-3. In a series of highly coordinated raids, the local administration has cracked down on property developers who have flagrantly violated building bylaws. The recent enforcement drive highlights a growing crisis where commercial clashes with residential zoning laws, pushing the city's infrastructure to its absolute limits.

This sudden administrative action comes at a time when higher judicial bodies are still intensely debating the legal framework surrounding the construction of four-story residential buildings equipped with stilt parking. While the legalities of adding a fourth floor remain a highly contested subject among policymakers, judges, and residents, aggressive developers in DLF Phase-3 decided not to wait for a court verdict. Instead, they took matters into their own hands by illegally constructing entire fifth floors on top of these already disputed structures.

The enforcement operation was spearheaded by District Town Planner Amit Madholia, who led a heavily reinforced team of enforcement officers, laborers, and police personnel into the area.

Thirteen New Fast-Track Courts Set Up to Handle Rising Drug Cases

Chandigarh: In a major step to speed up the fight against illegal drug trafficking, the state government has opened 13 new fast-track courts to handle cases filed under the anti-narcotics act. This addition brings the total number of specialized drug courts in the state up to 21.

According to a notification from the justice administration department, these new courts will be led by appointed judges across major areas like Faridabad, Gurugram, Panchkula, Rohtak, and Yamunanagar, with multiple extra courts set up in Fatehabad and Sirsa. The expansion was made because the state has seen a massive jump in drug-related offenses over recent years. Official records show that the state filed a record-breaking 3,738 cases under the narcotics act in 2025 alone, resulting in the

arrest of over 6,800 people, with total case numbers increasing every single year.

Haryana Launches 13 New Fast-Track Courts to Combat Escalating Narcotics Cases. In an effort to accelerate legal proceedings against drug trafficking, the Haryana state government has established 13 new exclusive fast-track special courts under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. This latest judicial expansion brings the total number of specialized anti-narcotics courts in the state to 21, marking a major milestone in the administration's ongoing campaign to dismantle illicit drug networks. According to an official notification issued by the administration of justice department, these new fast-track courts will be headed by Additional Ses-



sions Judges across several key regions. Individual special courts have been sanctioned for Faridabad, Gurugram, Panchkula, Rohtak, and Yamunanagar. Meanwhile, the districts facing a

higher volume of cases have received greater judicial reinforcement, with two new courts allocated to Fatehabad and six additional courts established in Sirsa to target regional hubs. The signifi-

cant expansion of the state's judicial machinery comes in direct response to a steep rise in narcotics-related offenses recorded over recent years. Official law enforcement data reveals that the state reg-

istered a record-breaking 3,738 cases under the NDPS Act in 2025 alone, which led to the arrest of more than 6,800 individuals. State officials expect that the phased rollout of these specialized courts will significantly expedite trials, reduce the backlog of pending litigation, and ensure that drug offenders are penalized without unnecessary delays.

The government of Haryana has taken a decisive step forward in its ongoing battle against the illicit drug trade by announcing a massive expansion of its judicial infrastructure. In a move aimed at tackling the systemic bottlenecks that often delay the prosecution of narcotics offenders, the state has cleared the path for faster legal proceedings. By focusing heavily on institutional reforms, the administration

hopes to send a powerful deterrent message to criminal syndicates operating within its borders.

This strategic judicial overhaul comes at a critical juncture when the proliferation of contraband substances has emerged as a major socio-economic challenge for the region. The state government recognizes that law enforcement efforts must be backed by a swift and efficient legal system to be truly effective. Without rapid trial completions, the impact of police crackdowns is often diluted, allowing offenders to exploit legal delays and continue their illicit operations.

To address these vulnerabilities, the state administration has officially sanctioned the creation of thirteen new exclusive fast-track special courts.

Young NCC Cadets Learn Lifesaving Field Skills at Annual Training Camp

Yamunanagar: The ninth day of a regional training camp held at a local school featured a series of helpful talks and hands-on exercises focused on developing young National Cadet Corps members. The multi-day camp is running under the direction of senior military commanders and training officers.

The daily routine started off with an interactive talk focusing on the physical and mental changes that teenagers experience as they grow. Following the discussions, the young cadets moved out to the open fields to take part in specialized shooting practice and learn essential field skills designed to build leadership, discipline, and personal confidence.

The annual National Cadet Corps (NCC) training camp in Yamunanagar has entered its final stages, focusing heavily on equipping young students with essential life skills, physical discipline, and mental resilience. Running under the guidance

of experienced military instructors, the comprehensive camp aims to foster a spirit of community service, teamwork, and personal growth among the next generation of leaders.

The curriculum of the camp balances theoretical knowledge with intensive outdoor training to provide a holistic learning experience. Instructors emphasize that the core purpose of these exercises is not just to teach specific tactical skills, but to build robust character, instill deep self-confidence, and prepare young citizens to handle real-world challenges with calm and decisive action. A significant portion of the morning sessions is dedicated to the personal development of the teenagers, addressing the unique challenges and transitions experienced during youth. Through interactive workshops, educators and mentors guide the cadets on navigating peer pressure, managing stress, and maintaining physical fitness, rein-

forcing the importance of mental well-being alongside physical stamina.

Following these developmental discussions, the training transitions to practical field exercises where cadets learn basic navigation, teamwork, and structured problem-solving under pressure. These hands-on activities encourage participants to step out of their comfort zones, communicate effectively with their peers, and understand the value of collaborative effort in achieving shared objectives.

The camp organizers highlighted that the discipline learned during these intensive sessions helps shape responsible, community-minded individuals who are ready to contribute positively to society. As the multi-day event draws to a close, the young cadets leave with enhanced leadership capabilities, a stronger sense of civic duty, and a network of lifelong friendships built on mutual respect and shared achievement.

Famous Viral Biryani Video Causes Large Corporations to Review Employee Rules

Gurugram: A viral video from a stand-up comedy show that caused a local tech worker to lose his job has started a massive debate across companies about how much they can control what employees do in their free time. The situation involves a 23-year-old web developer who was fired by a design firm after a clip showed him making controversial comments about a date.

The head of the company explained that they held an internal meeting before letting the worker go, saying his public comments hurt the team spirit and workplace environment. The legal trouble grew when the police booked both the worker and the comedian for harassment following an official complaint by a national women's rights group. The situation has caused human resource managers at many local startups and large consulting firms to discuss updating their official behavior guidelines to cover personal pub-



lic outings that end up on social media, since most current rules only mention general company reputation damage.

A viral video originating from a local stand-up comedy show in Gurugram has ignited a massive debate across the corporate sector regarding the boundaries of employee privacy and employer control.

The controversy, which centered on a young technology professional, has forced companies to re-examine the

legal and ethical extents to which an organization can regulate its workers' lives outside of office hours. What began as a routine evening of entertainment has rapidly transformed into a landmark case study for human resource departments nationwide.

The incident involves a twenty-three-year-old web developer who was abruptly terminated by a prominent digital design firm after a video clip circulated widely across multiple social media

platforms. In the recording, the individual was shown participating in an interactive crowd-work segment of a comedy performance, during which he made highly controversial and polarized comments about a recent dating experience. The digital footprint of the interaction spread exponentially within hours, drawing heavy criticism from various online communities and directly linking his personal views to his professional identity.

Following the public backlash, the executive leadership of the design firm convened an emergency internal meeting to assess the impact of the employee's viral statements on the company's corporate standing. The management ultimately decided that separation was the only viable path forward, asserting that the values expressed by the worker in the video were fundamentally incompatible with the inclusive environment they aim to cultivate.

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World Bank Approves Massive Four Thousand Crore Loan for State Water Projects

Chandigarh: The World Bank has approved a massive loan of 4,000 crore rupees to support a grand state water project aimed at making the region completely self-reliant for its water needs. The intensive management program will run for six years and split the state into 15 key working zones.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini shared that the incoming funds will be spent on rebuilding the state's remaining 678 canal routes and improving overall water delivery. He directed local departments to include vil-

lage-level water committees directly in building and managing local water tracks, promising that the government will create a special fund to help these local teams with regular repairs. The program plans to improve water channels for hundreds of thousands of farming acres, fix water-logged fields, and promote alternative rice planting methods. Additionally, the teams will fix up 147 natural water bodies across seven districts and reuse cleaned wastewater from major urban plants for farming.

The government of

Haryana has secured a monumental financial boost to transform its agricultural and rural water infrastructure, paving the way for complete self-reliance in water management. This development follows a major agreement with the World Bank, which has officially sanctioned a massive loan package worth 4,000 crore rupees. The capital influx is designed to fund a comprehensive, multi-layered water conservation and management program aimed at addressing long-standing ecological and logistical hurdles across the state.

This ambitious engineering and administrative initiative is projected to run for a continuous duration of six years, allowing for a structured, phased rollout of modern technologies.

To ensure that the massive project remains manageable and responsive to localized ecological demands, the state administration has decided to divide its territory into fifteen key working zones.

Each zone will be monitored by dedicated administrative units tasked with implementing customized solutions tailored to the spe-

cific soil types and hydrological challenges of those regions.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini formally announced the details of the project, highlighting that the incoming international funds will be utilized transparently to modernize the state's aging irrigation networks. A primary focus of the infrastructure drive will be the complete rebuilding and lining of the state's remaining 678 canal routes, which have suffered from structural degradation over the decades. By reinforcing these vital channels, the gov-

ernment intends to drastically minimize water loss caused by seepage and evaporation, ensuring that resources reach the tail-end of the fields.

The upgrading of these canal networks is expected to significantly optimize overall water delivery to rural communities, which have frequently faced water scarcity during peak sowing seasons. By improving the transit efficiency of the irrigation channels, the state can distribute its available river and regularized water resources more equitably. This structural improvement will pro-

vide immediate relief to agricultural communities that rely heavily on predictable, timely water supplies to sustain their livelihoods and protect seasonal crops.

In a move to foster transparency and long-term sustainability, Chief Minister Saini directed local departments to integrate grassroots communities directly into the project's executive framework. Village-level water committees will be formed and given the official responsibility to co-manage the construction and daily operations of local water tracks.

Mass Participation as Yoga Day Celebrated Across Northern States

Chandigarh: Top leaders and thousands of residents in Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh woke up early on Sunday to take part in mass yoga sessions. Gathering at grounds, colleges, and parks, people did breathing exercises and physical poses to highlight the benefits of healthy living and mental wellness.

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria joined the celebrations in Chandigarh, while judges, lawyers, and staff members from the High Court held an event at their iconic judicial landmark. BJP national leaders and local representatives, including party president Nitin Nabin, also gathered with students at Lovely Professional University in Phagwara. Nabin shared on social media that yoga is a special gift from ancient Indian thinkers that builds harmony between the body and mind.

In Haryana, Chief Minister Nayab Saini led a large gathering in Panchkula, and ministers Aman Arora and Balbir Singh took part in events across Sunam and Pa-



tiala. Saini called yoga a precious treasure from India's history that leads to inner calm and positive thinking. Other notable leaders like Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla joined sessions at the Parliament House in Delhi, while groups like the Bharatiya Yog Sansthan brought crowds out to Company Bagh in Amritsar to practice together.

The early morning hours of Sunday saw a massive mo-

bilization of citizens across the northern states of India as thousands gathered to celebrate the 12th annual International Day of Yoga. From bustling state capitals to remote rural blocks, the entire region transformed into a vast open-air fitness arena filled with people of all ages. This widespread civic participation highlights a growing collective awareness regarding the vital importance of preventive healthcare,

mental tranquility, and holistic physical well-being.

The multi-state celebrations were marked by an impressive display of unity, with top political dignitaries, legal luminaries, academic institutions, and grassroots volunteer organizations leading from the front. Participants began assembling at designated public parks, athletic stadiums, university campuses, and local community grounds well before

dawn broke over the horizon. The widespread enthusiasm transformed a standard weekend morning into a synchronized celebration of India's rich cultural heritage and ancient wellness traditions. In the union territory of Chandigarh, the central celebration was infused with immense administrative prestige as Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria arrived to lead the main gathering. Addressing thousands of enthusiastic practitioners assembled at Tiranga Park in Sector 17, the Governor emphasized that yoga transcends simple physical training. He noted that regular practice serves as a foundational pillar for building emotional resilience, reducing lifestyle stress, and fostering a deep sense of social harmony within the fast-paced modern world.

Simultaneously, the iconic judicial landscape of the Punjab and Haryana High Court became the venue for a highly dignified and reflective yoga session organized for the legal community.

Entire Police Station Transferred and Chief Officer Charged Over Missing Alcohol in Haryana

Fatehabad: In one of the largest departmental shake-ups in the district's recent history, the state police moved 49 workers out of the Fatehabad Sadar police station. The major step was taken after 160 cases of confiscated alcohol went missing from the station's secure storage house.

The issue came to light after an internal inquiry showed a massive gap between the official paperwork and the actual bottles left in the storehouse.

State police leaders assigned Assistant Superintendent Divyanshi Singla to check the inventory, which confirmed that the stock was gone. Following the investigation, the station's chief inspector, Prahlad Singh, was officially charged under the new criminal laws and moved to the police lines. The rest of the staff, including several sub-inspectors, constables, and temporary employees, were quickly reassigned to other locations.

The missing stock was part of a larger shipment of 950 liquor cases caught on a truck traveling from Punjab to Gujarat in early 2024. Even though the station had secured a court order to de-

stroy the illegal shipment the previous month, investigators think the items were shown as destroyed on paper but secretly sold or moved elsewhere. A special team led by DSP Jagdish Kajla has been set up to find out exactly who was involved in the crime.

In an unprecedented administrative action, the Haryana Police department has executed a wholesale transfer of an entire police station's staff following a major scandal involving missing evidence.

The sweeping disciplinary move saw forty-nine police personnel, ranging from senior sub-inspectors to temporary employees, simultaneously moved out of the Fatehabad Sadar police station.

This drastic step was taken to ensure a completely unbiased environment for the unfolding criminal investigation into internal corruption and systemic lack of oversight.

The immediate trigger for this massive institutional shake-up was the discovery that 160 cases of confiscated illicit alcohol had vanished from the station's ostensibly secure evidence storeroom,

known locally as the mal-khana. The disappearing inventory represents a significant breach of protocol, as items stored within these facilities are considered vital state property under judicial custody. The incident has raised serious questions regarding the internal security measures and auditing procedures practiced by local law enforcement officers.

The discrepancy first came to light during a routine internal review when senior police leaders noticed a glaring mismatch between the official logbooks and the actual physical stock present in the storehouse.

Sensing a deeper systemic issue, the top brass immediately ordered a formal, high-level inquiry to verify the status of the seized goods. The administration was determined to establish accountability, as the missing items directly compromised the integrity of the department's anti-smuggling operations.

To conduct a rigorous, impartial audit, state police leaders assigned Assistant Superintendent of Police Divyanshi Singla to personally inspect the Fatehabad Sadar inventory.

Smart AI Cameras and Flying Drones to Run First Tech-Driven Bird Count at Sultanpur Park

Gurugram: Sultanpur National Park is starting its very first digital bird count using advanced AI cameras mounted on high watchtowers and regular drone flights. The smart system will monitor bird flights, travel routes, and changing living environments across the protected wetland over several weeks.

Wildlife officials explained that this new method is far better than old counts that only lasted a single day or a few hours. The AI system is programmed to spot rare and endangered birds like bar-headed geese and spoonbills, while also tracking negative environmental shifts like shrinking water areas or drying plants. This

continuous tracking will build an accurate record of how climate changes and human activities alter bird travels over the years. The park sees more than 250 types of birds each year, but local records show total bird numbers have dropped significantly since 2023. While nature experts are happy about the technological upgrade, they suggest expanding the tracking to neighboring marsh areas like Chandu to get a complete picture. They also requested the forest department to share live video feeds online so that public birdwatchers can help study the migration trends. Sultanpur National Park, a premier Ramsar wetland site

located in the Gurugram district of Haryana, is breaking new ground in wildlife conservation by launching its first-ever technology-driven bird census. Moving away from standard manual observation methods that rely heavily on spot checks over just a few hours, the wildlife department is turning to high-tech digital infrastructure. This major transition aims to provide a continuous, highly detailed assessment of migratory patterns, species composition, and evolving habitat dynamics across the protected wildlife sanctuary. The backbone of this digital counting initiative involves the strategic installation of advanced Artificial Intelli-

gence cameras mounted on top of elevated watchtowers looking over the water. These specialized cameras are positioned to sweep both the open water bodies and surrounding terrestrial habitats, giving the AI system a wide vantage point. Operating continuously over several weeks, the smart lenses will monitor real-time flock movements, active arrival schedules, and subtle behavioral shifts among the thousands of avian visitors that flock to the park. To complement the stationary watchtower feeds, the forest department is integrating scheduled aerial drone flights to conduct systematic surveys across the entire sanctuary.

High Court Judges and Lawyers Swap Law Books for Yoga Mats on Special Anniversary

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court held a completely different kind of gathering on Sunday, as judges, legal workers, and court officers dressed in white shirts and track pants to celebrate the global day of yoga. There were absolutely no legal cases to listen to and no official judgments to pass during the morning event.

The large crowd formed perfect rows across the open plaza of the famous court complex, moving together through various stretches and breathing exercises under the guidance of expert teachers. The session followed the central govern-

ment's special health theme for the year, which focuses on keeping the body active and healthy as people grow older. The visiting yoga experts explained to the gathering that this ancient practice is a wonderful gift that builds physical strength, cuts down daily stress, and brings peace of mind, making it a perfect tool for people living busy, fast-paced modern lives.

The sprawling, iconic complex of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in Chandigarh became the center of a unique gathering this Sunday morning as the legal fraternity paused its demanding schedules. Judges,

senior advocates, legal researchers, and administrative staff members gathered in large numbers to observe the International Day of Yoga. Leaving behind their traditional black robes and voluminous law books, participants arrived dressed uniformly in white sports attire and track pants, ready to engage in a morning dedicated entirely to physical wellness and mental clarity. The peaceful atmosphere across the high court plaza offered a stark and welcoming contrast to the intense, high-pressure environments that typically characterize the premier judicial institution.

For a few hours, the focus shifted completely away from pending legal cases, complex constitutional arguments, and the delivery of official judgments. Instead, the open architectural spaces designed by Le Corbusier were filled with rows of yoga mats, creating a synchronized visual display of collective health and institutional unity under the morning sky. Guided by certified yoga masters and wellness experts, the large gathering systematically moved through a series of traditional physical postures, flexibility stretches, and deep breathing exercises.

Over Fifteen Lakh Farmers Receive Major Financial Aid Direct to Bank Accounts

Chandigarh: Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that local farming families have gained massive benefits from central welfare policies after the Prime Minister released the latest round of financial assistance. During a celebration event in Panchkula, Saini shared that over 319 crore rupees were sent straight into the bank accounts of more than 15.95 lakh farmers in the state.

The leader explained that this helpful money reaches the farmers directly using automated systems, meaning there are no middlemen, extra fees, or hidden commissions involved. With this new payment, the state's agricultural community has received a grand total of over 7,881 crore rupees from the program. The Chief Minister added that modern, technology-based governance has completely updated how public aid is delivered, ensuring total clarity and respect for the people who feed the nation. He also promised that the state will continue supporting farmers by buying all 24 local crops at fixed minimum support prices.

The agricultural landscape of Haryana has received a massive economic boost following the successful disbursement of the latest round of central welfare funds aimed at securing rural livelihoods. In a widespread display of technological governance, the state administration oversaw a seamless transfer of critical financial



assistance directly into the hands of the farming community. This development underlines a broader national push to leverage digital public infrastructure to stabilize the agrarian economy and provide immediate relief to food growers.

The celebratory announcement was made public during a state-level event titled "PM Kisan Utsav Diwas," organized at a designated public venue in the district of Panchkula. While addressing a large gathering of agricultural stakeholders, community leaders, and senior administrative officials, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini lauded the collaborative strength of state and central welfare policies. The event served as a platform to highlight how coordinated policy execution can drastically improve the economic resilience of rural households. During his keynote

address, Chief Minister Saini revealed that a massive sum of 319.13 crore rupees had been successfully processed and disbursed in a single day. This large-scale capital injection was funneled directly into the verified bank accounts of exactly 15,95,644 beneficiary farmers residing across various rural districts of Haryana. The massive scale of the rollout reflects the administrative capacity of the state to execute high-volume financial transactions without encountering technical bottlenecks.

The Chief Minister placed heavy emphasis on the operational mechanics of the fund delivery, pointing out that the entire operation was conducted via Direct Benefit Transfer systems. By utilizing automated, end-to-end encrypted banking channels, the government has effectively eliminated the need

for traditional intermediary layers that historically slowed down public aid distribution. This direct-to-account approach ensures that every single rupee cleared by the government reaches its intended recipient without unauthorized cuts.

The eradication of middlemen, hidden transaction fees, and administrative commissions marks a major departure from past welfare distribution models that frequently suffered from leakages. Under the current digital framework, the state ensures total clarity and maintains an unalterable electronic audit trail for every transaction.

This level of transparency has been instrumental in building trust between the farming community and state institutions, giving smallholders greater confidence in government promises.

Two Districts Lead the Way as Clean Solar Power Expands Across North Haryana

Kaithal: A new central government free electricity plan is receiving a great response across northern Haryana, with thousands of families setting up solar panels on their roofs. Power officials want to install one lakh residential solar systems by early 2027, and they have already passed the halfway mark by completing over 51,000 installations.

Under this green energy program, families receive large financial subsidies of up to 1.10 lakh rupees, which helps them afford clean energy setups while drastically dropping their monthly power bills. The district of Kurukshetra is currently leading the entire region by completing nearly 84 percent of its local goal, with 7,130 homes successfully connected. The neighboring district of Ambala is holding strong in second place, having set up close to 6,900 solar systems, while areas like Kaithal are also showing steady progress every week.

The landscape of northern Haryana is undergoing a



major technological transformation as thousands of residential households actively adopt renewable energy alternatives. Driven by a newly introduced central government initiative focused on providing accessible, free electricity, families are re-engineering their home infrastructure to inte-

grate clean solar technology. This strategic shift away from traditional, coal-dependent power grids marks a significant milestone in the state's environmental journey, positioning rural and semi-urban communities at the forefront of the green energy movement. The primary administrative goal estab-

lished by regional power distribution companies is both highly ambitious and tightly scheduled, aiming to reshape the local energy grid entirely within a short timeframe. Energy policymakers have set a clear target to successfully install one lakh residential rooftop solar systems across the designated north-

ern districts by the early months of 2027. This target is not merely a hypothetical projection but a binding policy directive that local utility sub-divisions are tracking with rigorous weekly audits.

Recent progress reports released by the state's power administration department indicate that the intensive deployment strategy is yielding highly successful outcomes on the ground. According to the latest official field data, the execution teams have already passed the critical halfway mark of their regional objective by completing over 51,000 successful household installations. This rapid progress highlights the operational readiness of local contractors and the high level of trust the public has placed in the newly introduced green initiatives.

The widespread popularity and rapid adoption of this residential clean energy program are largely driven by the substantial financial subsidies provided by the government.

Union Minister Says Karnal Will Stay in National Capital Region and Slams Rival Parties

Karnal: Union Minister Manohar Lal stated that the ongoing debates about removing Karnal from the National Capital Region are no longer relevant because previous regulatory problems have been resolved. He noted that all neighboring states have agreed to a revised plan that deals with local issues.

The minister pointed out that strict environmental rules in the region used to cause problems for further districts. Under the updated policy, these restrictions will roll out in slow steps, starting with Delhi and its closest boundary lines, while outer areas will face them later if needed. Speaking to journalists at a local rest house, he also mentioned that a new fast transit rail link for Karnal is expected to get final approval from the central cabinet within a week.

During his busy two-day regional visit, the minister filled out his voter check form for the state's cleanup campaign. He asked the public to join the drive, explaining that it is meant to fix double entries and guarantee clean elections rather than delete real voters. He also re-

jected opposition demands for the education minister to step down over recent exam leaks, calling the protests pointless arguments that get in the way of real progress.

The ongoing administrative debates and political discussions surrounding the potential exclusion of Karnal from the National Capital Region have officially been laid to rest following a comprehensive policy review. Union Minister Manohar Lal stated that the previous bureaucratic hurdles and regulatory friction that prompted calls for regional reconfiguration have been successfully ironed out. The decision brings immense clarity to real estate developers, local businesses, and residents who had been anxious about how a change in regional status might impact the district's long-term economic growth and infrastructure funding.

The administrative breakthrough was made possible after an extensive series of high-level consultations involving the central government and representatives from all neighboring states within the region's grid. These stakeholders collec-

tively agreed to a newly revised regional master plan that specifically addresses the unique logistical and geographical challenges faced by outer districts. By choosing a collaborative approach rather than implementing sweeping, uniform changes, the regulatory body managed to create a balanced framework that satisfies both development needs and environmental mandates.

A primary source of friction in the past was the rigid application of strict environmental rules across the entire expanse of the National Capital Region, regardless of a district's actual distance from the capital core. In previous years, when pollution levels spiked in the capital, emergency restrictions on construction, industrial operations, and vehicular movement were automatically slapped onto far-off districts like Karnal. This blanket enforcement caused massive disruptions to local economies, halted critical infrastructure projects midway, and burdened businesses with compliance costs that did not align with their local environmental realities.



Shubman Gill to lead India in ODIs against England; Rohit, Kohli in squad

Mumbai: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Sunday announced India's ODI squad for the upcoming three-match series against England, naming Shubman Gill as captain and Shreyas Iyer as vice-captain. The series will be played at Edgbaston, Sophia Gardens and Lord's from July 14 to July 19.

The selection reflects the continuation of India's structured ODI transition, with Gill leading the side as part of a long-term leadership plan and Iyer forming the immediate support in the leadership group.

Senior players Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have been retained, providing experience and stability within a squad that also features a developing core group being gradually integrated into the ODI setup.

The squad places strong emphasis on balance and versatility, with all-rounders Washington Sundar,



Axar Patel and Nitish Kumar Reddy included to strengthen both batting depth and bowling flexibility across conditions.

In the pace department, Jasprit

Bumrah leads a varied attack that includes Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana and Gurnoor Brar, offering a mix of experience, left-arm variation and emerging pace

options suited to English conditions.

Kuldeep Yadav remains the primary specialist spinner, with additional support available through the all-rounder group, reflecting a more streamlined spin structure in the ODI setup. KL Rahul continues as wicket-keeper-batter, providing stability in the middle order, while Ishan Kishan has also been included as an additional wicketkeeping option, adding flexibility to the batting order.

The overall composition highlights India's phased squad-building approach, combining senior experience with a younger core being shaped for long-term ODI requirements and overseas adaptability.

In a separate development, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's inclusion in the Ireland T20I squad underscores India's parallel focus on strengthening its talent pipeline across formats, alongside its structured ODI transition process.

Jharkhand trio part of FIH Women's Nations Cup triumph

Ranchi: India scripted a memorable triumph at the FIH Women's Nations Cup 2025-26 by defeating New Zealand 2-0 in the final at Auckland on Sunday, clinching the prestigious title in dominant fashion. The victory marked a significant milestone for Indian women's hockey, as the team not only lifted the trophy but also secured qualification for the FIH Pro League 2026-27. The achievement has sparked celebrations across the country, especially in Jharkhand, which played a major role in India's successful campaign.

Leading the Indian side with confidence and determination was captain Salima Tete from Jharkhand. Under her leadership, India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, showcasing



remarkable consistency, teamwork and tactical discipline.

Salima's leadership on and off the field drew widespread praise as she guided the team through high-pressure encounters and into the championship-winning final.

India made a dream start in the title clash, putting pressure on the hosts right from the opening whistle.

The aggressive approach paid off in just the fourth minute when India earned a penalty corner. Forward Navneet Kaur capitalized on the opportunity and converted it brilliantly, giving India an early 1-0 lead and setting the tone for the match.

The early goal boosted India's confidence, and the team continued to dominate possession with sharp passing and quick transitions.

Gardner provides update on Australia's injury concerns

Southampton: Australia are on the brink of locking up a spot in the final four after their 98-run win over the Netherlands.

They remain unbeaten from three Women's T20 World Cup affairs to sit clear in Group A. But concerns arose during their encounter with the Dutch as star keeper-batter Beth Mooney retired hurt on 74 from 42 balls with a back complaint.

It comes amid an ankle concern for Gardner, who was cleared to play against the Netherlands, and Phoebe Litchfield's quad issue suffered in their tournament opener against South Africa. Litchfield is aiming to make a return for the Aussies' blockbuster clash against India on June 28 at Lord's.

Mooney didn't take part in Australia's second innings, with fellow opener Georgia Voll taking the gloves. And despite Voll filling in admirably, the fitness of Mooney will be key to the Aussies securing a semi-final berth and re-claiming World Cup glory for the first time since 2023, according to ICC.



"Just precautionary for Moons," Gardner confirmed post-game.

"Obviously we have such a big tournament, two more huge round games, and then hopefully some finals. So yeah, don't want to push where we don't have to.

"And my ankle was good. Yeah, obviously made a full recovery to be able to be confident enough to play today. It's certainly still bruised. But that's just the

theatrics of it, but yeah, all is good."

Gardner clearly overcame her troublesome ankle, smashing 58 off 32 balls with nine boundaries, helping Australia notch a daunting total of 219/6 - an insurmountable target for the Netherlands.

Asked whether the side pays any notice of external speculation that the team has lost its heir of invincibility, Gardner dismissed the no-

tion. "It's certainly not language that we would ever use within our environment," she said.

"(The media) can talk about our team that way. We always come into these tournaments and there is an expectation that Australia should do well, but I think within our group at the moment, we're staying so present in what the moment is and taking the positives and the learnings out of each game, each training session, and focusing on that, controlling what we can control.

"We can't control what people say about us, but if we back our best cricket, we know that we can beat most teams. So I think just believing that is the biggest thing for us."

The Aussies will all but seal their ticket to the final four with a win over Pakistan on Tuesday, even before their last pool stage encounter with India.

They'll be sweating on the respective recoveries of Litchfield's quad and Mooney's back ailments in the coming days.

Wahab disappointed after Pakistan crash out of T20 World Cup

Southampton: Pakistan women's team coach Wahab Riaz expressed deep disappointment after Pakistan crashed out of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup following a defeat to Bangladesh on Saturday. The loss ended Pakistan's hopes of reaching the semi-finals, marking a disappointing campaign for the Asian side after suffering their third consecutive defeat in the tournament.

Pakistan's elimination came after they failed to chase down Bangladesh's modest total of 123/6 at the Hampshire Bowl. Despite entering the contest with hopes of reviving their campaign, the side once again struggled under pressure, allowing a manageable target to slip from their grasp. The defeat highlighted recurring problems in Pakistan's batting unit, particularly their inability to maintain composure during crucial moments. Reflecting on the team's early exit, Wahab said the result was particularly painful because he believed Pakistan had largely beaten themselves rather than being outclassed by stronger opponents. According to the coach, the side repeatedly surrendered promising positions due to poor execution and lack of game awareness.

Wahab stressed that the main issue was not the opposition overpowering Pakistan, but rather Pakistan's own inability to finish games. He noted that in all three matches, the team had opportunities to seize control but failed to capitalize, allowing matches to drift away through unforced mistakes and lapses in



concentration.

Pakistan's chase had begun on a positive note, giving supporters hope of a successful run pursuit. Openers Muneeba Ali and Gull Feroza laid a solid foundation with a 49-run opening partnership. Muneeba contributed 25 runs, while Gull added 23, ensuring Pakistan kept pace with the required run rate in the early stages. The opening stand suggested Pakistan were comfortably on course to chase the target. Both batters showed patience and composure, rotating strike effectively while punishing loose deliveries. Their partnership provided the ideal platform for the middle order to build on and guide the team home.

However, once the opening partnership was broken, Pakistan's innings unraveled dramatically. A sudden middle-order collapse shifted momentum firmly in Bangladesh's favor. Wickets fell at regular intervals, and the batters struggled to absorb pressure or rebuild partnerships, causing panic within the chase.

Captain Fatima Sana attempted to

stabilize the innings but received little support from the lower order. Fatima managed just 10 runs and was among only four Pakistan batters to reach double figures during the chase, underlining the extent of the batting failure.

Wahab pointed out that Pakistan had been moving at the right pace for most of the innings. With the required rate below six runs per over, the chase remained well within reach. However, poor shot selection, miscalculated risks and a lack of situational awareness proved costly.

The coach emphasized that senior players must shoulder greater responsibility in pressure situations. He argued that experienced batters need to read match scenarios better and guide the team through difficult passages instead of allowing collapses to derail the innings. According to Wahab, matches should only be lost when the opposition earns victory through exceptional play. He expressed frustration that Pakistan repeatedly handed games away without forcing rivals to work hard for success. This inability to close out matches remains a major concern for the team management. The recurring collapses have exposed mental and tactical weaknesses within Pakistan's squad. While the team has shown flashes of quality throughout the tournament, inconsistency has prevented them from converting promising performances into victories. Addressing these shortcomings will be crucial moving forward.

Shorna Akter turns match-winner as Bangladesh outclass Pakistan

Southampton: Shorna Akter produced a defining all-round performance as Bangladesh Women defeated Pakistan Women by 23 runs in a Group A match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 at The Rose Bowl on Saturday.

Bangladesh posted 123 for 6 in 20 overs after opting to bat, with skipper Nigar Sultana anchoring the innings with a composed 36 off 38 balls, while Sobhana Mostary added 22 off 19 to provide stability through the

middle overs. The decisive surge came in the death overs as Shorna Akter unleashed a blazing unbeaten 39 off 22 balls, striking a series of timely boundaries to lift Bangladesh to a competitive total. Rabeya Khan's late contribution further strengthened the finish as Bangladesh capitalised on the final overs.

Pakistan's bowlers had early success through Fatima Sana, who returned 2 for 18, while Nashra Sandhu, Tasmia Rubab and Tuba



Hassan picked up a wicket each. However, they were unable to contain Bangla-

desh's late acceleration. In reply, Pakistan Women were restricted to 100 for 8 in 20 overs, never recovering from early setbacks and a sustained spin choke in the middle phase. Gull Feroza (23) and Muneeba Ali (25) offered brief resistance, but regular breakthroughs ensured the chase never gained momentum. Nahida Akter and Shanjida Akter Meghla led Bangladesh's bowling effort with three wickets each, dismantling Pakistan's middle order with disciplined

spells at crucial stages. Rabeya Khan and Ritu Moni also chipped in with important breakthroughs as Pakistan collapsed under pressure. A key turning point came when Fatima Sana was dismissed off Nahida Akter's bowling, with Shorna Akter completing a sharp catch at long-on, underlining her all-round impact on the contest. With this victory, Bangladesh strengthened their position in Group A, moving to third place with four points from three matches.

Around 450 runners attend J&K Sports Council's Mini Marathon

Jammu: Nearly 450 runners today participated in the Mini Marathon organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council under 'My Youth My Pride' initiative here at Maulana Azad Stadium. As per the official communicate, the marathon was organised under the guidance of Nuzhat Gull, Secretary, J&K Sports Council.

As per the communicate, around 450 athletes (boys and girls) in Under-12 and Above-18 age group categories participated in the event showcasing remarkable en-

ergy, determination, and sporting spirit.

Divisional Sports Officer, Jammu, Bashir Ahmed was the chief guest on the occasion. He emphasized the importance of regular physical activity and sports in promoting a healthy lifestyle among youth. He also appreciated the efforts of the J&K Sports Council in providing a platform for young athletes to demonstrate their talent and develop a spirit of fitness and healthy competition.

"The marathon aimed to encourage youth participation in sports, spread aware-

ness about fitness, and inspire the younger generation to adopt an active and disciplined lifestyle," he stated.

The event however, also highlighted the commitment of the J&K Sports Council towards nurturing sporting talent and promoting sports culture across the union Territory. The participants, coaches, parents, and officials applauded the initiative and expressed gratitude to the J&K Sports Council for organizing such meaningful sporting events under the flagship programme "My Youth My Pride."

Dynamic duo Kemp & Gibson proving key to England's hopes at T20 World Cup

Headingley: Hard-hitting all-rounders Freya Kemp and Dani Gibson loom as vital ingredients in England's bid to claim the ICC Women's T20 World Cup title on home soil next month.

At least that is the view of top-order batter Sophia Dunkley, after she combined with Kemp and Gibson to maintain England's unbeaten record at the tournament so far with an impressive 38-run triumph over Scotland at Headingley on Saturday.

Dunkley hit 57 from just 37 deliveries in what was her first match of the tournament, while Kemp (39 not out) and Gibson (30 not out) showed their prowess with an unbeaten stand of 61 late in the innings to help catapult England to a match-winning total of 200/5.

"It was an absolutely amazing partnership, and those two (Kemp and Gibson) are amazing at that role," Dunkley said after the

match. "Kemp has got so much power down the ground, and Gibber (Gibson) as well, hitting square. So they're a great combination.

"To have a partnership like that at the end gives us, as a top-order, a lot of confidence. Trying to set the game up and knowing that we can go really hard at the backend if we need to, which is great."

Kemp and Gibson have battled to maintain their place in England's first-choice XI in recent years for a variety of reasons, but the duo seem to have found their groove and are appearing among the options coach Charlotte Edwards wishes to utilise going forward, according to ICC. The pair are both strong strikers of the ball and equally adept at contributing with the ball and Dunkley believes their inclusion provides the side a better balance to succeed. "I think we've probably maybe lacked a little bit of power at

the backend, and it's nice to have some real six hitters coming in and give us that momentum as well, which is so important going into the second innings," Dunkley said.

"They're such great all-round players, and to see a performance like that is really special. So it was great to watch as well."

While Dunkley may still find herself on the outer when skipper Nat Sciver-Brunton returns from her calf injury, England now have more options at their disposal and a well-balanced top six that can make a bid for a second T20 World Cup title next month. "I think we complement each other really well all down the order. And to have finishes like that is great," Dunkley noted.

"I think Heather (Knight) is obviously so experienced and they've had to play loads of different situations and in different conditions, which is amazing.

AIFF approves Bharat rebranding amid sweeping reforms

New Delhi: The governance of Indian football is headed for a historic reset, with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) approving a proposal to rename itself as the Football Federation of Bharat (FFB) as part of a wide-ranging constitutional overhaul cleared during its Special General Body Meeting (SGBM) on Saturday. The proposal, which will now be placed before the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) for final approval, emerged as one of the most significant outcomes of a meeting that reshaped administrative, electoral and competitive structures across Indian football.

The General Body, attended virtually by representatives of member associations, Executive Committee members, and observers

from FIFA and the AFC, unanimously approved a revised Constitution aligned with the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, following deliberations on inputs from across the federation.

Officials described the overhaul as a structural reset aimed at bringing the national body in line with new governance norms introduced after the NSGA 2025 adoption in Kolkata earlier this year. Alongside the proposed rebranding, the General Body cleared the formation of an AIFF Election Panel to oversee electoral processes across member associations. The panel will include former Chief Election Commissioner of India Sunil Arora, former Delhi Police Director General Dr Vivek Gogia, and retired CBI officer Surinder Singh Gurm, tasked with en-



surging transparency and compliance in football governance.

The meeting also confirmed September 4, 2026, as the kickoff date for the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026-27 season and approved the domestic calendar for the upcoming cycle.

On the sporting front, the AIFF approved a significant overhaul of player eligibility rules for the ISL and Indian Football League (IFL), al-

lowing clubs to field three foreign players and one OCI player in the starting XI, while mandating the presence of at least one Indian striker on the field for the full 90 minutes to strengthen domestic attacking development. The federation also introduced a directive that the National Anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' and National Song 'Vande Mataram' will be played before all AIFF-sanctioned matches, adding a for-

mal ceremonial protocol across competitions. In disciplinary reforms, the General Body approved stricter measures on abusive conduct by officials, stronger anti-discrimination rules aligned with FIFA's three-step protocol, enhanced spectator misconduct provisions, and revised appeal fees. Further administrative reforms included approval of the 2027-28 season calendar, digitised CRS registration linked with DigiLocker to prevent duplication, automatic deletion of unpaid player profiles after seven days, and continued fee waiver for U18 female players. Tournament registration fees were reduced from Rs 25,000 to Rs 15,000, while a nominal CRS fee of Rs 118 (inclusive of GST) was fixed for U12 male players as part of grassroots development measures.



US-Iran peace talks, oil prices and foreign investors to drive markets this week

New Delhi: The Indian stock markets are expected to remain sensitive to a mix of global and domestic cues in the upcoming week, with investor sentiment likely to be shaped by geopolitical developments, crude oil prices, foreign fund flows and major economic data releases. Market participants are expected to remain cautious as several external factors could trigger volatility across key sectors.

One of the biggest factors influencing market direction will be the ongoing diplomatic developments involving the United States and Iran. Any progress or escalation in talks between the two nations could have a direct impact on global risk appetite, especially in energy markets. Investors are expected to closely monitor statements and developments linked to these discussions.

Attention is also centered on JD Vance, who is expected to closely track developments in US-Iran negotiations. Any indication of easing tensions could support global equities, while rising geopolitical uncertainty may lead investors toward safer assets and increase market volatility.

Crude oil prices will remain another crucial market driver for Indian equities. Rising oil prices often increase concerns over inflation, fiscal pressure and India's import bill, given the



country's heavy dependence on imported crude. Higher energy costs can negatively impact sectors such as aviation, paints, logistics and consumer goods.

Recent oil price movement has already drawn market attention. Brent crude futures rose 66 cents, or 0.53 percent, to USD 80.38 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude advanced 94 cents, or 1.23 percent, to USD 77.54 per barrel. Sustained upward momentum in crude could weigh on market sentiment in the near term.

Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) activity will also be a major factor in determining market direction. Foreign inflows often provide crucial liquidity support to Indian equities and influence broader market trends. Investors will closely track whether foreign institutions continue

their recent buying momentum. Encouragingly, FPIs remained net buyers in the cash market during the week ending June 19, purchasing equities worth Rs 3,386 crore. Continued foreign buying could support benchmark indices and improve confidence, particularly in large-cap stocks. Currency movement will also remain under watch. The Indian rupee staged a strong recovery after touching a low of 96.96 against the US dollar, eventually closing at 94.34 on June 19. Market participants will monitor whether the rupee can sustain this recovery amid global macroeconomic uncertainty. The rupee's performance is especially important because currency weakness can amplify imported inflation and affect foreign investment flows. A stable or strengthening rupee generally boosts investor

confidence and supports capital inflows into emerging markets like India.

Primary market activity is also expected to generate investor interest, with several initial public offerings scheduled for launch. IPO activity often provides insight into investor appetite and overall market liquidity during uncertain periods.

Among the key upcoming IPOs, companies such as Waterways Leisure Tourism, Advit Jewels and CSM Technologies are set to open subscriptions on June 24. These offerings will likely attract attention from both retail and institutional investors. Global markets will also keep an eye on important macroeconomic data from the United States. The upcoming release of the core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index for May is particularly

significant, as it is one of the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation indicators.

The PCE inflation data could influence expectations regarding future US interest rate decisions. Stronger-than-expected inflation may raise concerns about prolonged higher rates, potentially affecting global equity markets and capital flows into emerging economies.

Sector-wise, information technology stocks are likely to remain under pressure and closely watched by investors. Last week, IT emerged as the worst-performing sector, declining more than 3.6 percent. Weakness in global tech sentiment and concerns over spending trends continue to weigh on the sector.

Since Indian IT companies derive a significant share of revenue from overseas clients, especially from the US, global economic uncertainty and currency fluctuations can heavily influence valuations. Investors will watch whether the sector stabilizes or faces further correction. Additionally, trading activity will be slightly shorter next week as Indian stock markets will remain closed on Friday on account of Muharram. With fewer trading sessions and multiple global triggers in play, volatility may remain elevated, making the coming week an important one for investors navigating the Indian equity markets.

Singareni rejects coal theft allegations, highlights robust digital monitoring system

Hyderabad: Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has strongly rejected recent media reports alleging theft or disappearance of coal, asserting that its coal production, transportation and sales operations are managed through a highly secure and transparent monitoring framework supported by advanced digital technology. The company said its systems ensure strict accountability at every stage of coal movement, from extraction at mines to final delivery to consumers.

In a clarification issued on Sunday, SCCL management emphasized that every step of coal handling is digitally recorded and continuously monitored through integrated online platforms such as SAP and Coal Net. These systems are designed to provide end-to-end visibility of coal movement, minimizing the possibility of pilferage or unauthorized diversion.

According to the company, digital monitoring begins right from coal production at the mines. Once coal is extracted, its movement through stockyards, coal handling facilities and transport networks is logged into centralized systems that maintain real-time records of dispatch and delivery data.

SCCL stated that nearly 85 percent of the coal it produces is transported via railway networks, while the remaining 15 percent is moved through road transport. This extensive logistics network



requires constant coordination and surveillance, which the company says is handled through multiple technological safeguards.

Coal allocation to consumers is managed using an SAP-based digital system. This platform records key supply details in advance, including the consumer's identity, source mine, quantity allocated and scheduled date of dispatch. Such pre-recorded data ensures greater transparency in supply chain management. The company noted that information related to every tonne of coal is tracked in real time through interconnected digital platforms. This enables authorities to compare production, dispatch and delivery data instantly, helping detect discrepancies without delay.

For coal transported by road, SCCL uses electronic weighbridges to measure vehicle loads accurately before dispatch. These automated weighing systems help ensure that the quantity loaded matches the quantity officially recorded in the system. Vehicle movement is further monitored through RFID-

enabled boom barriers installed at key entry and exit points. RFID technology allows automated identification and tracking of authorized transport vehicles, reducing manual intervention and enhancing operational security. In addition, GPS and GPRS-based vehicle tracking systems are used to monitor the location and movement of coal-carrying trucks throughout their journey. Geofencing technology provides an additional layer of control by issuing alerts if vehicles deviate from designated routes. For railway transport, SCCL said loading and dispatch details of every wagon are digitally recorded. This includes data on the source location, quantity loaded and destination, ensuring that rail consignments remain traceable across the supply chain. The company also maintains round-the-clock surveillance through a wide network of CCTV cameras. Monitoring systems are deployed across mines, Coal Handling Plants (CHPs), railway sidings, stockyards and all key entry-exit points to ensure constant oversight.

Country Club marks International Yoga Day, launches 'Country Caterers' venture

Hyderabad: Country Club Hospitality & Holidays celebrated the 12th International Day of Yoga across its properties nationwide on Sunday and announced the launch of a new premium business vertical, "Country Caterers," along with plans for international expansion and future growth initiatives.

The celebrations were inaugurated by Country Club Founder and Chairman Y. Rajeev Reddy at Country Club Hyderabad in the presence of Tollywood actresses Vedvika Soni and Dollysha.

The two actresses joined Reddy in launching Country Caterers, a premium event management and catering venture focused on destination weddings, birthday celebrations and corporate events at Country Club properties.

The yoga session, hosted by celebrity emcee and television anchor Anukriti Shar-

ma, featured Hatha Yoga, Pranayama, Yoga Nidra, Surya Namaskaras and Chandra Namaskaras, promoting holistic wellness among participants.

Addressing the media, Rajeev Reddy said the nationwide yoga initiative was in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of promoting yoga and wellness globally. He noted that Country Club members across India participated in synchronized yoga sessions conducted at multiple locations.

Country Club's Yoga Brand Ambassador Simran Ahuja conducted a live interactive yoga session from The Krish Resorts in Phuket, Thailand, which was streamed to members across India.

Reddy also announced that the company is exploring new partner properties and strategic international collaborations to further strengthen its global hospitality presence.

India-EU trade pact to be signed by Dec; implemented from Feb-Mar next year: Goyal

New Delhi: India and the 27-nation European Union will sign the free trade agreement by December and are likely to implement the pact during February-March next year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday. On January 27 this year, India and the EU announced the conclusion of negotiations for the 'mother of all deals'.

"Now, with almost zero duty, almost the entire European market will be open for us. The EU's FTA (free trade agreement) will be signed by December and will be effective

by February-March," Goyal said during an interaction with chartered accountants in Mumbai. He also said that his US Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer, is coming to India this week to hold trade pact talks with him.

"The whole world is looking towards India," he added. Under the India-EU FTA, about 93 per cent of Indian shipments will enjoy duty-free access to the 27-nation bloc, while imports of luxury cars and wines from the EU will become less expensive.



Taken together, India and the EU account for 25 per cent of the global GDP and one-third (about USD 11 trillion) of international trade (about USD 33 trillion).

Later, he told reporters that during the G7 Summit in France, the Canadian Prime Minister expressed a desire to conclude the proposed free trade agreement with India this year.

The two sides held the second round of negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in May.

Tata Motors secures 3,400-plus eCV orders in boost to India's commercial EV push

Mumbai: Tata Motors has secured more than 3,400 electric commercial vehicle (eCV) orders across freight, logistics and passenger mobility segments, signalling growing adoption of electric mobility in India's commercial vehicle sector. Announcing the development on Sunday, the company said the orders mark "a significant inflection point in the mainstream adoption of electric mobility for both freight and passenger transport in India."

According to the company, the orders include around 2,000 small commercial vehicles (SCVs) and pick-ups, about 900 trucks and nearly 500 buses deployed across sectors such

as e-commerce, logistics, FMCG and FMCD distribution, intra-city mobility, cement, steel, mining and passenger transportation. "The orders comprising Rs 2,000 SCVs and pick-ups, Rs 900 trucks, and Rs 500 buses-cut across a diverse range of applications, from e-commerce, logistics, FMCG and FMCD distribution, and intra-city mobility to demanding sectors such as cement, steel, mining, and tarmac operations, alongside inter- and intra-city passenger transport," the company said. Highlighting the significance of the order win, Tata Motors said the broad deployment of electric commercial vehicles reflects rising confidence among



customers in EV technology.

"This wide-ranging deployment underscores growing customer confidence in electric mobility solutions in real-world conditions and strengthens Tata Motors' leadership in advancing India's zero-emission commercial mobility

agenda. It also signals a decisive shift from pilot programmes to scaled, operational integration of EVs across use cases," the company said. The company said electric mobility in commercial vehicles is moving beyond the early adoption stage and is now witnessing wider deployment across

different applications.

"Electric mobility in commercial vehicles is shifting from early adoption to large-scale deployment in India, with usage expanding across segments and real-world applications," Tata Motors said, adding that it is supporting customers through charging, financing, fleet management and uptime solutions to facilitate EV adoption.

Over the past year, Tata Motors has expanded its electric commercial vehicle portfolio with products across small, intermediate and heavy-duty segments, including electric pick-ups, trucks, tippers and buses designed for varied operating conditions.

India remains ADB's largest private sector market; lender eyes USD 1 billion direct support in 2026

New Delhi: India continues to remain the largest market for private sector operations of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), underlining the country's growing importance in the institution's investment strategy. The Manila-based multilateral lender is expected to provide about USD 1 billion in direct private sector financing this year to support projects aligned with India's development priorities.

According to Bhargav Dasgupta, ADB maintained strong investment momentum in India during 2025. He noted that the institution provided more than USD 4 billion in sovereign financing and over USD 1 billion in private sector financing from its own capital last year, reflecting broad-based support for infrastructure and economic development.

Beyond direct lending, ADB also played a major catalytic role by mobilizing additional capital from external sources. Dasgupta said the bank raised an amount roughly equal to its own private sector commitments from other funding channels, effectively doubling total capital flow to India's private sector.

As a result, total funding routed to India's private sector through ADB reached nearly USD 2 billion in 2025. This combination of direct financing and capital mobilization demonstrates ADB's increasing emphasis on leveraging partnerships to expand development impact.

Looking ahead to 2026, Dasgupta indicated that



ADB intends to maintain the same pace of private sector engagement. The lender expects to continue supporting strategic sectors that contribute to sustainable economic growth and India's transition toward a low-carbon future.

Clean and renewable energy remains one of ADB's most important focus areas. Investments in solar, wind and other clean energy technologies are expected to remain central to the institution's financing strategy as India accelerates efforts to expand non-fossil fuel capacity and reduce emissions.

ADB also sees significant potential in green hydrogen, which is emerging as a critical component of the clean energy transition. Financing in this area could help support India's ambitions to become a major producer and exporter of green hydrogen for industrial and energy use.

Electric mobility, or e-mobility, is another priority sector for private sector financing. With growing

adoption of electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure such as charging networks and battery ecosystems, ADB views this sector as essential for reducing transport-related emissions and promoting sustainable urban mobility.

Green data centres have also emerged as a new financing theme. As digital infrastructure expands rapidly across India, environmentally sustainable data centres powered by renewable energy are becoming increasingly important for balancing technological growth with climate goals.

Apart from green sectors, ADB continues to focus on urban infrastructure development. Financing in this segment supports projects aimed at improving transport systems, water supply, sanitation and other essential urban services needed to meet the demands of rapid urbanization. Sustainable agriculture is another area receiving attention from the multilateral lender.

Market valuation of nine of top-10 firms rises Rs 2.15 trillion, Bharti Airtel leads gains

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of nine out of India's top-10 most valued companies surged by an impressive Rs 2.15 trillion last week, reflecting strong investor interest in heavyweight stocks despite volatility in the broader market. The rally highlighted resilience in large-cap counters even as profit booking and sector-specific weakness weighed on benchmark indices toward the end of the week.

Bharti Airtel emerged as the biggest gainer among the top firms, recording the sharpest rise in market capitalization. The telecom giant added Rs 52,432.67 crore to its valu-

ation, taking its total market worth to Rs 11,62,963.30 crore. The sharp jump underscores growing investor confidence in the company's earnings outlook and telecom sector growth potential.

Reliance Industries retained its position as India's most valued listed company. Its market capitalization increased by Rs 22,464.02 crore during the week, pushing its valuation to Rs 17,71,882.96 crore. Reliance continues to dominate the domestic corporate landscape due to its strong presence across energy, retail, telecom and digital services.

The ranking of India's most valu-

able firms remained largely unchanged. Reliance Industries held the top spot, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Hindustan Unilever. Engineering and infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro also delivered a strong performance, with its market capitalization climbing by Rs 21,929.12 crore. This pushed the company's valuation to Rs 5,79,126.95 crore, supported by optimism surrounding infrastructure spending and strong order inflows.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) posted one of the biggest gains of the week. The insurance giant added Rs 51,675.23 crore in market value, taking its total valuation to Rs 5,56,726.30 crore. The sharp increase reflects improving investor sentiment toward insurance and financial services companies. Banking stocks also contributed significantly to the overall rise in market capitalization. State Bank of India gained Rs 16,753.57 crore, lifting its valuation to Rs 9,55,415.07 crore. The stock benefited from continued optimism around strong credit growth and healthy asset quality.