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Modi-Carney talks: India, Canada agree to post envoys; restore stability in ties

NEW DELHI/KANANASKIS (CANADA), JUNE 18



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney have agreed to pursue "constructive" steps to restore stability in India-Canada ties including the early return of envoys to each other's capitals, signalling their intent to repair the strained relations.

Modi and Carney held bilateral talks on Tuesday on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Kananaskis focusing on resetting the bilateral ties that plummeted to an all-time low following a diplomatic spat over the killing of a Khalistani separatist.

The two prime ministers also underscored the importance of restarting senior ministerial as well as working-level engagements across various domains to "rebuild trust" and "bring momentum" to the relationship, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of India-Canada ties, based on shared democratic values, respect for the rule of law and commitment to upholding the "principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity", it said.

The statement assumes significance as India has been pressing Canada to not allow pro-Khalistani elements to carry out anti-India activities.

The two leaders underlined the importance of restarting the stalled negotiations on the early progress trade agreement (EPTA), with a view to paving the way for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA).

In a social media post, Modi said India and Canada are connected by a "strong belief in democracy, freedom and rule of law" and that he and Carney are looking forward to working closely to add momentum to the India-Canada friendship.

The MEA said the two prime ministers underlined the need to pursue a "constructive and balanced" partnership "grounded in mutual respect for concerns and sensitivities, strong people-to-people ties, and growing economic complementarities." "In this regard, both sides agreed to take calibrated and constructive steps to restore stability in the relationship, beginning with the early return of high commissioners to each other's capitals," it said.

The MEA said the meeting provided an opportunity for both sides to hold "frank and forward-looking" discussions on the state of India-Canada relations and the way ahead. It was the first in-person interaction between the two leaders since Carney became prime minister following the general elections in Canada. PTI

Don't turn blind eye towards challenge of terrorism: PM Modi to G7 leaders

India's neighbourhood has become a breeding ground for terrorism and turning a blind eye towards the challenge would be a "betrayal of humanity", Prime Minister Narendra Modi told G7 leaders, seeking action against Pakistan for its support to cross-border terrorist activities. In an address at a G7 outreach session here, Modi said the April 22 Pahalgam attack was a direct attack on the "soul, identity, and dignity" of every Indian, adding any country that supports terrorism must be held accountable and made to pay the price. There must be no place for "double standards" in dealing with terrorism, he said and questioned whether those spreading terror and those who suffer from it be "weighed on the same scale." Modi was addressing the G7 outreach session on Energy Security on Tuesday.

Modi calls out Trump's narrative on India-Pak conflict; says New Delhi will never accept mediation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told President Donald Trump that India and Pakistan halted their military actions last month following direct talks between their militaries without any mediation by the US, calling out the American leader's narrative that he brokered the ceasefire. In a nearly 35-minute phone call with Trump on Tuesday, Modi firmly stated that India does not and will "never accept" mediation and that the discussions between Indian and Pakistani militaries on cessation of military actions were initiated at Islamabad's request, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said. PM Modi also said that India no longer views "terrorism as a proxy war, but as a war itself", and that India's Operation Sindoor is still ongoing, the foreign secretary said.

Nowadays, you fighting on Twitter: Modi's joke on Macron-Trump online spat sparks laughter

At the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lightened the mood with a humorous remark to French President Emmanuel Macron. As the two leaders met, Modi quipped, "Nowadays, you are fighting on Twitter?"—a reference to Macron's recent online spat with former US President Donald Trump. The light-hearted comment drew laughter from both leaders and quickly went viral on social media. Modi and Macron also shared a warm hug. The meeting was part of PM Modi's series of bilateral engagements at the 51st G7 Summit. PM Modi's remark was in reference to a recent online spat between President Macron and former US President Donald Trump, which captured widespread attention on social media.

PM Modi arrives in Croatia on the last leg of three-nation tour

ZAGREB: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Croatia on Wednesday on the first-ever visit by an Indian premier, during which he will hold talks with the country's top leadership to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest. In a special gesture, Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic received PM Modi at the airport. "A short while ago, landed in Zagreb, Croatia. This is a special visit, the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister to a valued European partner. I am grateful to Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic for the special gesture of welcoming me at the airport," PM Modi posted on X. Prime Minister Plenkovic said that Modi's visit came at an important geopolitical moment. IANS

Vedic chants resonate in Zagreb as Modi receives rousing welcome in Croatia

ZAGREB: Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a rousing welcome by the vibrant Indian community in Zagreb as he began his landmark visit to Croatia - the first-ever by an Indian Prime Minister to the country - on Wednesday. Zagreb is the last stop on PM Modi's three-nation tour, which also included visits to Cyprus en route to Canada for Tuesday's G7 Summit in Kananaskis.

As a special gesture, the PM was warmly received by his Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic at the Franjo Tudman Airport with a ceremonial welcome. "This is a special visit, the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister to a valued European partner. I am grateful to Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic for the special gesture of welcoming me at the airport," PM Modi posted on X. IANS

Need to be careful about further commentary: Canadian PM Carney

KANANASKIS (CANADA), JUNE 18

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said he needs to be "careful" about pro-Khalistani Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing as there is a judicial process underway in the case.

Carney was asked if he spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their talks on Tuesday on the sidelines of the G7 Summit about the killing of a Nijjar on the country's soil.

"We have had a discussion, the prime minister and I, about the importance of having the law enforcement to law enforcement... cooperation directly, the importance of addressing transnational repression, as I noted including when we met," he said.

"And obviously there is a judicial process that's underway and I need to be careful about further commentary," Carney said.

The ties between India and Canada were strained after the then prime minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September 2023 of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing outside a gurdwara in Surrey city on June 18, 2023.

India, which had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020, had strongly rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated." In April 2024, Trudeau asserted that his government stood up to defend the rights and freedoms of all Canadians. He was testifying at a high-profile public inquiry looking into foreign interference in Canada's electoral process. PTI

Won't surrender: Iran warns US of firm action if it gets involved in Israel's military campaign

DUBAI/JERUSALEM, JUNE 18



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei rejected US President Donald Trump's demand for unconditional surrender on Wednesday, as Iranians jammed the highways out of Tehran fleeing from intensified Israeli airstrikes.

In a recorded speech played on television, his first appearance since Friday, Khamenei, 86, said the Americans "should know that any US military intervention will undoubtedly be accompanied by irreparable damage." "Intelligent people who know Iran, the Iranian nation and its history will never speak to this nation in threatening language because the Iranian nation will not surrender," he said.

Trump has veered from proposing a swift diplomatic end to the war to suggesting the United States might join it. In social media posts on Tuesday he mused about killing Khamenei, then demanded Iran's "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER!" A source familiar with internal discussions said Trump and his team were considering options which included joining Israel in strikes against Iranian nuclear sites.

Israel's military said 50 Israeli jets had struck around 20 targets in Tehran overnight, including sites producing raw materials, components and manufacturing systems for missiles. The military told Iranians to leave parts of the Capital for their safety while it struck targets.

Traffic was backed up on highways leading out of the city of 10 million people. Arezou, 31, told Reuters by phone that she had made it out to the nearby resort town of Lavasan.

"We will stay here as long as this war continues. My friend's house in Tehran was attacked and her brother was injured. They are civilians," she said. "Why are we paying the price for the regime's decision to pursue a nuclear programme?" In Israel, sirens rang out warning people of Iranian retaliatory missile strikes. AGENCIES

Punjab leads the way: Achieved nation's lowest pendency in service delivery: Aman Arora

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18



The Punjab Government has achieved a remarkable milestone in citizen-centric governance by successfully delivering 99.88% of essential services to citizens within the stipulated time frame, thereby ensuring the lowest pendency in service delivery across the country, announced Mr. Aman Arora, State President of AAP and Minister for Good Governance & Information Technology (GG&IT), Punjab.

Addressing a press conference here at MGSIPA following a review meeting with senior officials of the department and Deputy Commissioners, Mr. Aman Arora informed that the Punjab Government has achieved a remarkable milestone in service delivery, with over 48.85 lakh citizens availing of various citizen-centric services between June 18, 2024 and June 17, 2025. An impressive 99.88% of services were delivered within the stipulated timeframe and only 5868 services (0.12%) delivery exceeded the prescribed timeline. This achievement underscores the effectiveness of the Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann-led government's robust service delivery system, which was recognised by the Government of India by ranking Punjab first in timely service delivery.

He further stated that the government is mulling to reward officials with zero pendency, while all Deputy Commissioners have also been directed to take strict action against habitual delayers and officials raising unwarranted objections.

Reaffirming the state government's commitment to transparency and accountability, the Good Governance Minister stated that the state government has implemented another pioneering project to eliminate delay and corruption and ensure transparency in service delivery.

Seamless travel through toll plazas: Get a FASTag annual pass for ₹3,000 from Aug 15

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari says the pass is valid for one year from the date of activation or up to 200 trips, whichever comes first

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said the government will introduce a FASTag-based annual pass for private vehicles, priced at Rs 3,000, effective from August 15, in a step towards hassle-free highway travel.

In a post on X, Gadkari said the pass is valid for one year from the date of activation or up to 200 trips, whichever comes first. The pass is designed exclusively for non-commercial private vehicles such as cars, jeeps and vans.

The road transport and highways minister said the annual pass will enable seamless and cost-effective travel across National Highways throughout the country.

A dedicated link for activation and renewal will soon be available on the Rajmarg Yatra App, as well as on the official websites of NHAI and MoRTH, he added.

Gadkari said the policy addresses long-standing concerns regarding toll plazas located within a 60 km range and simplifies toll payments through a single, affordable transaction.

"By reducing wait times, easing congestion, and minimising disputes at toll plazas, the annual Pass aims to deliver a faster and smoother travel experience for millions of private vehicle owners, " the minister said. PTI

Defying age, 66-yr-old cyclist covers five Takhts in 63 days

N.P.S. CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, June 18



Defying age and exemplifying social responsibility, 66-year-old Mangal Singh Hundal has been creating awareness against drug abuse by cycling for the last 10 years. Today, he received a hero's welcome at the Golden Gate as he cycled across the five Takhts, the most revered seats of spirituality in Sikhism, peddling 7,130 km. Hundal is on a mission for the last 10 years – to make Punjab drug-free and his bicycle is a way to reach out to masses with his message.

A resident of Amritsar, he started his journey on April 16, on a spiritual tour of five Takhts and completed it today at Akal Takht. His feat was celebrated by Sukhwinder Singh, a cyclist of the Turbinatar Group Amritsar, who arrived specially on this occasion. He said Mangal Singh is an example for the Punjabi youth. A retired government employee, Hundal completed the journey in 63 days.

"Shukrana for the Almighty as he gave me strength and perseverance to complete my journey without facing any major health challenges. I believe that if you make up your mind, the heart follows," said Hundal.

He first reached Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, Sabo ki Talwandi, from Sri Amritsar Sahib for darshan, where he paid obeisance at Takht Sri Abichal Nagar, Nanded, Hazur Sahib via Rajasthan, Gujarat and Mumbai. From here, he started his journey to Takht Sri Patna Sahib and there after paying obeisance at the birthplace of Sri Guru Gobind Singh, he reached Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, Anandpur Sahib, via Patonta Sahib. From here he left for Amritsar.

For Mangal Singh, it was a pilgrimage of a different kind. "Our Gurus have taught us the principle of sewa, of kirt and so, everyone must do their duty towards their family, the community and for Sikhi. I feel that this was my way of following the Gurus' path, with prayers for Punjab and its youth finding their way back to prosperity," he said.

Three travel agents booked for duping woman of ₹18 lakhs

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, June 18



The Lohian Khas police have booked three travel agents for allegedly duping a woman of Rs 18 lakhs on the pretext of sending her daughter abroad.

Station House Officer (SHO) Labh Singh said that the accused had been identified as Satwindar Singh and Gurpiar Singh, residents of Basti Mithu, Jalandhar, and Jatindar Singh, a resident of Rajasansi village, Amritsar.

Jasbeer Singh, a resident of Sidhu Pur village, complained to the Jalandhar (rural) senior superintendent of police that she had paid Rs 18 lakhs to the accused for facilitating her daughter's migration abroad. However, neither was she sent abroad, nor did she get the money back.

SHO said a case under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating) of the IPC and section 13 of the Punjab Travel Professional Regulation Act 2014 has been registered against the accused after an inquiry, and further investigation was in progress. In yet another case of immigration fraud, a young man from Banga has reportedly been duped of over Rs 22 lakh by two individuals posing as travel agents who promised to send him to Australia. This is the second such incident reported in the Nawanshahr district within a week, raising serious concerns about the growing number of fraudulent immigration cases targeting the youth in the region.

Ranveer Singh, a resident of Banga, filed a complaint alleging that Jasveer Singh and Amarjeet Kaur had taken Rs 22,47,000 from him on the pretext of sending him to Australia. According to the complaint, the accused failed to deliver on their promises and have since become untraceable.

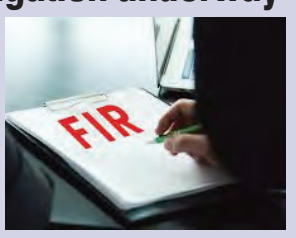
Based on Ranveer's complaint, the police have registered a case under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which pertains to cheating. However, as of now, no arrests have been made. The authorities are conducting raids at multiple locations in a bid to apprehend the accused.

This incident closely follows a similar case that came to light last week, where Jagroop Kaur, a resident of Behram village in the same district, lodged a complaint against two individuals, who allegedly duped her son of Rs 9 lakh with false promises of sending him to Australia. In both cases, the victims were promised that they will be sent abroad, tactics commonly used by fraudulent agents to exploit the dreams of the youth aiming for better prospects overseas.

The district administration officials often ask everyone to verify the credentials of travel and immigration agents before making any commitments.

FIR registered in violent clash at Pipli Saheb Gurudwara in Phagwara; Investigation underway

ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, June 18



In the wake of a violent altercation at Pipli Saheb Gurudwara in Village Hardaspur, Phagwara, the local police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) naming multiple individuals allegedly involved in the incident, which left one person with a gunshot injury and several others wounded.

The clash, which occurred on the evening of June 17, involved three factions of Nihang Sikhs who had assembled at the Gurudwara premises to resolve a long-standing dispute between Nihang Ranjit Singh of Village Hardaspur and Nihang Jatinder Singh, the Pradhan (chief) of Pipli Saheb Gurudwara. The altercation escalated during the course of the meeting, resulting in the use of firearms and edged weapons.

Based on a formal complaint lodged by Nihang Ranjit Singh, a resident of Hardaspur, the police at PS Satnampura have registered FIR No. 87, invoking sections 109, 190, 25, and 191(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The FIR names six individuals as accused in connection with the violence: Baba Jaswinder Singh, Dera Head of Pipli Saheb Gurudwara, Hardaspur, Preetpal Singh alias Mahakaal Nihang, resident of Village Tallhan,

Nihang Malkiat Singh, resident of Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Harjinder Singh Baddal, resident of Satnampura, Phagwara, Binddri, resident of Village Hardaspur and Baba Gurdev Singh, resident of Village Bajwara, Hoshiarpur.

According to the complaint, the accused were part of the group that clashed with the faction led by Ranjit Singh, during which Ranjit's son, Jaspreet Singh, sustained a gunshot injury to his waist. Jaspreet was initially taken to Civil Hospital Phagwara and later referred to Johal Hospital in Jalandhar for further treatment, where he remains under medical care.

Police sources have confirmed that three others—identified as Ranjit Singh Jittu, Malkit Singh, and Dharamveer Singh—also received minor injuries from knives and swords during the confrontation. They were treated at Civil Hospital Phagwara and later discharged.

Senior Superintendent of the police Gaurav Toora IPS said that the FIR was registered after preliminary inquiry and recording of eyewitness accounts. While no arrests have been made so far, the investigation is ongoing. Authorities have assured that the law and order situation in the area is under control and being closely monitored.

The police emphasized that all parties will be heard during the course of the investigation and appropriate legal action will be taken based on factual findings. Residents of the area have been urged to maintain peace and cooperate with the authorities to ensure a fair and impartial inquiry.

Ferozepur gears up for potential floods; ADC holds emergency preparedness review meeting



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, June 18

In view of potential flood threats during the monsoon season, a high-level preparedness meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (G) Damanjit Singh Mann under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Deepshikha Sharma. The meeting brought together officers from various departments to ensure coordinated and timely flood management efforts across the district.

ADC Mann instructed the Drainage Department officials to complete the cleaning of drains and canals without delay. He emphasized that timely desilting and maintenance of these water channels can significantly reduce flood risks. The XEN Drainage was directed to focus on sensitive locations near Dhussi and Advance bundhs and ensure all flood prevention works are completed swiftly.

He also directed Mandi Board officials to repair damaged roads and ensure cleaning under culverts. The Health Department was advised to stock essential medicines in anticipation of any flood-related health emergencies.

Officials from the various departments were briefed on their responsibilities. ADC Mann called for inter-departmental coordination and readiness to handle any emergency situation effectively.

BDPOs were asked to play an active role in relief operations in rural areas, while the Civil Supplies Department was instructed to supply essential food and necessities to affected families if required. Clean drinking water, sanitation, livestock care, and fodder availability were highlighted as key priorities.

The Red Cross was urged to work closely with NGOs and welfare organizations to provide assistance to those in need.

Addict dies of drug overdose in Fatehbad

TARN TARAN, JUNE 18



An addict died of drug overdose at Fatehbad village falling under the Goindwal Sahib police station here on Monday late evening.

The deceased has been identified as Partap Singh (40) of Valmik Mohalla, Fatehbad, who is survived by his wife and three children. Kulwinder Kaur, wife of the victim, and Jasbir Singh, brother of the deceased, said Partap Singh, who was a daily wage worker, was in bad company and turned a drug addict.

On Monday night, after taking drugs, his condition deteriorated. He was rushed to a private hospital in the town where he died. Kulwinder Kaur, Jasbir Singh and other members of the aggrieved family said drugs is easily available in their area and there is even the provision of 'doorstep service' and it is in the knowledge of the administration, which is allegedly doing nothing to curb the menace. Inspector Prabhjit Singh, SHO, Goindwal Sahib, said Partap Singh died as he was sick. AGENCIES

Child welfare panel, juvenile board to be restructured in Amritsar soon

AMRITSAR, JUNE 18



Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney has announced that for the protection and care of children between the ages of 0 and 18 and for children caught in legal disputes in the district, the Child Welfare Committee and a Juvenile Justice Board will be reconstituted in the district. These agencies are formed under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, which have the authority to take appropriate decisions keeping in mind the future of children and protection of the rights of children caught in any legal dispute with the state or any other entity.

The tenure of the Child Welfare Committee and the Juvenile Justice Board is three years, which ended a few months back. While the district had Child Protection Unit and a Special Juvenile Unit in police functioning, the Juvenile Justice Board will now need to be restructured with new appointments.

The DC informed that new eligible members are to be appointed for the Juvenile Justice Board and a Chairperson and four members for the Child Welfare Committee. The Juvenile justice board in each district usually has three appointed members, out of which one has to be a registered social worker or child rights activist. Currently, the board is in suspended state. AGENCIES

Fresh plea to DC over traffic woes, business hit

JALANDHAR, JUNE 18

A delegation led by Prof Kanwar Sartaj Singh, Councillor of Ward No. 18, met Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal to raise concerns over severe traffic congestion and daily hardships faced by residents following the closure of the C-7 and C-8 railway crossings. The delegation submitted a representation, urging the district administration to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Prof Singh said the closure has disrupted the daily commuting of people living in Urban Estate, Phase-I, village Garha and Kanyavali, causing delays. He pointed out that the increased travel time is affecting students, senior citizens, and daily wage workers, making their routine travel inconvenient and time-consuming. "We have requested the Deputy Commissioner to find a workable solution in the interest of the public," he said, adding that the DC assured the delegation that steps are already underway to address the issue.

Senior BJP leaders Amarjeet Singh Goldy, Amarjit Singh Amri, Yash Pal Dua, Sunil Bhardwaj and Paramjit Singh, Additional SE of the PSPCL, were also present during the meeting.

This is not the first time that the issue has sparked concern among locals. Last month, shopkeepers and residents of Urban Estate Phase-I staged a protest against the closure of the railway crossings, which was shut on April 25 following the commissioning of the Subana railway underbridge. AGENCIES

Tarn Taran: Suicide note helps cops find reason behind woman's death

TARN TARAN, JUNE 18

The two-and-a-half-month-old woman's death case took a new turn with the recovery of a suicide note from the almirah in the house recently.

The deceased in question, Kuljit Kaur (43), a resident of Mughal Chakk Pannuan here, died by consuming some poisonous substance on March 1 in her house . On the statement of Jasbir Kaur, mother of the victim, the local Sadar police lodged a report under Section 194 of the BNSS the next day (March 2).

Recently, Komal, husband of the victim, who, after returning home from his work, opened the almirah of his wife and started searching for a thing. AGENCIES

Angadjeet Singh Deol shines in US Police Force, brings pride to Punjab

RAJESH DEHRA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Rajpura, June 18



Angadjeet Singh Deol, a young turbaned man from Punjab, has brought immense pride to his home state by joining the American police force as a Police Researcher. This achievement, particularly for the Deol family, has led to a flood of congratulations.

Angadjeet Singh Deol, aged around 18 years and 6 months, is the son of Harmanjeet Singh Deol, who serves as a Judicial Officer in the Punjab Civil Services. Angadjeet completed his 10th grade from Golden Earth Global School, Sangrur. In 2023, he moved to California, USA, to pursue high school at John F. Kennedy School.

After completing 12th grade, Angadjeet, driven by a desire to join the police force, began taking Police Administration classes. Influenced by his father's legal services, he also developed a keen interest in law and started studying law enforcement. This dedication led to his selection as a Police Researcher in the Newyork Police Department, California.

His recruitment as a turbaned Sikh is a source of great pride for Punjab and further elevates the esteemed history of Punjabis on foreign soil by maintaining his Sikh attire. Beyond academics, Angadjeet Singh Deol is also passionate about sports and has been a national-level swimmer in Punjab.

The Deol family has been receiving numerous well wishes since Angadjeet's recruitment into the US Police Department. His presence as a turbaned Sikh has also brought joy to Sikh intellectuals and religious leaders.

Rain in Punjab brings respite from heat as temperatures drop

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18



Steady rain over the past two days brought much-needed relief from the intense heat in Punjab, resulting in a sharp drop in temperatures across the state, the weather office said on Wednesday.

The Met office reported that, in the 24 hours leading up to 8.30 am on Wednesday, several areas received rain.

Notable locations in Punjab that experienced rain included Ludhiana, Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Hoshiarpur and Rupnagar. Chandigarh also received light rain during the period. On Tuesday, the maximum temperatures in Punjab including Chandigarh, registered a sharp fall.

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Punjab Health Minister advocates for natural food practices at World Food Safety Day event

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18



With an aim to realise the vision of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to develop a healthy society and make the state a 'Rangla Punjab' again, Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh on Wednesday, highlighted the importance of returning to natural farming practices, stating that in earlier times, agricultural fields thrived without chemical pesticides and fertilizers, relying instead on earthworms and frogs as natural fertilizers to produce nutritious food.

The Health Minister was addressing the event organised by Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Punjab to mark the 'World Food Safety Day-2025' in line with the global theme for the year, "Food Safety: Science in Action". The event, organised at Mahatama Gandhi Institute of Public Administration (MGSIPA) here, witnessed a series of expert-led sessions, shedding light on various aspects of food safety in the context of Punjab.

Emphasising the critical link between soil health and human well-being during his address, Dr Singh advocated for fresh and organic food, calling it the foundation of good health. Sharing his personal commitment to clean eating, he revealed that he practices kitchen gardening at home to ensure access to chemical-free and nutrient-rich food. He also stressed the importance of hygienic cooking and food preparation to prevent contamination and food borne illnesses.

Underlining the responsibility of the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), the Minister directed officials to strengthen food safety mechanisms by upgrading laboratories and ensuring strict enforcement against adulteration. "Merely collecting food samples is not enough; the FDA must ensure that every citizen receives pure and unadulterated food," he asserted. He further instructed officials to conduct regular awareness drives to educate food vendors on maintaining hygiene standards.

To empower citizens in ensuring food safety, Dr Singh encouraged the public to make maximum use of Mobile Food Testing Vans, which are equipped to examine over 150 parameters in milk, paneer, spices, and other daily consumables. "These vans are a crucial tool in our fight against food adulteration I urge every individual to get their food tested," he said.

Welfare of women, children and senior citizens is top priority of government: Dr Baljit Kaur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18



Punjab Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr Baljit Kaur today reaffirmed the commitment of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann-led government towards the holistic welfare of all sections of society, with special emphasis on the upliftment of women, children, and senior citizens. She stated that the true progress of any society is determined by the security, health, and education of its marginalized, elderly, and women populations.

Presiding over a detailed review meeting with departmental officials at Kisan Bhawan here today, Dr Kaur issued strict instructions to ensure that the benefits of various welfare schemes being run by the Punjab Government reach the deserving beneficiaries in a transparent and timely manner.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the functioning of Anganwadi Centres, the status of vacancies for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, initiatives under Early Childhood Care and Education, the ongoing Child Begging Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign under Mission Vatsalya, the progress of the Poshan Tracker application, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, and the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme. She also discussed the construction of Anganwadi Centre buildings and toilets under MGNREGA and directed the official to complete the work of remaining Anganwadi centres and toilets as soon as possible.

Dr Kaur directed that daily monitoring of Anganwadi Centres should be the personal responsibility of all district officers. She emphasized that immediate action must be taken against those centres that are not functioning regularly. She also instructed for the expeditious completion of pending work related to the Poshan Tracker app and the upgradation of Anganwadi Centres to be fast-tracked without delay.

The Minister laid special emphasis on personally leading the state's Child Begging Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign being run under Mission Vatsalya. She also directed for a comprehensive review of the functioning of Specialized Adoption Agencies and sought detailed information on all adoptions that have taken place in the state during the past three years.

Further, Dr Kaur instructed the department's Director to felicitate officers who are performing exceptionally well in the discharge of their duties by awarding them appreciation certificates, to encourage a culture of commitment and healthy competition.

Publicising my personal photos, Majithia's doing cheap politics: Dr Ravjot Singh



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, June 18

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Minister Dr. Ravjot Singh held a press conference today to address the recent baseless and defamatory allegations made against him by Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia. He was accompanied by AAP Punjab General Secretary Deepak Bali and AAP leader Tarandeep Sunny.

Dr. Ravjot strongly condemned the deliberate attempt to malign his personal and political reputation by circulating an edited photograph on social media. He described this act as a new low in Punjab politics, aimed at tarnishing the dignity of women and targeting leaders from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community.

Dr. Ravjot, a dedicated AAP leader since 2013, highlighted his two decades of service as a healthcare professional in Hoshiarpur and his contributions to the party's progress. He expressed deep disappointment over the politically motivated smear campaign initiated on the same day the Ludhiana West election campaign concluded.

"The photograph shared on social media is a disgraceful and unethical attempt to mislead the public and defame me. This woman is someone's daughter, mother or sister. This act is not just an attack on me but an insult to all women. Such tactics are a reflection of the low level of politics practiced by such leaders," said Dr. Ravjot Singh.

Dr. Ravjot further accused Majithia of having a history of oppressing SC and Dalit communities during his tenure in power. He stated that the AAP government has been a supporter of the SC and Dalit communities, evidenced by landmark initiatives such as implementing reservations in the Advocate General's Office. These steps, he said, are intolerable to leaders like him, who cannot accept the community's progress.

He said that this smear campaign is a calculated move to tarnish the image of SC leaders and ministers in Punjab. "This is a deliberate attempt to undermine the dignity of leaders from the SC community. Majithia and his party have repeatedly targeted our leaders. But they will not succeed in their attempts to derail our mission of inclusive development," Dr. Ravjot asserted.

Dr. Ravjot also highlighted the hypocrisy of leaders like Majithia, stating, "These leaders portray themselves as religious and pious in public but resort to such shameful acts behind closed doors. Their actions are a stain on Sikh values and ethics."

SFJ operative Resham Singh held for vandalising Dr BR Ambedkar's statue, executing pro-Khalistan graffities

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18

Amidst the ongoing campaign to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab Police's State Special Operation Cell (SSOC) Mohali on Wednesday arrested Resham Singh, a key operative of banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and close aide of USA-based head of SFJ Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, for his involvement in vandalising the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar in Phillaur and executing a series of Pro-Khalistan graffiti across the state.

Divulging details, Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that acting on the directions of USA-based Surinder Singh Thikriwal—a wanted criminal in multiple UAPA cases—and SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, the arrested accused, who belongs to village Hamidi in Barnala, had vandalised the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar at Nangal in Phillaur in the first week of June 2025. He said that accused Resham Singh, who is also accused of repeatedly defacing public property with Pro-Khalistan and Pro-SFJ graffiti in districts including Patiala, Faridkot, Jalandhar and other districts, had been absconding since the incident.

"During the Indo-Pak escalation in May 2025, he (Resham Singh) painted inflammatory slogans such as 'Pakistan Zindabad' and 'Khalistan Zindabad' to incite public unrest and promote anti-national sentiments," said the DGP, while adding that evidence also indicates the accused was receiving foreign funding to carry out these unlawful activities.

DGP Yadav said that the arrested accused had previously been arrested in two UAPA cases registered in Karnal (Haryana) and Sangrur for painting anti-national graffiti. Further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages in this case, he said.

Sharing operation details, AIG SSOC Mohali Ravjot Grewal said that police teams had received a reliable input about the involvement of accused Resham Singh in painting graffities on walls and bridges containing content specifically targeting actions intended to excite secession, armed rebellion, or subversive activities.

Electors to get EPICs within 15 days of update in electoral rolls

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18



To ensure faster delivery of Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) to the electors, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) enabling the delivery of EPICs within 15 days of an update in the electoral rolls, including new enrolment of an elector or change in any particulars of an existing elector. The initiative is in line with the various measures being undertaken by the ECI for the convenience of electors as envisaged by the Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar along with Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi.

The new system will ensure real-time tracking of each stage right from the EPIC generation by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) till the delivery of EPIC to the elector through the Department of Posts (DoP). Electors will also receive notifications via SMS at each stage, keeping them informed about the status of their EPICs.

For this purpose, ECI has introduced a dedicated IT module on its recently launched ECINet platform. The new IT platform will replace the existing process by re-engineering the current system and streamlining the workflow. DoP's Application Programme Interface (API) will be integrated with the ECINet for seamless delivery. This initiative aims to enhance service delivery while maintaining data security.

₹70 lakh pipeline project to revive historic Sarovar at Kali Devi temple inaugurated

PATIALA, JUNE 18

The Punjab government inaugurated a pipeline project valued at Rs 70 lakh at the historic Kali Devi Temple "sarovar" today, less than a month after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal paid obeisance and announced its rejuvenation.

In a significant step towards restoring the sanctity and infrastructure of the temple in Patiala, Punjab Cabinet Ministers Hardeep Singh Mundian and Dr. Balbir Singh inaugurated the project to lay a new water pipeline that will refill the sacred tank (Sarovar) after nearly three decades.

The ministers, accompanied by Patiala MLA Ajitpal Singh Kohli, announced that fresh water would reach the tank within two months, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the devotees. "The project not only symbolizes infrastructural development but also reflects the government's commitment to preserving faith and heritage", they claimed.

"This is not just a pipeline; it is a new lifeline for the devotees' faith. With Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal's vision, we will complete the temple's renovation with full devotion," said Minister Mundian.

Dr. Balbir Singh noted the deep emotional and spiritual connection people in Punjab and across the world have with the temple. "Devotees have been demanding restoration for years, and today we are fulfilling that promise," he said.

The project is expected to be completed within the stipulated time and the sanctity and dignity of the site will be ensured. The earlier pipeline from Baradari area had been damaged due to tree root intrusion, disrupting the water supply to the temple and Rajindra Lake. AGENCIES

Second youth arrested for threatening Amritsar-based influencer Deepika Luthra

AMRITSAR, JUNE 18

The Amritsar police commissionerate has made another arrest for threatening local social media influencer Deepika Luthra.

He has been identified as Jaspreet Singh, a resident of Dhillo Nagar in Ludhiana.

Earlier, the police had arrested Ramandeep Singh of Patiala in the case who is currently in three-day police remand. He had threatened her on her Instagram account.

Besides, the police had also booked self-styled vigilante and now absconding Nihang Sikh Amritpal Singh Mehron for death threats to Luthra. He is the key conspirator in the murder case of Ludhiana-based influencer Kamal Kaur Bhabhi in Bathinda and has been accused of threatening other social media influencers of dire consequences.

Mehron had escaped to Dubai from Sri Guru Ramdas Ji International Airport immediately after killing Kamal Kaur. The Bathinda police had arrested two associates of Mehron who had also issued threats to some foreign influencers for posting vulgar and double-meaning content.

Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar had confirmed the arrest of Jaspreet Singh while adding that further probe was on while assuring strict action against those involved in the case.

"Whoever is found involved in the Deepika Luthra death threat case would be dealt with an iron hand," said the police commissioner. Both the suspects were arrested following the technical investigations and Intelligence inputs. After Mehron, they had also threatened her of dire consequences. AGENCIES

RGNUL submits viewpoint on 'One Nation, One Election' to Joint Parliamentary Committee

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, June 18

The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab has formally submitted its viewpoint to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the proposed 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) reform. The submission was made on behalf of Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Jai Shankar Singh by Dr. Jasleen Kewlani, who represented the university before the Committee during its visit to Chandigarh to engage with various stakeholders from Punjab on the proposed constitutional amendment.

In the detailed written note submitted during the interaction, Dr. Kewlani presented a comprehensive analysis of ONOE.

Experts dwell on roadmap for crop diversification, regenerative agriculture in Punjab

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18



In a concerted effort to address Punjab's escalating agrarian and environmental challenges, Nature Conservancy India Solutions (NCIS) hosted a high-level workshop 'Stakeholder Workshop on Crop Diversification: Strategy for Regenerative Agriculture' in Chandigarh on Tuesday. The event, held under the ambit of the Promoting Regenerative and No-Burn Agriculture (PRANA) project, brought together over 100 experts from the domains of policy, industry, science, and farming.

The workshop aimed to facilitate a collaborative strategy for transitioning Punjab's agricultural landscape from unsustainable practices towards regenerative, climate-resilient models.

Vinod Kumar Arya, chief general manager, NABARD Punjab, the chief guest during the occasion was joined by Shoikat Roy, member Punjab Development Commission and Gyan Prakash Rai, lead PRANA, NCIS to inaugurate the workshop.

The day-long workshop featured three thematic sessions including making popular: a push towards agroforestry in Punjab, food security to fruit security: opportunities in pear and kinnow Farming' and reviving the cotton belt: lessons and innovations.

One of the key highlights was the inclusive panel discussion featuring both male and female progressive farmers, underlining the role of gender equity in agricultural transformation.

Speaking during the occasion, Vinod Kumar Arya underscored the environmental cost of Punjab's prolonged reliance on the wheat-paddy cycle, which currently occupies 86% of the state's gross cropped area.

MRSAFPI celebrates excellence: 24 distinguished alumni honoured with achiever awards

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18

The Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute (MRSAFPI) in SAS Nagar celebrated the achievements of its distinguished alumni by honouring those who have been commissioned into the Defence Forces and graduates from the National Defence Academy (NDA) and other services training academies with prestigious Achiever Awards. The ceremony was presided over by Major General BS Grewal, VSM (Retd), Founder Director and Governing Body Member of the Institute.

The Achiever Award ceremony saw 24 distinguished ex-AFPIans, with eight of them being recently commissioned into the Indian Armed Forces in May/June 2025.

Major General BS Grewal extended his congratulations to the successful cadets, noting that their training at MRSAFPI would provide a solid launchpad for their careers. He wished the NDA graduates all the best for their future training and acknowledged the dedication of the AFPI faculty in achieving outstanding outcomes.

Sharing the Institute's notable achievements, MRSAFPI Director Major General Ajay H. Chauhan, VSM (Retd), informed that 255 cadets joined NDA and other equivalent training academies and 178 commissioned officers in defence services so far.

Fazilka Police take major step in war against drugs

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh/Fazilka, June 18



Under the leadership of Gaurav Yadav, IPS, Director General of Police, Punjab; Harmanbir Singh Gill, IPS, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ferozepur Range; and Gurmeet Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police, Fazilka, a special campaign is being run by Fazilka Police to crack down on drug smugglers.

As part of this ongoing mission, today Fazilka Police demolished the house of Joginder Singh, son of Dalip Singh alias Dara Singh, resident of Arniwala, and his wife Amarjit Kaur. Both husband and wife were actively involved in drug smuggling and had illegally constructed a house on panchayat land. Upon receiving a request for police protection from the civil administration, SSP Fazilka, Shri Gurmeet Singh, himself reached the site and supervised the demolition of the property.

Governor makes surprise visit to Secretariat and DC Office

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18



In a significant step towards strengthening citizen-centric governance, Governor Punjab and Administrator UT Chandigarh Sh. Gulab Chand Kataria, conducted a surprise visit to the UT Secretariat and Deputy Commissioner's Office today during the designated public grievance hours.

The visit took place during the weekly public interaction window observed every Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, as per the Administrator's earlier directive. This initiative mandates that all officers remain present in their offices during this time to meet and address public grievances. Officers have been instructed to avoid scheduling internal meetings during these hours, unless in exceptional circumstances, ensuring complete focus on public interface.

Sh. Kataria visited several departments within the Secretariat and DC Office, personally interacting with both officers and the public. He inquired about the availability of officers, the nature of complaints being received, and the promptness of redressal. Citizens present were encouraged to share their feedback directly with the Administrator, many of whom appreciated the opportunity to be heard at the highest level.

During the visit, the Administrator emphasised the importance of maintaining transparency, accessibility, and empathy in dealing with citizens.

SH.kataria expressed satisfaction over the presence of officers in most departments but also cautioned that any laxity in adhering to this system would not be tolerated. He stressed that continuous monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that the spirit of the initiative is upheld.

This proactive step reaffirms the commitment of the Chandigarh Administration to strengthen the bridge between citizens and governance, ensuring timely and effective delivery of public services.

Punjab Raj Bhawan organises 'chhabeel' in remembrance of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji's martyrdom



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18

In solemn remembrance of the martyrdom of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji—who laid down his life to uphold the ideals of humanity and secularism—the staff of Punjab Raj Bhavan organized a "chhabeel" on Tuesday outside the Raj Bhawan Complex. The event featured the distribution of sweetened milk and Chana Prasad to the public.

The Governor of Punjab and Administrator of the Union Territory, Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, actively participated in the event. In a meaningful gesture reflecting the values of inclusivity, mutual respect, and communal harmony, the Governor personally served sweetened milk and Chana Prasad to passers-by.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from Raj Bhawan officials and staff, who worked in coordination to ensure its smooth conduct. Their dedicated efforts exemplified the spirit of unity and selfless service that lies at the heart of the Raj Bhawan's ethos.

DC reviews preparedness for major demolition drive at Adarsh Colony, Sector 53–54

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18



A meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Nishant Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, Chandigarh, to review the preparedness for the upcoming demolition drive scheduled for 19th June 2025 at Adarsh Colony, Sector 53–54 Chandigarh. The drive is aimed at reclaiming approximately 12 acres of government land currently under unauthorized occupation.

The meeting was attended by key officials including the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), UT Chandigarh, senior officers from the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, representatives from the Engineering Department and the Health Department.

During the deliberations, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for a coordinated, lawful, and efficient approach to ensure the smooth conduct of the demolition operation, without disruption to public order.

The SSP, UT Chandigarh assured full police deployment for law and order management, along with adequate barricading and security arrangements at the site. It was apprised that around 1000 police personnel will be present to maintain law and order.

The Engineering Department has already mobilized the required machinery and manpower, including JCBs, dumpers, and other demolition equipment.

The representative of Health Department apprised that six ambulances along with doctors and paramedical staff will be deputed on-site to provide emergency medical support, if required, during the operation. In addition, teams will be deployed for on-site sanitation management and to address any public health contingencies arising during the activity.

All departments have been directed to maintain seamless inter-departmental coordination and special care will be taken to ensure that essential services remain unaffected and that safety protocols are rigorously followed throughout the operation.

PU V-C launches research-based book 'Yoga and Nature Cure'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18

Panjab University Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig on Wednesday released the book "Yoga and Nature Cure", a comprehensive and research-based work that integrates multiple disciplines including Yoga Therapy, Naturopathy, Herbal Medicine, Nutrition Science, and Music Therapy. The release ceremony was held at the Vice-Chancellor's office in the presence of the book's authors — senior yoga scholar Prof. Surinder K. Shukla and naturopathy expert Dr. N.D. Sharma 'Devshali'.

Providing insights into the journey of the book, Prof. Surinder K. Shukla shared that the concept for the book was envisioned back in 2012. The work is not merely the outcome of writing but is grounded in extensive research and years of practical experience. Each section of the book integrates academic rigor with hands-on therapeutic insights.

Co-author Dr. N.D. Sharma 'Devshali' added that the book is not limited to Yoga and Naturopathy alone, but also explores topics such as Herbal Medicine, Nutrition Science, Natural Ethics, and Music Therapy. He emphasized that the book promotes a comprehensive view of health not just freedom from illness, but the cultivation of a holistic lifestyle and deeper understanding of life itself.

PGIMER transplant surgeon honoured with David Sutherland Award at Global Pancreas Transplant Congress in Italy

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18



Dr. Devprakash Choudhary, Assistant Professor in the Department of Renal Transplant Surgery at PGIMER Chandigarh, has been conferred the prestigious David Sutherland Distinguished Scholarship Award at the 20th World Congress of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA) 2025 held in Pisa, Italy on 17th June, 2025.

Lauding the distinct honour, Prof. Vivek Lal, Director PGIMER said, "Dr. Choudhary's recognition with the David Sutherland Award underscores PGIMER's global leadership in transplant innovation. His pioneering work in pancreas transplantation exemplifies our commitment to excellence in patient care and research. This achievement inspires us all as PGIMER continues to set benchmarks on the world stage. It is a reflection of PGIMER's dedication to clinical excellence, academic rigor, and innovation."

Named for the late Dr David Sutherland, the "Father of Pancreas Transplantation," the biennial award honours young transplant surgeons who demonstrate excellence in clinical skill with a strong research trajectory in pancreas transplantation.

Dr. Choudhary was selected in recognition of his contributions for the pioneering work in pancreas transplantation being performed at PGIMER which has led Dept of Renal Transplant Surgery to be in the leadership position in the entire country. Dr Choudary has earlier also been a fellow at Minnesota which is considered to be a "Mecca" of pancreas transplant and has contributed to growth in pancreas transplant by expanding donor pool along with his high-impact publications in transplantation. Through this award, Dr. Choudhary will get chance to collaborate with the three leading world transplant centers for pancreas transplantation, the University of Minnesota, the University of Pennsylvania, and Indiana University, and engage in cutting-edge research initiatives at these centers.

CITCO petrol pumps record higher profit

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18

CITCO petrol pumps have recorded a significant profit of Rs 1,747.68 lakhs during the financial year 2024–25, with total sales of Rs 68,386.01 lakhs. CITCO's profit increased from Rs 1176.99 lakhs in the financial year 2022-23 to Rs 1527.60 lakhs in the financial year 2023-24, showing a growth of Rs 350.61 lakhs. This significant increase in profit indicates a positive trend in the company's performance. The company's expansion, including the start of three new petrol pumps since 2021, has contributed to this considerable increase in profits. This impressive growth is the outcome of a series of strategic and customer-focused initiatives undertaken by CITCO.

One of the key milestones was the introduction of a CNG facility at the Dhanas petrol pump in July 2024, offering an eco-friendly fuel alternative to meet the growing demand for cleaner energy.

Additionally, the modernization of the CITCO petrol pump in Sector 56 has further improved customer service, operational efficiency, and overall user experience.

To cater to an expanding customer base, CITCO is now extending its petrol pump in Industrial Area Phase I, which will feature state-of-the-art facilities to enhance the fuelling experience.

Keeping in view the demand and catering the need of customers, CITCO petrol pump industrial area phase I and CITCO petrol pump Dhanas is being provided with more numbers of dispensing units and canopy extension for delivering the prompt services to the customers.

Further , CITCO in association with IOCL has entered into understanding with Chandigarh Transport Undertaking to supply diesel directly into CTU depots which will further boost the sales and profits of CITCO in coming days. Step footing efforts are also being done to install the EV CHARGING STATIONS across the citco petrol station in coming days.

50 units of blood collected at camp organised by Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Army)

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18

To mark the occasion of World Blood Donor Day 2025, the office of the Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Army), Chandigarh organized a voluntary blood donation camp on Monday within the office premises.



A dedicated team of medical professionals from the Department of Transfusion Medicine, PGIMER, Chandigarh was invited to conduct the camp. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the officers and staff of the office, who came forward voluntarily to donate blood.

Prior to donation, necessary medical check-ups were conducted by the doctors to ensure the safety and well-being of the donors. Following these examinations, employees voluntarily donated blood with great zeal.

A total of 50 units of blood were collected during the camp. The initiative reflected the commitment of the organization towards social responsibility and contributed meaningfully to the cause of saving lives.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Monali Ganesh Shirsath legally wedded wife of No. 15510242L Rank: ALD Name: Shirsath Ganesh Sudam, Unit: 19 Armd. Regt. C/o 56 APO, R/o VTC: Pimpalnare, PO: Pimpalnare, Sub District: Dindon, District: Nashik, State: Maharashtra, Pin: 422004, have changed my name from Shirsath Monali Ganesh to Monali Ganesh Shirsath.

I, Malkeet Kaur W/o Baljit Singh R/o Village Rajgarh, Tehsil Nabha, District Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Malkit Kaur to Malkeet Kaur.

I, Suresh Kumar S/o Kewal Krishan R/o St. No. 3, Ward No. 4, Tapa Tehsil: Tapa District Barnala have changed my name from Suresh Kumar Garg to Suresh Kumar.

I Kanupriya Agarwal W/o Abhishek Poddar R/o 509-B, Aggar Nagar, Ludhiana have changed my name to Kanupriya Poddar

I Rajinder W/o Maninder Singh R/o 1664, Phase 2, Urban Estate, Dugri, Basant Avenue, Ludhiana have changed my name to Rajinder Kaur

I Balwinder Kaur W/o Tarlochan Singh R/o Guru Teg Bahadur Colony, Gali No.3, Near Kishanpura, Sangrur have changed my name to Sinderpal Kaur

I, Beant Kaur w/o Baljit Singh Dhillon R/O Pindi Dhilwan, Longowal Distt. SANGRUR have changed my name to Beant Kaur Dhillon.

I Jodh Singh Alias Ranjodh Singh S/o Gurdayal Singh R/o Dhanaula Distt Barnala have changed my name to Jodh Singh

I Rupinder Kaur W/o Gurdeep Singh R/o Dhanaula (Barnala) have changed my name to Virpal Kaur

I hitherto known as Kulwinder Kaur W/o Manjit Singh, R/o H.No.26333 St.No.2-1/2 Amarpura Basti, Bathinda, Punjab-151005, have changed my name to PARMINDER KAUR

I, ARSDEEP SINGH S/o No 3400581Y Ex Sep Lakhvir Singh R/o Vill: Didargarh, PO: Sherpur, Tehsil: Dhuri, Dist: Sangrur (PB), have changed my name from ARSDEEP SINGH to ARSHDEEP SINGH.

I hitherto known as CHHINDER KAUR W/o JANAK SINGH Residing at Village Bakhtarhi, Po Bhawanigarh, District Sangrur, Punjab-148026, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SINDER KAUR

I hitherto known as HARVINDER SINGH S/o JANAK SINGH Residing at Village Bakhtarhi, Po Bhawanigarh, District Sangrur, Punjab-148026, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HARWINDER SINGH

I, PARAMJEET SINGH S/O PRITAM SINGH R/O SANT ENCLAVE, BHAMIAN KALAN, ASHOK VIHAR, PO MUNDIAN KALAN (LUDHIANA) HAVE CHANGED my NAME TO PARAMJIT SINGH .

I, Saksham Mahajan S/O Ramesh Mahajan R/O H. No. 537, Golden Enclave Dhandra (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sakshamm Mahaajan.

I, Sumanpreet S/o Mangal Singh resident of Village Nawan Pind Bhathe, District Kapurthala have changed my name from Sumanpreet to Samanpreet Singh. All concerned may please note.

I, Virat Kumar (Aadhar No. 5841 0441 2705) S/o Rajeev Kumar R/o H. No. 4532, St. No. 7, Sunder Nagar, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana, Punjab, declare that Gopesh Kumar and Virat Kumar are both my name and the same person.

I, Apurva (Aadhar No. 2327 7654 2872) D/o Rajeev Kumar R/o H. No. 4532, St. No. 7, Sunder Nagar, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana, Punjab, declare that Anjali and Apurva are both my name and the same person.

I Himanshi D/o Rakesh Kumar R/o H.No. B-34/ 2841/20A, St. no. 3, 22ft Road, Azad Gas Agency, Naseeb Enclave, Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana have changed my name from Himanshi to Himanshi Garg.

I,Inderjit Singh Deol S/O Shingara Singh R/O VILLAGE Zirakh,TEHSIL Payal (Ludhiana) HAVE CHANGED my name Change TO Inderjit Singh.

I Kulwinder Singh S/O S. Ram Singh R/O H.no. E-13/596, St.no. 2, near 30 Futti Road, Akash Nagar, Jalandhar Bye Pass (Ludhiana) have changed my Minor Daughter name from Arpita to Arpita Kaur.

I Chetan Bir Singh S/o Gurbaksh Singh R/o Plot No. 104, New Preet Vihar (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Chetan Bir Singh Sandhu .

I Sudarshna W/o Tilk Raj Sharma R/o H.no. B-I-665/19-D, New Kundanpuri (Ludhiana) have Changed my name from Sudarshna to Darshana.

I Satwinder Singh S/o Gurpal Singh R/o Bhai Mastan Singh Nagar Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Satwinder Pal Singh.

I, Lakhveer Singh Gill S/o Gurmel Singh R/o Kaleke Kothe, Kaleke (Moga) Have Changed My Name From Lakhveer Singh Gill to Lakhveer Singh.

I, Seema W/o Sanjay Kumar Gaur R/o B-1, Type Ii, Ciphet Colony, Pau Campus, Vtc, Pau (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name from Seema to Seema Gaur.

I Chander Shekhar S/O Ved Parkash R/O H.No:-1406/1,Parkash Puri,Near Dhuri Lines,Ludhiana Punjab 141003 Have Changed My Name From Chander Shekher To Chander Shekhar.

I, Dollarjeet Singh S/O Rajinder Singh R/O H.No.114,E- Block,Ranjit Avenue,Amritsar,Punjab have changed my name from Dollarjeet Singh to Dollarjeet Singh Kamboj.Concerned note.

I, Vijay Kumar S/O Subash Chander R/O H.No.26, Gali No.3, Pawan Nagar, Batala Road, Amritsar,Punjab have changed my name from Vijay Kumar to Vijay Kapoor. Concerned note.

I,Aarti W/O Vijay Kapoor R/O H.No.26, Gali No.3, Pawan Nagar,Batala Road,Amritsar,Punjab have changed my name from Aarti to Priya Kapoor.Concerned note.

I, Sulashan Kumari W/O Surinderjit R/O L-9/31, Kot Mahna Singh,Tarn Taran Road,Amritsar,Punjab have changed my name from Sulashan Kumari to Sulaksha Kumari.Concerned note.

I, No JC-357064H- Rank NB Sub name kuldip singh R/O vill -Tapiala PO-Bhuller Teh Ajnala Distt Amritsar state - Punjab Pin 143109 have changed my minor daughter name from Jasmin Kaur to Jasmeen Kaur.

I, Service No. Jc 289524X Rank Sub Ghodake Vijay Vishwas S/O Vishwas Ghodake R/O Village Santoshwadi, District Sangli, State Maharashtra-416410 Have Change My Minor Daughter Name From Tejswini To Ghodake Tejswini Vijay

I, Service No. Jc 289524X Rank Sub Ghodake Vijay Vishwas S/O Vishwas Ghodake R/O Village Santoshwadi, District Sangli, State Maharashtra-416410 Have Change My Minor Daughter Name From Vaishnavi To Ghodake Vaishnavi Vijay

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, hitherto known as Kumari Lata Arora wife of Adarsh Darpan r/o Gali Number 10, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Bathinda District Bathinda 151001, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Lata Arora. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I Rajesh Kumar Agnihotri S/o Sudershan Kumar R/o H. No. 19, St. No. 1, Railway Colony, Sherpur Kalan, (Ludhiana) declare that my daughter Nisha Agnihotri is out of my control. I disowned her from my all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with her at his/her own risk. Me and my family members will not be responsible for any act or conduct done by her.

I Dhani Ram S/o Jagdish Chandar R/o 27 XF, Near Durga Mata Mandir, Rishi Balmiki Nagar, Haibowal Khurd, Ludhiana have changed my name to Vicky and shall hereafter be known as Vicky.

I, Santosh Thakur S/O Madan Thakur R/O H. No. UV/7, 560,5, Ram Nagar Bhamian Kalan Ludhiana declare that my son aditya Kumar and his wife Radhika are out of my control so I disown them from my movable and immovable properties anybody deal with them at their own risk.

I,Sonia W/O No.4485702A NK Baljit Singh R/O H.No.14,Baba Jiwan Singh Colony, Ghanupur Kale, Chheharta, Amritsar, Punjab inform that in my husband's service record my name is wrongly mentioned as Soniya and date of birth as 02.05.1990 but my correct name is Sonia and my correct date of birth is 21.05.1990

ਮੈਂ, ਅਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਗੁਰਚਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ, ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ:-8882, ਅਜੀਤ ਨਗਰ, ਹੈਬੋਵਾਲ ਕਲਾਂ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੀ ਲੜਕੀ ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਕਿਤੇ ਵੀ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਹੈ ਉਸਤੋਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਆਪ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ

ਮੈਂ ਰਵੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਕਸਤੂਰੀ ਲਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ:-80, ਮਹਾਜਨ ਹੌਜ਼ਰੀ,ਜਸਵਾਲ ਕਲੋਨੀ, ਕੈਲਾਸ਼ ਨਗਰ ਰੋਡ, ਬਸਤੀ ਜੋਧੇਵਾਲ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਗੌਤਮ ਅਰੋੜਾ ਮੇਰਾ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਮੈਂ ਉਸਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ -ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

LOST AND FOUND

I Manmohan Singh s/o Mohinder Singh r/o 347/147, J-2 Punjabi Bagh Colony, Salem Tabri, Ludhiana hereby declare that I have lost power of attorney bearing wasika no. 872 dated 12-08-2002, on 15.06.2025, Police Report lodged vide LR N:602422/2025 dated 18.06.2025. anybody found contact :9780767910.

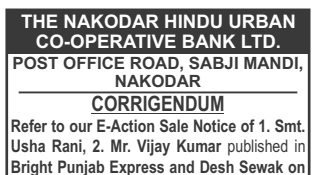
I,Komal W/O Salim R/O H.No.13, Prem Nagar, Gali No.1, Shivpuri Road,Tung Bala, Majitha Road, Amritsar inform that one Mukhtar Nama named Rani Khanna Plot No.56,Total Rakba 200 sq yards, Khasra No.414 min, No.Khata Khatoni 891/1281,Vakia Rakba Putlighar,G.T.Road, Amritsar has been lost on 05.06.25.Its Fir is submitted on 15.06.25 at PS Islamabad.Its G.D.No.is 027.

I Shruti Gupta D/o Purshottam Jhalani R/o A-703, Vaishnavi Nakshatra, Phase 2, Yeshwantpura, Bengluru, Karnataka. I have lost the original payment receipt no. 1074461, 1114847, 1199723, 1755903, 1995483, 1999005, 2087879, Customer ID: TLC/49 , The Lake Omaxe New Chandigarh, in the name of Sanjay Gupta & Shruti Gupta. If anybody finds it, please return it to the above said address.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



Before Sh. Naveen, Danics, Asstt. Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh.
Subject :- Transfer of Lease hold rights in respect of Residential Site No. 378,Sector 38-A, Chandigarh (LRP 1043) to the extent of 100.00% share on the basis of Intestate Death of Late Sh. Jai Krishan Angris.
It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Sh. Jai Krishan Angris is the owner of **Residential Site No. 378,Sector 38-A, Chandigarh** to the extent of **100.00%** Share.
It has been informed by Vishal Angrish, Neelam Sharma, Renu Sharma that **Sh. Jai Krishan Angris** expired on 21.11.1994 and they have also intimated the following legal heirs of the deceased owner :- (1) Vishal Angrish-Son, (2) Lata Angrish-Wife (Deceased), (3) Neelam Sharma-Daughter , (4) Renu Sharma-Daughter Now, Vishal Angrish, Neelam Sharma, Renu Sharma have applied for the Transfer of **Lease Rights** in respect of **Residential Site No. 378,Sector 38-A, Chandigarh** to the extent of **100.00%** Share held by **Late Sh. Jai Krishan Angris** in their favour, on the basis of **Intestate Death**. If anybody has any information about any other legal heir(s) of the deceased other than mentioned above ,the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh, immediately.
If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicants, he/she/they may furnish the same in writing (supported with affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/ Notary) in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiaries and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.
Sh. Naveen, Danics, Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the powers of the Estate Officer, U.T. Chandigarh.

THE NAKODAR HINDU URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

POST OFFICE ROAD, SABJI MANDI, NAKODAR

CORRIGENDUM

Refer to our E-Action Sale Notice of 1. Smt. Usha Rani, 2. Mr. Vijay Kumar published in Bright Punjab Express and Desh Sewak on 04th June, 2025. **Kindly read Last date and Time of EMD as 21.06.2025 upto 11.00 PM** instead of 18.06.2025 upto 04.00 PM **and Date & Time of e-Auction as 23.06.2025 upto 12.00 Noon to 02.00 PM** instead of 19.06.2025 uto 12.00 Noon to 02.00 PM and **The EMD should be deposited in Yes Bank, A/c No. 014987700000050, IFSC YESB00001490.** Others will remain the same.

AUTHORISED OFFICER

MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

MP Arora sets new benchmark in politics with 100 days' positive campaign

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, June 18



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate for Ludhiana (West) and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora has set a refreshing precedent in the election campaign ended on Tuesday evening by holding poll meetings without uttering a single word against any political party, rival candidate, or individual. Throughout his extensive campaign trail, Arora remained firmly committed to a positive and issue-based approach, focused solely on showcasing his three-year performance report as a parliamentarian and public servant.

In a political environment often dominated by personal attacks and blame games, Arora's campaign stood out for its civility and constructive tone. At every meeting—whether in residential colonies, public parks, or local community halls—he was seen presenting verifiable data and facts about his initiatives for Ludhiana's development. From healthcare and infrastructure to education and citizen services, Arora consistently highlighted the work he has done rather than indulging in criticism of others.

What made his campaign truly notable was the consistent appreciation it received from the people. Citizens across the constituency lauded Arora for "setting a new trend in politics", one that focused on accountability, transparency, and results. Social media and local public forums reflected similar sentiments, with many residents expressing that this was the kind of politics they had been hoping for—clean, respectful, and performance-driven.

Political observers too have taken note of Arora's campaign strategy, describing it as a model of ethical and dignified electioneering.

All set for smooth conduct of Ludhiana West by-poll

INDERJIT SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, June 18



As many as 1,75,469 voters of Ludhiana West constituency will decide the fate of 14 candidates who are in fray for the by-poll on Thursday where voting will be held in 194 polling stations from 7 am to 6 pm.

Divulging the details, District Election Officer Himanshu Jain who oversaw the dispatch of polling parties from Khalsa College for women said that there are 1,75,469 electors in the constituency including 90,088 male, 85,371 female, 10 third genders and etc who would exercise their right to franchise in the polls on June 19. He mentioned that around 776 employees have been assigned duties for conducting the poll in a transparent manner, along with 194 polling parties dispatched to polling stations. He exhorted the entire election staff to perform their duties diligently so that voters can cast their votes smoothly and hassle-free. He stated that all of them have a huge responsibility on their shoulders to complete the whole exercise peacefully. He assured the polling parties of every kind of support in this process.

The District Election Officer also added that elaborate arrangements have been made to facilitate polling parties and voters in the polling stations. Special arrangements include tents, chairs, cold water, fans, wheelchairs, and ramps have been made. Furthermore, 10 model polling booths, one pink polling stations, one green polling station, and one polling station especially for PWD have been set up for the by-poll.

Mayor yet to form sub-panels to oversee work of civic body



AMRITSAR, JUNE 18

More than two months after the last Municipal House meeting, the Mayor of Amritsar, Jatinder Singh Moti Bhatia, is yet to form the essential sub-committees that play a vital role in monitoring and improving the functioning of the civic body. Only one MC General House meeting has been held and a second session has not been held either.

Sources say that without the formation of sub-committees, the administration is functioning on autopilot. These sub-panels are crucial in curbing irregularities, as they provide checks and balances through direct involvement of committee chairpersons. The elected representatives keep a check on the functioning of various MC departments through these committees. Once established, any departmental proposal must receive the sub-committee's approval before moving forward. Their absence not only hampers transparency but also weakens councillor oversight on bureaucratic functioning.

Before the end of the previous House's term in January 2023, the formation of committees such as water supply and public health had seen active participation from councillors lobbying for chairperson's role. In stark contrast, the current term has seen reduced movement and interest at the Mayor's office, as delays and factionalism have cast a shadow over governance.

Responding to the criticism, Mayor Jatinder Singh Moti Bhatia stated that a decision on committee formation would be taken soon. "We will also consult the party high command. Sub-committees will soon be formed, chairpersons appointed and the House meeting convened. There is no infighting among AAP councillors, we are united," he said.

Residents believe that the timely formation of sub-committees is essential to ensure efficient public service delivery, faster complaint resolution, and tighter administrative control.

The delay has been attributed to simmering discontent that arose after the formation of the Finance and Contract Committee (F&CC) on May 1. AGENCIES

Ludhiana MC chief orders survey of unsafe buildings in city

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, June 18

For ensuring safety of residents especially during the upcoming monsoon season, Municipal Corporation (MC) Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal has ordered the building branch officials to conduct a survey of unsafe buildings in the city.



In the orders issued by MC Commissioner Dachalwal on Wednesday, the Assistant Town Planners (ATP) of all the four zones of the civic body have been directed to get a survey conducted in their respective areas. They have been directed to submit the report with the Municipal Town Planner (MTP) and ATP (headquarters), who would then submit a compiled report with the office of MC Commissioner. The building branch officials have been directed to submit the survey report within a week.

MC Commissioner Dachalwal stated that various steps are being taken for monsoon preparedness in the city. There are unsafe buildings especially in the old parts of the city. The building branch officials have been directed to conduct a survey of such buildings across the city, so that required steps could be taken to ensure safety of the residents.

Rain brings smile on Jalandhar residents' face

JALANDHAR, JUNE 18



After days of sweltering heat, Jalandhar residents finally got a much-needed respite as light rain and cool breezes swept through the city today. The city, which had been reeling under an intense heat wave with temperatures soaring up to 45°C, experienced a noticeable drop in temperatures, much to the relief of citizens and farmers alike.

The brief yet refreshing drizzle brought smiles on many faces as streets, parks, and rooftops witnessed people stepping out to enjoy the sudden change in weather.

For the agricultural community, the change in weather couldn't have come at a better time. Farmers and labourers engaged in the ongoing paddy sowing season welcomed the showers as a blessing. The cooler conditions are expected to ease the physical strain of working in the fields, which had become nearly unbearable over the past week.

"Working in 45-degree C heat was extremely exhausting. Today's rain feels like a gift," said Subegh Singh, a farmer from Nakodar.

Agricultural experts also pointed out that even light rainfall at this stage can be beneficial. A senior official from the Agriculture Department said, "The weather will be helpful for the paddy sowing in the district."

While the rain was not heavy enough to significantly impact irrigation needs, the drop in temperatures will prevent heat stress in workers. AGENCIES

SGPC organises Gurmat programme at Mount Abu gurdwara

AMRITSAR, JUNE 18



The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) organised a Gurmat programme at Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darshan, Mount Abu, in Rajasthan, to mark the 350th anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur, Bhai Matidas, Bhai Satidas and Bhai Dyala, besides the centenary of Gurta Gaddi Divas of Guru Gobind Singh. Dharam Prachar Committee member Ajaib Singh Abhiyasi and joint secretary Sukhbir Singh participated in the religious programme. After the offering of Bhog of Akhand Path, Golden Temple's Hazuri Ragi Sandeep Singh and Amandeep Singh rendered Gurbani Kirtan and Kuldeep Singh, preacher of Sikh Mission, presented Katha-Vichar. AGENCIES

FIR registered for violation of Election Commission guidelines on opinion poll publication

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, June 18

An FIR has been registered for publishing an opinion poll in connection with the Ludhiana West by-election scheduled for June 19 under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act 1951 and under Section 223 of BNS 2023.

The publication of the poll was carried out in violation of the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India, which prohibits the publication or broadcasting of opinion polls in electronic media during the restricted period (48 hours prior to close of the poll).

The complaint was formally lodged by the Returning Officer of 64-Ludhiana (West) assembly constituency. The publication of such a poll is viewed as an attempt to influence voter perception and election response, thereby undermining the integrity of the electoral process.

It is worth to mention that numerous complaints were received against online new channels like "Turn Times, Jan Hitaishi, The city headlines & E News Punjab" for Publishing Opinion Polls during restricted period and Based on the contents of the complaint, the Cyber Crime Police Station, Ludhiana, has registered the FIR under Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and further investigation is under process.

Strict action will be taken as per law against any individual or entity found guilty of violating the Election Commission's directives.

Notorious drug smuggler held after brief encounter with Amritsar police

AMRITSAR, JUNE 18

The Amritsar Rural Police arrested a notorious drug smuggler, Harpreet Singh alias Happy, after a brief exchange of fire in Attari area here on Tuesday. The arrest led to the recovery of 534 grams of heroin, a PX-5 pistol, and two live cartridges.

The operation was carried out on the directives of DIG, Border Range, Amritsar, Satinder Singh and SSP, Amritsar Rural, Maninder Singh IPS. The police team, led by DSP, Attari, Lakhwinder Singh and the SHO, Gharinda police station, confronted the accused during a search operation near Neshta village.

According to SSP Maninder Singh, the incident traces back to June 11 when the police attempted to stop Harpreet Singh and his associate on a motorcycle during a routine check. AGENCIES

Drug peddler arrested under NDPS Act

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, June 18

The Criminal Investigation Agency of Jalandhar (rural) police have arrested a drug peddler for selling heroin.

Investigating officer (IO) Nirmal Singh said that 100 grams of heroin were recovered from the possession of the accused, identified as Surindar Singh alias Minda, a resident of Baba Suleman village under Makhu police station.

IO said a case under sections 21/61/85 of the NDPAS Act has been registered against the accused at Lohian Khas police station. The Nakodar city police have arrested a proclaimed offender (PO) absconding for the last three years. Station House Officer Aman Sainni said that the accused has been identified as Soni, a resident of Shankar village. The accused is wanted in a case of assault.

Drizzle brings much-needed relief from heat in Tarn Taran

TARN TARAN, JUNE 18



Drizzle followed by cool winds in the district provided the much-needed relief from heatwave conditions here on Tuesday. It also brought down the day temperature, which had been hovering above 40 degrees Celsius for the past few days, to 33 degrees Celsius, turning the weather pleasant, which was welcomed by every resident of the city. Buzz returned to marketplaces, which wore a deserted look most of the day due to extreme heat. Commuters, customers and other people, who remained disappeared from roads and shops, were seen present everywhere. The pleasant weather led to a heavy rush of people in bazaars of the town. A large number of devotees paid obeisance at Darbar Sahib in Tarn Taran.

A visibly happy Kuldeep Singh, a cloth merchant at Tehsil Bazar in Tarn Taran, said during the last 10 days, he had not entertained even a single customer the whole day. He said with a drop in the temperature, streams of customers kept thronging marketplaces right from the opening of shops. Mohtam Singh, Deputy Chief Engineer, Powercom, said even the power utility got relief with a drop in the temperature. He said the number of power faults, which was 1,572 in two days on June 13 and 14, has come down to 847 on June 16 and 17. AGENCIES

Kamal Kaur Bhabhi murder: Suspects sent to 14-day judicial custody

BATHINDA, JUNE 18



A local court today sent both suspects, Nimaratjeet Singh and Jaspreet Singh, arrested on June 13 for allegedly killing social media influencer Kanchan Kumari, popularly known as Kamal Kaur Bhabhi, to 14-day judicial custody. Their five-day police remand ended today.

The police have claimed that the two, along with alleged mastermind Amritpal Singh Mehron, were involved in Kanchan's murder. Her body was recovered from a car parked outside Adesh University at Bhucho Kalan along the Bathinda-Chandigarh highway on the night of June 11.

Advocate Harpal Singh Khara, counsel for Nimaratjeet and Jaspreet, said, "There is no recovery pending in this case. The deceased's phone has already been recovered by the police. No weapon was used in the crime, and the 'kamarkass' (waistband) allegedly used to commit the murder has been burnt." AGENCIES

Two youths arrested in connection with armed attack in Jalandhar

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, June 18

In a significant breakthrough, the Phillaur police headed by DSP Sarwan Singh Bal have arrested two youths in connection with an armed assault that took place in the Bilga area on the night of June 10.. Acting on the directives of SSP Harvinder Singh Virk and under the supervision of SP (City) Paraminder Singh Heer, the arrests were made as part of a special anti-drug and anti-crime campaign aimed at curbing incidents of violence and illegal arms trade.

While giving details DSP Bal told newsmen today that unidentified assailants had conducted a reconnaissance (reccy) and then opened fire outside the residence of Jasvir Singh, a resident of Burjkhela village, with the intent to intimidate or harm his family. A case (FIR No. 69 dated 11.06.2025) under Sections 109, 351(2)(3), 61(2) of the BNS and Sections 25/27/54/59 of the Arms Act was registered at the Bilga police station following the incident.

DSP Bal told that during the course of the investigation, a police team led by SHO Palwinder Singh of Police Station Bilga, apprehended the two accused from Moga district on June 16.

The accused have been identified as Bikramjeet Singh alias Kalu, resident of Kamalke- Khurd, PS Dharmkot, District Moga. Luvpreet Singh alias Lovely, resident of Sangla village, PS Dharmkot, District Moga.

Bal disclosed that Upon their arrest the police recovered a 7.65 mm pistol, two magazines, seven live cartridges, a Bullet motorcycle, and two mobile phones. The recovered weapon and materials are believed to have been used in the commission of the crime.

bright Punjab Express

Metro for UT

The off again, on again proposal for Metro for the Tricity of Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula has once again been revived. The issue was discussed threadbare at a high level meeting in Chandigarh the other day. It was attended by all the stakeholders including officials from Chandigarh UT, Punjab and Haryana besides of course the RITES.

The officials from the engineering, urban planning and transport departments of UT, and consultant RITES Ltd, formerly known as Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited, discussed the SAR submitted during the two meetings of the joint committee of senior officials from Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana held here in February and January.

The RITES presented key elements of the report, including transport demand assessment, traffic analysis zones and highway network, development and validation of the base year travel demand model, projections of future travel demand and train operation plan. It also shed light on other key aspects such as power supply system, geometric design parameters, MRTS corridor characteristics, capital cost estimates, means of finance, and the assessment of operational and economic viability.

Calculations of the financial internal rate of return (FIRR) and economic internal rate of return (EIRR), along with an analysis of the economic costs and benefits of the proposed Metro project, were also shared during the meeting. Certain shortcoming were detected in the report. These included the lack of explanation regarding the methodology used to extrapolate daily ridership on the basis of "passenger per hour per direction", absence of a comparison between actual and projected ridership figures as per the CAG report, missing data on the operational ratio and the reliability of software modelling projections.

Additionally, no conversion factor indicating how many people are expected to board the metro was provided, the justification for the 3% annual traffic growth rate was not explained, inconsistencies in the economic analysis figures, especially in the scenario summaries, were not addressed, and the impact of isolated corridors on the overall economic internal rate of return of the network was not clarified. The RITES wad asked to prepared a fresh report incorporating these points.

It may be recalled that a high-level committee of senior officials from Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana was constituted by Punjab Governor-cum-Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria in November 2024. The joint committee of all stakeholders was constituted to study the feasibility of the metro project thoroughly from all the aspects, including the CAG reports on other metro projects in the country.

The panel, which is an extension of the Chandigarh Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (UMTA), a body established to oversee and improve the transportation system in the tricity region with the aim of ensuring an effective public transport, coordinating with various transportation agencies, and promoting key transportation projects, had held two meetings here in February and January.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



KVIC disburses ₹300+ cr margin money subsidy to 11,480 PMEGP beneficiaries across India

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) disbursed margin money subsidy of Rs 300 crore to 11,480 Service Sector beneficiaries across the country under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) through virtual mode on 17 June 2025. This disbursement was done against loan sanction of Rs. 906 crore. Shri Manoj Kumar Chairman, KVIC along with his team released this subsidy to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through virtual medium. Ms. Roop Rashi CEO, KVIC along with other senior officers of the Central Office were present on this occasion.



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Speaking on this occasion, Chairman Manoj Kumar opined that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi the vision of 'Self-reliant and Developed India' is being recognized and PMEGP scheme has become its strong pillar. He reiterated that this scheme is not limited to providing only financial assistance, but it has also become a social movement which is connecting lakhs of youth, women and artisans with self-employment and entrepreneurship. The role of this scheme has been significant in creating employment and self-reliance in every village.

All the six zones of the country actively participated in this disbursement program. Under the Central Zone, subsidy of Rs 72 crore was disbursed for a total of 2403 projects in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand for which a total loan of Rs 218 crore was sanctioned. In the East Zone, subsidy of Rs 22 crore was disbursed to 996 projects in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands while loan sanction was about Rs 71 crore.

To the states of North India – Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Rajasthan and Union Territory Chandigarh – a total of 2713 projects were given subsidy of Rs 61 crore and loan of Rs 184 crore was sanctioned for these projects. The 81 projects of North East Region received subsidy of Rs 2 crore, which included states like Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

In South- states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, subsidy of Rs 116 crore was disbursed covering 4565 projects, while loans of more than Rs 343 crore were sanctioned for these projects. In the West Zone states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa, subsidy of more than Rs 26 crore was disbursed for a total of 722 projects, against the loan sanction of Rs 82 crore.

Since its inception till the financial year 2024-25, the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has become a pillar of entrepreneurship and self-reliance in rural and urban India. A total of 10,18,185 micro enterprises have been set up under the scheme so far, for which loans of Rs 73,348 crore have been sanctioned by the Government of India.

Against this, margin money subsidy of Rs 27,166 crore has been provided to the beneficiaries. So far, more than 90,04,541 people across the country have got direct and indirect employment through this scheme, which makes it one of the most effective self-employment schemes in the country. This program not only promotes self-employment, but also recognizes the Prime Minister's resolution of self-reliant India on the ground. **BPE**

India's strong fiscal dynamics to propel growth, curb inflation: Report



India's fiscal dynamics have improved at the aggregate level post-pandemic, with a most notable shift in the quality of spending, which is reflected in the higher capital expenditure by the government over the last five years, according to a Morgan Stanley report.

The report highlights that the improving fiscal dynamics bode well for the growth mix and inflation management of the Indian economy.

The faster pace of consolidation in revenue deficit is reflective of an improved spending mix, not only by the Centre but also by the states. Indeed, a key change post-pandemic has been the shift towards higher capex by the centre, with Central government capex doubling to 3.2 per cent of GDP in FY2025 from 1.6 per cent of GDP in FY2020 (pre-pandemic), the report further states.

Similarly, states' capex is tracking at 2.3 per cent of GDP in F2025 from 1.9 per cent of GDP pre-pandemic.

"Going forward, we expect the Central government fiscal deficit to consolidate further, albeit at a slower pace to 4.4 per cent of GDP in FY2026, while for the states, we expect the deficit to narrow to 2.6 per cent of GDP," the report states.

The report highlights that prudent fiscal dynamics with a combination of consolidating deficit and improving mix of spending bode well for the growth mix and thus inflation. Further, a flexible inflation targeting framework has also been instrumental in reducing inflation volatility. Indeed, CPI inflation has averaged at 4.9 per cent since 2016, compared to 7.7 per cent in the previous four years. As such, this has positive implications for the cost of capital, especially over the medium term.

The report also highlights the rising tax buoyancy in the Indian economy. The Centre's gross tax revenue stood at 11.5 per cent of GDP in F2025, up from 9.9 per cent of GDP in FY2020. It has remained range-bound between 11.3-11.7 per cent of GDP in the last four years.

The improved strength in tax revenues is pivotal in facilitating the consolidation of the fiscal deficit. Indeed, the tax buoyancy has averaged at 1.2 since the pandemic and is tracking at 0.98 in F2025, from a pre-pandemic average of 0.9. The budget estimates an upturn in gross tax revenues to 12 per cent of GDP in F2026, the report points out.

According to the report, the non-tax revenues are buoyed by robust dividend payouts from the RBI and other PSUs, the share of which tripled to 0.9 per cent of GDP in FY2025, from 0.3 per cent of GDP in FY2021.

Indeed, dividends from the RBI have been rising in the last few years, averaging 0.4 per cent of GDP since the pandemic and rose to a record high of Rs 2.7 lakh crore (0.7 per cent of GDP) in FY2026. Moreover, the PSU dividend received by the government in FY2025 totalled to Rs 74,000 crore, up 16 per cent year-on-year, with the highest contributions coming from Coal India, followed by ONGC. **IANS**

Infections due to new Covid strains not severe, we're monitoring: ICMR-NIV Director



The JN.1.16 sub lineage of Omicron variant and the XFG (LF.7 and LP.81.2) recombinant variant did not cause much severe Covid infection, said Dr Naveen Kumar, Director ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV) on Wednesday, even as the active number of cases declined after rising for over a month.

According to the Health Ministry's latest update, there are 6,483 active cases and 113 deaths. This comes after the recent increase in Covid cases noticed since the second week of April, with active cases rising over 7,000 in the country.

"Genomic analysis revealed that the surge was due to JN.1.16 sub lineage of omicron variant and since May 2025, it was replaced by the XFG (LF.7 and LP.81.2) recombinant variant," Kumar told IANS here.

"The observations made as of now suggest that the disease associated with these strains are not very much severe," he added.

He stated that since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the NIV has been tracking the virus and its different variants from its 73 Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VDRLs) across the country.

"ICMR-NIV in Pune is continuously monitoring the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 by the whole genome sequencing of RT PCR positive samples from 73 VRDLs across the country. Covid has never gone ever since, you know, since 2019. NIV is closely monitoring the various strains circulating in the country," Kumar told IANS.

India has submitted the whole genome sequences to IBDC (Indian Biological Data Centre) and GISAID, a global open-access database. The NIV is also in the process of isolating newer variants, he said.

"This effort will be helpful to assess vaccine effectiveness and to support India's indigenous efforts for vaccine development," Kumar said.

Notably, two monovalent Omicron-based vaccines are available (Biological E Limited's Corbivax and Serum Institute of India's COVOVAX) in the country.

On whether there are any requirements for vaccines to tackle the newer variants, Kumar stated that the decision lies with the government.

"The decision of whether or not to have a new vaccine using the currently circulating strain is a policy decision. NIV's role is to monitor the recently circulating virus strain," Kumar said, adding that the situation is being continuously monitored by Health Ministry. **IANS**

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NEWSBRIEFS

Cattle smuggler killed, another injured in encounter with police in Rajasthan's Deeg

JAIPUR: A suspected cattle smuggler was killed and another injured in an encounter with police in Rajasthan's Deeg district on Wednesday, police said. The incident occurred in the Pahari police station area when police intercepted a group of smugglers near Ghatmika village following a tip-off. Pahari SHO Yogendra Singh said the smugglers, including Hasam alias Kadha, his son Ashiq and two others, were escorting on motorcycles a mini-truck loaded with cattle when they spotted the police. "As soon as they saw police, they opened fire. Police retaliated and the exchange of fire lasted nearly half an hour," Singh said. **PTI**

UP govt to use Swiss-tech on expressways

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday said it will use cutting-edge Swiss technology to improve ride quality on expressways in the state. Building on the "world-class ride comfort" already validated on the Gorakhpur Link Expressway through advanced testing by ETH Zurich, the state will now deploy the same AI-based systems on the Ganga, Bundelkhand, Agra-Lucknow, and Purvanchal expressways, it said in a statement. "In a pioneering move, the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has initiated a comprehensive assessment and improvement drive for expressway riding comfort. This involves cutting-edge vibration and AI-based technologies developed by ETH Zurich and its independent spin-off company, RTDT Laboratory AG," the government said. **PTI**

Corporate sector key pillar of nation's economic growth, development: President Murmu

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18



President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said that the corporate sector is a key pillar of the nation's economic growth and development. While addressing officer trainees of the Indian Corporate Law Service, she noted that their decisions would influence not only policies and regulations but also the trust that citizens and investors have in the country's institutions. As officers entrusted with the implementation and enforcement of corporate laws, "your role will be central in nurturing a business environment that is transparent, accountable, and conducive" to innovation and entrepreneurship, the President said.

"The corporate sector is a key pillar of our nation's economic growth and development," Murmu told the trainees, who had called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here. Referring to the Companies Act of 2013, she highlighted their responsibility to ensure that the law is not only enforced but also understood, respected, and applied in a way that promotes justice, fairness, and opportunity for all. The officer trainees of the Defence Aeronautical Quality Assurance Service and Central Labour Service also met the President.

Addressing the trainees, she asserted that quality in military aviation is not just about meeting technical specifications-it is about ensuring operational safety, mission preparedness, reliability, and strategic superiority. "You have a prime responsibility to ensure that all military aviation stores, whether indigenously produced or imported, meet the stringent quality and airworthiness requirements at par with the highest global standards," Murmu said. The president further emphasised that augmenting defence capabilities requires not only strengthening public sector undertakings but also actively handholding and enabling the private sector. "By integrating private enterprises into the defence ecosystem through supportive policies and technology transfers, India can accelerate indigenisation efforts and position itself as a global defence manufacturing hub," she added.

Citing 2025 as the 'Year of Defence Reforms', she urged the trainees to develop innovative approaches to transform the armed forces into technologically advanced, combat-ready forces capable of multi-domain, integrated operations.

"As you take on the challenges of public service, you should remember that your decisions and actions have the power to transform lives. In your respective domains, you will be the torchbearers of good governance, transparency, and accountability," the president said. In addressing the probationers of the Central Labour Service, she remarked that they are the custodians of the law, responsible for upholding compliance with labour laws that protect workers' rights and dignity. **PTI**

Priyanka Gandhi condemns gangrape of college student in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 18

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi on Wednesday condemned the alleged gangrape of a 20-year-old college student in Odisha's coastal town of Gopalpur, accusing the state government of failing to ensure the safety of women.

Taking to X, the Wayanad MP said, "The strongest words are not enough to condemn the brutality that was meted out to a student by 10 men in Gopalpur, Odisha. Violence against women is increasing day by day in Odisha. In a state where the Chief Minister himself admits that about 44,000 women and children have disappeared in the last five years, not giving priority to women's safety is in itself an atrocity against women".

The Congress on Wednesday staged a demonstration before the chief minister's residence here, holding the state government responsible for the rise in crimes against women in the state. **PTI**

Centre must release funds before sending teams, says Mamata on HC order over 100-day work scheme

KOLKATA, JUNE 18



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said the central government should release funds pending for the MGNREGA, instead of sending inquiry teams to the state. Her comment came after the Calcutta High Court directed the Centre to implement the MGNREGA, the 100-day job guarantee scheme, prospectively in West Bengal from August 1.

The high court noted that wages for the scheme were not paid for around three years in the state over allegations of irregularities in disbursals to some of the recipients. Responding to the court order, Banerjee said, "The Centre is sending teams to Bengal, but first, give us the due money. Not a single rupee has been released for the past few years. This is public money." She further alleged that workers had not been paid for the work already done under the scheme.

"Funds for the 100-day work scheme haven't been released. People worked, but they weren't paid. Who will pay that money? We have paid it from the state government's funds. We are running the 'Karmashree' scheme with our own money," she said. The chief minister also questioned the BJP's move to celebrate 'Paschim Banga Diwas' on June 20. **PTI**

No opposition to Badgujar's induction into BJP: Fadnavis

PUNE, JUNE 18



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday defended the induction of former Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sudhakar Badgujar into the BJP, saying there was no opposition to his entry into the ruling party. Fadnavis also said Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule was not against Badgujar's entry into the BJP.

Badgujar, once considered close to Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, was targeted by the BJP last year after a video purportedly showed him dancing with Saleem 'Kutta', an accused in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case.

He joined the BJP on Tuesday, even as party MLA Seema Hiray strongly opposed his entry. Badgujar, who had been jailed for a brief period, recently expressed discomfort with the Sena (UBT), and met Fadnavis. He was expelled from the opposition party soon after.

On Tuesday, there was initially a confusion over his induction into the BJP as Bawankule said he was not aware of the development, but later he himself inducted Badgujar and another former Sena (UBT) leader Babanrao Gholap at the party office in Mumbai.

Asked about Badgujar's induction, Fadnavis told reporters it is true that Badgujar was criticised by BJP leader Nitesh Rane (over alleged ties with an aide of Dawood Ibrahim), but no action was taken against him in the police case that was registered.

"This happened when he was in that party (Sena-UBT), before the state assembly elections (held in November last year). Now, he has expressed his desire to join the BJP. If someone wants to join the BJP, they are welcome. The only expectation is that once they join, they must adhere to the BJP's rules and regulations," he said. **PTI**

Naxal couple surrenders before security forces in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR, JUNE 18

Two senior Maoist cadres, including an education unit commander and a press team member, surrendered before security forces in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday, officials said.

Jeevan Tulavi, 45, and his wife Agasha, 35, were active in the Maoist ranks for more than 20 years. They surrendered in the Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district, about 180 km from the state capital Raipur. Tulavi alias Ram Tulavi was the divisional committee member (DVCM) and was working as education team commander in Maad division (Abujhmad), while Agasha alias Aarti Korram was an area committee member (ACM) of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) and was working in the press team in the same (Maad) division and used to draft press releases, a senior officer said.

The state police had placed a Rs 8 lakh reward for catching Tulavi, he said. The couple surrendered before Rajnandgaon range Inspector General (IG) of Police Abhishek Shandilya, Superintendent of Police (SP) Y P Singh, and Commandant of the 27th Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force Vivek Kumar Pandey.

The security forces called the surrender a "major" success, given that the two Maoists were part of the ideological setup of the Naxalites, who worked to motivate the cadres and recruit fresh blood into the fold. **PTI**

DELHI/NCR

Delhi HC restrains infringement of Volvo trademark

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

The Delhi High Court has restrained the infringement of the trademark of Swedish vehicle manufacturer, Volvo.

In an order dated May 30, Justice Amit Bansal further restrained two transporters from the unauthorised use of the mark for their bus services. The Swedish vehicle maker filed a plea seeking a permanent injunction against the defendants from infringing its Volvo trademark.

The defendants, the plea alleged, were Udaipur-based Ganesh Motor Body Repairs, a manufacturer and fabricator that made buses nearly identical or deceptively similar to the original Volvo buses, Rishabh Bus Private Limited in Delhi, which purchased buses from the maker and lured customers for its inter-city bus services by advertising its fleet of buses as Volvo buses.

Volvo said another transporter, the Bahraich-based Shanti Travels, used a motif on its grille which was nearly identical to its grille. Arguing its case, the Swedish company said its "iconic grille slash trademark" was of particular significance as its placement on the grille of any bus or other automobile signified that the automobile was an originally a Volvo. "The defendants, by manufacturing, using, displaying, and advertising lookalikes of the plaintiffs' well-known products, are attempting to create an unauthorised association with the plaintiffs (Volvo group), and target customers and deceive them to believe that the plaintiffs have launched an affordable new range of products," the plea said.

The court held that the defendants had dishonestly copied and created fake, replica or counterfeit products of the plaintiffs' famous products bearing the Volvo trademarks. "The defendants' attempt to use the suit trademarks is nothing but a mala fide attempt to encash on the plaintiffs' rights and amount to infringement and passing off of the suit trademarks, with a sole intention of riding piggyback on the plaintiffs' immense reputation and goodwill to achieve immense publicity, marketing and business gains," the court said.

The order found a prima facie case in their favour of the Swedish maker for an ad-interim injunction. "If the actions of the defendants remain unrestrained, then the practice of using the infringing grille slash trademarks on any bus will become rampant and the exclusivity associated with the plaintiffs' buses will vanish over time," it added. The court, as a result, restrained the defendants and their agents from infringing the Volvo mark in any manner by physically using it on buses or using it for travel services till October 9, the next date of hearing. **PTI**

Juvenile home inmate killed by 2 detainees in Delhi's Majnu Ka Tila; family seek justice

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18



A juvenile home inmate lodged in a centre in north Delhi's Majnu Ka Tila was killed in a fight over bathing in the washing zone, police said Wednesday. The victim was a boy detained in an attempted murder case lodged at the Hauz Khas Police Station, as was one of the accused. The other inmate involved in the attack was booked under sections 302 (Punishment for murder) and 34 (joint liability) of the IPC by the Mundka police.

Police are verifying the age of the victim and the two accused. The incident took place on Tuesday at the Special Home for Boys (OHB-A), located on Magazine Road, Majnu Ka Tila. The boy was declared brought dead at Hindu Rao Hospital at 9.46 am, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Raja Banthia said. "Preliminary inquiry revealed that around 9.15 am, the deceased got involved in a quarrel with two inmates over the use of the washroom for bathing," the officer said. An inquiry in the matter has been initiated by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Banthia said.

"The concerned Judicial Magistrate and the family of the deceased have been informed. An enquiry under Section 196 of the BNSS (Inquiry by a Magistrate into the cause of death) is being conducted by the Judicial Magistrate," the officer said. A case under sections 103(1) (Punishment for murder) of the BNS was registered at Timarpur Police Station, he said. **PTI**

Delhi PWD to rework ₹387 crore courtrooms digitisation project

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

The Public Works Department (PWD) of Delhi government plans to rework the Rs 387-crore courtrooms digitisation project, which was approved by the previous AAP dispensation last year.

Despite the approval in October to digitise 691 courtrooms across the city, the project did not start due to changes in construction specifications and technical issues with financial implications, government officials said.

The work has to be executed by the PWD, for which a fund of Rs 387 crore was also approved by the Expenditure and Finance Committee (E&FC). "The earlier tender invited has been scrapped because there are changes to be made in construction specifications and other major technical issues that have financial implications," an official said. In November last year, the PWD invited bids from private contractors for the project. After the pre-bid meeting with companies, changes were required in the project. For which the PWD sent a proposal to the Delhi High Court in January 2025 for its approval of the changes. The approval was issued in March this year, the officials said. Then again, a modified notice inviting tender was issued on March 18 this year. **PTI**

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I Chiterlekha W/o Krishan Kumar R/o 20 Officer's Enclave Phase-2, Patiala have changed my name to Chiterlekha Sharma.

I, Elizebeth Masih W/o Mr. Nathanial Masih R/o H.No. 173, Village Nandanpur, Jalandhar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Giano Alias Elizebeth Masih to Elizebeth Masih. All concerned please note.

I, hitherto known as Ruchi Kalia D/o Rakesh Kumar residing at Street Number 1, Sukhiabad, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146001, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ruchi Sharma.

LOST AND FOUND

I, Pinky W/o Shiv Kumar R/o Mohalla Dhoorkot, Shahkot, Tehsil Shahkot, Distt. Jalandhar do hereby inform that Regd Sale Deed Dt 17-01-2003 , , Document No. 3235 was lost by me on 20-05-2020. In case this registered sale deed is found I may be contacted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that AXIS Bank Ltd. is advance Loan to Rajinder Kumar S/o Chiman Lal against the Property being part of property no.505-00/93 Situated at Mohalla Tarkhana Wala, Sunam Udham Singh Wala Tehsil Sunam Udham Singh Wala District Sangrur total area measuring 28.95 Sq. Yards who is owner of the property through regd. Transfer deed No.2025-26/123/1/268 dated 02.05.2025. Earlier Rattan Singh S/o JaganNath was owner of property area measuring 39.69 Sq Yards and Shabnam W/o Mohd. Shehzad was owner of property area measuring 15.53 Sq Yards. Then Rattan Singh sold the property area measuring 18.14 Sq Yards to Surinder Kumar and Rajinder Kumar S/o Chiman Lal vide Sale deed No.4113 dated 18.02.2013 Further Shabnam sold the property area measuring 15.53 Sq Yards to Shanti Devi W/o Bajrang Lal and Chiman Lal S/o Bajrang Lal vide Sale deed No.144 dated 21.04.2017. After that Rattan Singh also sold the property area measuring 15.55 Sq Yards to Shanti Devi W/o Bajrang Lal and Chiman Lal S/o Bajrang Lal vide Sale deed No.156 dated 24.04.2017. Then Shanti Devi sold the property area measuring 15.54 Sq Yards to Anita Rani W/o Chiman Lal vide Sale deed No.1504 dated 23.08.2017. After that Surinder Kumar and Rajinder Kumar S/o Chiman Lal and Chiman Lal S/o Bajrang Lal transferred the property area measuring 31.68 Sq Yards to Anita W/o Chiman Lal vide Transfer deed No.1506 dated 23.08.2017 Then Anita Rani W/o Chiman Lal transferred the entire property in question area measuring 28.95 Sq Yards to Rajinder Kumar S/o Chiman Lal vide Transfer deed No.2025-26/123/1/269 dated 02.05.2025. That AXIS Bank Ltd required previous Original title deeds for creating equitable mortgage but the owner Rajinder Kumar S/o Chiman Lal lost the previous Original Sale deed No.144 dated 21.04.2017 in this regard he also lodged DDR no.568043 dated 29.05.2025 at Community Policing Wing, Punjab. As per declaration borrower had not mortgage the said property in favour of any other Bank or any financial institution and has never been sold or transferred to any person and the same is not a subject matter of any dispute in court of law. All person/s having any claim against or in respect the said property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder or any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/regd.), Gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to me or AXIS Bank Ltd with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days from the date of publication, failing which the claim, if any of such person will be considered to have waived and my client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and creation of mortgage in respect thereof. If any person have grituants contact below.

AXIS Bank Ltd.
Jatinder Verma, Advocate
Chamber No.377, 2nd Floor
District Courts, Patiala
Mb.98140-67300

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to general public that Manju Rani W/o Nirmal Kumar R/o E5-842, 14 Gagandeep Colony, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana is going to obtain loan from LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Ludhiana for purchase of Property/ plot no. 287 measuring 200 Sq. Yards having Khasra No. 33//4-6-14 Khata no. 489/509-491/511-492/512 as per jamabandhi for the year 2005-06 situated in the area of Village Kakowal H.B. 80, abadi Sant Nagar Teshil & Distt. Ludhiana, from Palvi Jain W/o Sachin Jain after depositing their original sale deed along with the previous sale deed bearing wasika no. 1402 dated 16.4.2018 of seller. That one previous original sale deed bearing wasika no. 7887 dated 10.8.2005 favouring Vidula Jain W/o Sawtantar Jain of the part of title of the said property has been lost by the borrower. If anybody having any objection regarding this mortgage/ documents. Kindly contact within 15 days to B.S. Rampal (Advocate) 98151-14685.

(ਸਹਿਕਾਰਤਾ ਵਿਭਾਗ)
ਦਫਤਰ ਉਪ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ
ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ

ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਦੀ ਕੈਨਾਲ ਵਿਊ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਲਿਮ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਦੀ **ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਮਿਤੀ 15, 16-07-2025** ਨੂੰ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੂਚੀ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਲਈ ਭੇਜੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਸੂਚੀ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਕਿਸਮ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ **ਮਿਤੀ 30.06.2025 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10.00** ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਨਿਮਨਹਸਾਖਰ ਦੇ **ਦਫਤਰ ਸਥਿਤ ਵੇਰਕਾ ਮਿਲਕ ਪਲਾਂਟ, ਫਿਰੋਜਪੁਰ ਰੋਡ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ** ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ ਮਿਤੀ 30.06.2025 ਨੂੰ ਬਾਅਦ ਦੁਪਿਹਰ 03.00 ਵਜੇ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੂਚੀ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ, **ਸਹਾਇਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ (ਵੈਸਟ)** ਅਤੇ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਦੇਖੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਕਰਤਾ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਮਿਥੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ ਸਮੇਂ ਸਮੇਤ ਸਬੂਤ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਆਉਣ। **ਨੋਟਿਸ ਅੱਜ ਮਿਤੀ 13.06.2025 ਨੂੰ ਮੇਰੇ ਹਸਤਾਖਰਾ ਨਾਲ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੋਇਆ।**

(ਵਿਜ਼ੇਦਰ ਸੰਧੂ)
ਉਪ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ।

Bajaj Finance Limited

Registered Office : Bajaj Finance Limited, C/o Bajaj Auto Limited Complex Mumbai Pune Road Akurdi Pune 411035
Branch Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, 1st Floor, SCO 4 5, Rai Sahib Colony, Opp. Punjab Roadways Workshop, Above Andra Bank, Near Dominoz, Jalandhar Road, Batala -143505

BAJAJ FINANCE

Possession Notice (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL). under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financials Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec.13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand by registered post ("Notice") calling upon the Borrowers/Co-borrowers mentioned hereunder to repay the amount mentioned in the notice U/s.13(2) of the said Act within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors named below having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Mortgagors/ Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Sec.13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealing with this property will be subject to the charge of the Bajaj Finance Limited. for the amount mentioned herein below along with interest thereon at contracted rate.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Loan Account No. /Name of the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) & Addresses	Description of the Secured Immovable Property	Demand Notice Date & Amt. / Possession Date
LAN :5U4BLSFV574912 **1. Amarbir Singh** S/o Hardip Singh R/o Gazi Nangal Gurdaspur Punjab 143605 **Also at,** R/o. Khasra no. 24//1//2/1 – 2/1 – 1/2/1 min, KhewantKhtoni No. 44/63, Hadbast No. 418, Jamabandi year 2016-2017, Vakia Village Gazinanagal, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak, Distt. Gurdaspur. Punjab, 143604 **2. Bhupinder Kaur** D/o Gurdial Singh W/o Hardeep Singh R/o Gazi Nangal Gurdaspur Punjab 143605 .	All the piece and parcel of Khasra no. 24//1//2/1 – 2/1 – 1/2/1 min, Khewant Khtoni No. 44/63 , Hadbast no. 418, Jamabandi year 2016-2017, Vakia Village Gazinanagal, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak distt. Gurdaspur. Punjab-143604 along with proportionate share in common areas (Area adm. 3300 Sq.Ft.). **Boundaries:** On East- Owner Property; On West- Balbir Singh; On North- Gali; On South- Amarbir Singh.	**24.03.2025 & Rs. 21,48,956/-** **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION DATE 13.06.2025 at 3 PM to 4 PM**

Place : Batala,
Dated : 16.06.2025

Authorised Officer,
For M/s Bajaj Finance Limited

ਬਾ: ਅਦਾਲਤ ਨਾਇਬ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ ਅਖਤਿਆਰਾਤ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਦਰਜਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਜਗਰਾਉਂ।

ਮਿਸਲ ਨੰਬਰ 36 ਤੋਂ 42/2025 ਪਿੰਡ ਬਿਰਕ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਜਗਰਾਉਂ।

1. ਸਗਮੇਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਜਾਗੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸਰਦਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਬਿਰਕ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਜਗਰਾਉਂ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ। **ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰ/ਸਇਲ**

ਬਨਾਮ

1.ਸ਼ੇਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਈਸ਼ਰ ਸਿੰਘ 2.ਮਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਈਸ਼ਰ ਸਿੰਘ 3. ਨਾਹਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਧਰਮ ਸਿੰਘ (ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ) 4.ਅਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਫੁੰਮਣ ਸਿੰਘ (ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ) 5.ਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਈਸ਼ਰ ਸਿੰਘ 6.ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਨਾਹਰ ਸਿੰਘ 7.ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਭਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ 8.ਸੁਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਅਰਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ 9.ਸੁਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਉਰਫ ਗੁੱਡੀ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਅਰਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ 10.ਪਰਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸੁਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ 11.ਕੇਹਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਈਸ਼ਰ ਸਿੰਘ 12.ਦਲਬੀਰ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ 13.ਜੋਗੀਰ ਕੌਰ ਵਿਧਵਾ ਅਰਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ 14.ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ 15.ਕਰਮਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ 16.ਬਹਾਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਇੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ (ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ) 17. ਅਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਅਮਰ ਸਿੰਘ 18.ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ 19.ਮਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਨਾਹਰ ਸਿੰਘ (ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ) 20.ਨੰਦ ਕੌਰ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਧਰਮ ਸਿੰਘ (ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ) 21. ਗੁੱਡੀ ਉਰਫ ਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਅਰਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ 22.ਬਲਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸਾਧੂ ਸਿੰਘ 23.ਜੋਗੀਰ ਕੌਰ ਵਿਧਵਾ ਅਰਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ 24. ਸੁਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਬਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ (ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ) 25.ਦੋਲੋ ਉਰਫ ਬਲਵੰਤ ਕੌਰ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਗੱਜੂ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਰੇ ਵਾਸੀਆਨ ਪਿੰਡ ਬਿਰਕ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਜਗਰਾਉਂ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ। **ਉਤਰਵਾਦੀਆਨ/ਮੁਦੈਅਲਮ**

ਕੇਸ ਤਕਸੀਮ ਅਰਜੀ ਵਾਕਿਆ ਪਿੰਡ ਬਿਰਕ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਜਗਰਾਉਂ ਜਿਲਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ

ਉਕਤ ਮੁੱਕਦਮਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰਾ ਯਕੀਨ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮੁਦੈਅਲਮ ਦੀ ਮਾਮੂਲੀ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਮਨ ਉੱਤੇ ਤਾਮੀਲ ਹੋਣੀ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਿਲ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮਿਤੀ 24-06-2025 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10.00 ਵਜੇ ਦੀ ਤਾਰੀਖ ਪੇਸ਼ੀ ਨੀਯਤ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ ਰਾਹੀ ਮੁਦੈਅਲਮ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਕਤ ਤਾਰੀਕ ਉੱਤੇ ਆਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸ ਵਕੀਲ ਰਾਹੀ ਇਸ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਹੋਵੋ ਨਹੀ ਤਾ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਇੱਕ ਤਰਫਾ ਅਮਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਿਆਦੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਅੱਜ ਮਿਤੀ 10-06-2025 ਨੂੰ ਮੇਰੇ ਦਸਤਖਤਾਂ ਤੇ ਮੋਹਰ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਨਾਲ ਇਹ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ।

ਨੰਬਰ 559/ਗੰਡਰ **ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ**
ਮਿਤੀ 10-06-2025 **ਦਰਜਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਜਗਰਾਉਂ।**

Haryana govt protector of criminals: Congress MP Surjewala

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18



Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Randeep Singh Surjewala, launched a sharp attack on the Haryana government, accusing it of being a "protector of criminals" and failing to maintain law and order in the state.

Citing a recent media report on the alleged criminal-administration nexus in the state, Surjewala claimed that the BJP-ruled state has become a hub of organised crime, mafia operations, and lawlessness under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

Taking to social media platform X, Surjewala wrote, "Under BJP's rule, criminals roam free while the public lives in fear. Haryana's image has been reduced to that of a gangster state, where mafias, goons, and criminals dictate terms while the police and administration look the other way."

According to the Congress leader, crimes such as extortion, daylight murders, and threats have become routine, while police effectiveness has eroded severely.

"Today, the law and order situation in Haryana has completely collapsed. Gangsters are calling the shots even from inside jails, which now function like their personal offices," he said.

"Criminals sitting abroad are now orchestrating crimes in Haryana through their henchmen. Social media is being used to spread fear, and extortion has become the biggest business under the Saini government," Surjewala added.

He alleged that the BJP government is providing indirect patronage to criminals, allowing a parallel mafia regime to flourish.

"Haryana is no longer safe. The common man is living under a shadow of fear. Crime has become sophisticated, organised and emboldened due to political protection," he said.

Referring to a media report, he said that it exposes the alleged nexus between the criminals and the ruling dispensation. IANS

Speaker Harvinder Kalyan visits Karnataka assembly, observes legislative work

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18

Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan visited Vidhana Soudha (Karnataka Legislative Assembly) in Bengaluru during his Karnataka state visit. On this occasion, he also interacted with Deputy Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly Rudrappa Manappa Lamani and other senior officials.

During this visit, there was a detailed and substantial discussion between the representatives of Haryana and Karnataka Legislative Assembly on legislative processes, house operations, technological innovations and parliamentary traditions. The representatives of both the states agreed to learn from each other's experiences and increase cooperation to make the legislative processes more effective and transparent in future.

On this occasion, Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan also mentioned the upcoming National Urban Local Bodies Conference, which is going to be held in Gurugram on July 3 and 4, 2025.

On this occasion, Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan also mentioned the upcoming National Urban Local Bodies Conference, which is going to be held in Gurugram on July 3 and 4, 2025. He said that through such conferences, dialogue and coordination would be established between the legislative and administrative bodies of different states, which would help in ensuring better governance across the country.

Bhupinder Singh Hooda's aunt passes away



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda's aunt Suprabha Devi has passed away. She was 103 years old. Hooda paid tributes to the departed soul. He said that the last rites will be held on June 22 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Notting Hill Banquet Hall on Maruti Road in Gurugram. All the family members, relatives, and all the acquaintances will come to pay tributes to the departed soul.

48 festivals a year, EV buses to ferry tourists mooted to celebrate Kurukshetra's history

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 18

Kurukshetra must be turned into a must-see site, Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya said on Wednesday, and suggested celebrating 48 utsavas, or festivals, to that end, annually.

The governor was chairing the 82nd meeting of the Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB).

Dattatreya suggested that the festivals should be celebrated in villages within the 48 kos area of Kurukshetra (around 240 km of the perimeter).

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who is the KDB vice chairman, said the government's objective is to transform Kurukshetra into a top destination for spiritual and cultural tourism.

According to an official statement, the discussion at the meeting was dominated by suggestions on how to improve sanitation, the upkeep and renovation of sarovars (ponds), transportation, and other infrastructure in the fairground.

Saini directed the officers to identify major intersections and entry gates to the city, which will be designed around a Mahabharata-inspired theme.

A replica of 'Sudarshan Chakra' on the road leading from Jyotisar in Kurukshetra will be redesigned,

According to an official statement, the discussion at the meeting was dominated by suggestions on how to improve sanitation, the upkeep and renovation of sarovars (ponds), transportation, and other infrastructure in the fairground.

and an installation of a statue of Lord Shri Krishna, the statement said.

The naming of entry gates to Brahma Sarovar was also deliberated upon.

Discussions were held regarding city-wide mural art and inscriptions of Sanskrit shlokas on structures near the railway bridge.

The board members decided to introduce electric buses in the city, connecting important pilgrimage sites along the 48 Kos Parikrama circuit.

Commuters will be given a daily bus pass, which will also serve as an entry pass to attractions across Kurukshetra, the statement said.

An information centre each is to be set up by October 15 at Pipli Bus Stand, Kurukshetra Railway Station, Jyotisar Railway Station, and the Kurukshetra Development Board headquarters. PTI

Saini directs all-out war against criminals, stresses zero-tolerance for crime

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, June 18

Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini chaired a high-level review meeting on Tuesday to assess the law and order situation in the state and the ongoing excise auctions in Haryana. While issuing stern directives to the Home Department to launch a 'High Octane drive' against criminals and ensure a responsive police presence across Haryana, the Chief Minister declared that maintaining a robust law and order is the utmost priority of the government.

The CM expressed concern over the reported incident of murder of an excise contractor in Kurukshetra and directed the DGP to take prompt action against the culprits. He also asked the DGP to take immediate steps to provide security to all citizens who reported threats and extortion calls. He asked for issuance of a dedicated phone number and its linking with 112 for such reporting.

The Chief MInister's meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, Anurag Rastogi, Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rajesh Khullar, Additional Chief Secretary (Home),



Dr. Sumita Misra, Commissioner & Secretary to Government, Haryana, Excise & Taxation Department, Ashima Brar, and Director General of Police (DGP), Shatrujeet Kapoor.

In his directives to police officers, the Chief Minister said that senior police officials should personally meet crime victims to enhance public trust in the force. He also stressed the importance of taking even the smallest pieces of information seriously to strengthen the police's image among the public, ensuring swift and decisive action.

The Chief Minister stated that seminars should be organised for civil society, including colleges, to inform the general public and the younger generation about the three new criminal laws implemented.

While reviewing the performance of the Excise & Taxation Department, CM directed officers to complete the auction process and ensure the due revenue is realised. In the excise auction, the state has been able to auction the majority of the excise zones with 934 excise zones auctioned so far and secure significantly higher revenue of Rs. 11,054 Cr as compared to last year's Rs. 5037 crores. The excise auctions have so far attracted a good response during the auctions.

Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini issued stringent directives to the police force, emphasizing a highly visible presence that is pro people and fearful for criminals. The Chief Minister underlined the importance of instilling fear of law among wrongdoers and anti-social elements, thereby ensuring a decisively safer environment for the citizens.

CM unequivocally mandated that regular and rigorous monitoring of these critical cases must be ensured at the highest levels.

HIMACHAL/J&K

BJP chief Nadda, party leaders hail Centre's aid to Himachal for 2023 flood, landslide damages

SHIMLA, JUNE 18



BJP leaders, including party chief J P Nadda, on Wednesday expressed gratitude to the Union government for the Rs 2,000 crore aid to Himachal Pradesh to overcome losses caused by floods and landslides in 2023.

A high-level committee, headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, approved Rs 2,006.40 crore in central assistance for recovery and reconstruction efforts following the devastating floods, landslides, and cloudburst.

Heavy rains had triggered floods and landslides in the state in July and August 2023, and about 550 people died during the monsoon season. The Himachal Pradesh government had been requesting the Union government to expedite the release of Rs. 9,042 crore under Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) for the year 2023-24.

BJP national president and Union Health Minister Nadda, in a statement issued here, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Shah for the financial aid.

Nadda, who hails from Himachal Pradesh, said the financial assistance is an important support to the disaster-affected citizens in dealing with the crisis and providing relief to the disaster victims.

Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, Jairam Thakur, Himachal BJP president Rajiv Bindal, former Union Minister Anurag Thakur, and former BJP chief ministers and state presidents also thanked the Union government.

They said several steps have been taken to prevent any major loss of life and property during disasters by strengthening the Disaster Risk Reduction system in India. PTI

Law student falls to death from hostel terrace in Jammu

JAMMU, JUNE 18

A 25-year-old law student died after he fell down from the terrace of his hostel building in Jammu University complex, officials said on Wednesday.

Vishal Bhardwaj, also known as Bunny who appeared in the final examination during the day, was found unconscious on Tuesday night by some students on the rear side of the hostel shortly after he fell down, they said.

Bhardwaj, a resident of Katra in Reasi district, was rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital where he was declared brought dead, the officials said, adding police have started inquest proceedings to ascertain the exact cause of his death.

The postmortem of the deceased was conducted at GMC Hospital on Wednesday and later his body was handed over to his family, they said.

Bhardwaj, a resident of Katra in Reasi district, was rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital where he was declared brought dead

In another incident, the body of an unidentified woman, aged around 35 years, was recovered under mysterious circumstances near an irrigation canal in Kotli Charkan village in Bishnah area of Jammu, the officials said.

The body bore a cut mark on the throat and has been shifted to sub-district hospital Bishnah for identification and postmortem, they said, adding a police investigation is underway to ascertain the cause of her death. PTI

Fraudster arrested in Hamirpur after 16 years

HAMIRPUR, JUNE 18

A team of Dharamshala-based state Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested an accused absconding for 16 years late on Tuesday night from Hamirpur following a tip-off, officials said.

A case of fraud and forgery under sections 420 and 467 of IPC was registered against accused Rajiv, around 50 years of age, in the Sundarnagar police station in 2009. Later, the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Sundarnagar in Mandi district, declared Rajiv a proclaimed offender.

The Vigilance team has handed over the absconder to the district Mandi police for further legal action, the spokesman said. PTI

Search operation launched to track down terrorists in Kishtwar



JAMMU, JUNE 18

Security forces on Wednesday launched a search operation in a remote forested area in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir following information about the presence of terrorists there, officials said.

The joint search operation by police and army began in the Singhpora forest area of Chatroo in the morning and was continuing when the last reports were received, officials said.

They said security forces received information about the presence of some terrorists and immediately cordoned off the area to plug all escape routes. However, there was no contact with the suspected terrorists so far, the officials said.

Earlier, three terrorists and a soldier were killed in two separate encounters in Chatroo belt in April and May this year. PTI

CRPF conducts sanitisation operation around Jammu base camp of Amarnath Yatra

JAMMU, JUNE 18

The CRPF on Wednesday carried out an anti-sabotage and sanitisation operation in and around the Bhagwati Nagar Amarnath Yatra base camp here to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims, officials said. The 32-day pilgrimage will commence on July 3 from the twin tracks - the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal - on July 3. A day earlier, the first batch of pilgrims will leave Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar base camp and Ram Mandir for the valley.

The shrine houses the naturally formed ice Shivlingam. Over 5.10 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance at the 3,880-metre shrine last year.

Assisted by sniffer dogs, metal detectors and surveillance equipment, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) units conducted an extensive sanitisation exercise in the parking area and on the roads leading to the base camp, the officials said.

The sanitisation was also carried out on the banks of River Tawi adjacent to the base camp and in various other buildings, they said.

The security wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police has taken charge of the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, while the CRPF is managing the security around the base camp.

The Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu serves as the primary base camp for pilgrims from across the country before they proceed to the 3,880-metre holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the majestic Himalayas of south Kashmir.

CRPF Director General (DG) Gyanendra Pratap Singh and Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat visited the Bhagwati Nagar base camp and chaired high-level security review meetings ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra. PTI

Civet cat along with four cubs rescued in Rajouri

RAJOURI/JAMMU, JUNE 18

A civet cat and its four cubs were rescued by a team of wild protection department from a residential area in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on Wednesday.

The rescue operation was launched immediately after information was received that a civet and its cubs had ventured into the Jawahar Nagar area of the border district, the official of the Wildlife Protection Department said. PTI

6 held for killing man in Kinnaur district over land dispute

SHIMLA, JUNE 18

Six members of a family have been arrested for allegedly killing a man over a land dispute in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district, police said on Wednesday. Krishan Lal, a teacher by profession, was killed on June 15 when a violent confrontation broke out between two families.

The accused Dawa Gyalchhan (60), his wife Sem Kali (53), their daughter Poonam (32), son Praveen (34), Praveen's wife Rita (35) and Suman (28) -- from Rarang village in Moorang tehsil -- allegedly attacked Lal with iron rods, sticks, stones and sickles, police said.

According to the complaint lodged by the victim's wife, Chunni Devi, the couple along with two other family members Kuman and Dandup Giacho were returning home from their orchard when the accused stopped and attacked them. The three men were injured in the attack and Lal was initially taken to the Regional Hospital in Reckong Peo. He was later referred to Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), Shimla, where he died during treatment on Tuesday.

Superintendent of Police, Kinnaur, Abhishek Shekhar said two FIRs were registered at Moorang police station on June 15, with both families accusing each other of inciting the violence.

After Lal's death, section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, was added to the FIR filed by his family. PTI

NEWSBRIEFS

Pakistani authorities under fire as lawyers threaten indefinite boycott over law and order breakdown

LARKANA: Lawyers' leaders in Larkana division have issued a stern warning to boycott court proceedings and ban police entry into courts if law and order is not restored and DIG Nasir Aftab Pathan is not removed from his position, as reported by Dawn News (Pakistan). This announcement was made during a high-level lawyers' convention held at the District Bar Association (DBA) bar room on Tuesday. The event was attended by legal practitioners from across the division, including representatives of the Sindh Bar Council, according to Dawn. **AGENCIES**

UN Rights Chief flags China over Tibet, Xinjiang abuses; calls for release of detainees and legal reform

GENEVA: Volker Turk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on June 17 expressed concern over the "continued violations of cultural and other rights" in Tibet and called for the "release of all individuals detained for exercising their rights and alignment of legislation and policies with international human rights standards," in his extensive address that provided a serious evaluation of the prevailing global situation, as reported by the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). He highlighted the intersection of rising armed conflicts, climate instability, economic unpredictability, and unchecked technological growth. He articulated profound concern over the "military escalation involving Israel and Iran," calling for de-escalation and "immediate diplomatic negotiations," while stressing the necessity of "full adherence to international law, particularly the protection of civilians in densely populated regions," according to the CTA report. **AGENCIES**

Turkish nationalist party leader released after incitement conviction

ISTANBUL: A Turkish court in Istanbul on Tuesday ordered the release of Umit Ozdag, leader of the nationalist Victory Party, five months after he was jailed on charges of inciting public hatred. Ozdag was arrested in January, accused of using social media to stir anti-refugee unrest in the central province of Kayseri last year. In its ruling on Tuesday, the court sentenced him to two years, four months and three days in prison for "inciting hatred and hostility or degrading the public," but ordered his release, crediting the 148 days he had already served in pre-trial detention. **IANS**

Khamenei declares 'battle has begun' as Iran fires hypersonic missile at Israel

TEL AVIV: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared that the "battle has begun" after Tehran launched a hypersonic missile at Israel. This escalation has intensified the already volatile conflict, as the military confrontation between Iran and Israel enters its sixth day on Wednesday. Israel has carried out a series of devastating airstrikes on Iranian territory, reportedly killing at least 224 individuals. Among the casualties are senior military figures, nuclear scientists, and civilians. **IANS**

Iran warns US of firm action if it gets involved in Israel's military campaign

GENEVA, JUNE 18



Iran has conveyed to Washington that it will respond firmly to the United States if it becomes directly involved in Israel's military campaign, the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva said on Wednesday.

Ali Bahreini told reporters that he saw the US as "complicit in what Israel is doing".

Iran would set a red line, and respond if the United States crosses it, he said, without specifying what actions would provoke a response.

Israel launched an air war on Friday after saying it had concluded Iran was on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon.

Iran denies seeking nuclear weapons. U.S. President Donald Trump called on Tuesday for Iran's "unconditional surrender".

Bahreini called Trump's remarks "completely unwarranted and very hostile. We cannot ignore them. We are vigilant about what Trump is saying. We will put it in our calculations and assessments."

The US has so far taken only indirect actions, including helping to shoot down missiles fired toward Israel. It is deploying more fighter aircraft to the Middle East and extending the deployment of other warplanes, three US officials said.

"I am confident that (Iran's military) will react strongly, proportionally and appropriately. We are closely following the level of involvement in the U.S ... We will react whenever it is needed," he said.

Thousands of people were fleeing Tehran and other major cities on Wednesday, Iranian media reported, as Iran and Israel launched new missile strikes at each other. **AGENCIES**

Iran downs Israeli drone in a first

TEL AVIV, JUNE 18

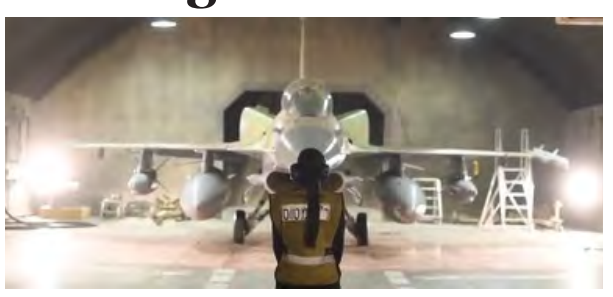
In a first, Iran appears to have successfully downed an Israeli drone over the Isfahan area in the Islamic Republic on Tuesday, according to the state media, The Times of Israel reported.

Footage broadcast by Iran's state broadcaster IRIB shows what appears to be a crashed Israeli Air Force Hermes 900.However, the Israel Defence Force (IDF) has not commented. It has previously denied Iranian claims, not backed by any evidence, of shooting down Israeli aircraft.

On Wednesday morning, the Israeli Air Force bombed five Iranian AH-1 helicopters at an airbase in Kermanshah, IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Effie Defrin says in a press conference. **AGENCIES**

IDF struck centrifuge production site, weapon manufacturing facilities in Iran

TEL AVIV, JUNE 18



The Israel Defence Force (IDF) on Wednesday announced that it had attacked a centrifuge production site and multiple weapon manufacturing facilities in Tehran, which were the "key elements of Iran's nuclear weapons and missile programs".

The escalating military confrontation between Israel and Iran entered its sixth consecutive day on Wednesday.

"More than 50 Air Force fighter jets, under precise intelligence guidance from the Intelligence Branch, have completed a series of attacks on military targets in the Tehran area in recent hours. As part of the extensive effort to damage Iran's nuclear weapons development program, a centrifuge production site in Tehran was attacked, which was intended to allow the Iranian regime to expand the scope and rate of its uranium enrichment for the purpose of developing nuclear weapons," said the IDF in a post on X.

"The Iranian regime is enriching uranium intended for the development of nuclear weapons. It should be emphasised that nuclear development for civilian use does not require enrichment at these levels," the post added.

According to the Israeli military, throughout the wave of attacks, several weapons production sites were attacked. It asserted that among the weapons manufacturing plants that were attacked was a site for the production of raw materials and components for assembling the surface-to-surface missiles that the Iranian regime has used to launch towards the State of Israel.

"In addition, sites producing systems and components for surface-to-air missiles designed to hit aircraft were attacked. These targets were attacked as part of the IDF's effort to damage the Iranian regime's nuclear weapons program and missile manufacturing industry," said the IDF.

Earlier on Tuesday the IDF stated that it had eliminated Ali Shadmani, Iran's wartime chief of staff and close aide of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in an overnight strike. This was the second time in recent weeks that Israel has targeted and killed a high-ranking military commander of the regime, to disrupt Iran's military leadership. **IANS**

Volcanic eruption in Indonesia forces evacuations, flight cancellations



EMBATA (INDONESIA),JUNE 18

Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki erupted with giant ash and smoke plumes again on Wednesday after forcing evacuations of villages and flight cancellations, including to and from the resort island of Bali. Several eruptions sent ash up to 5,000 metres into the sky on Tuesday evening to Wednesday afternoon. An eruption on Tuesday afternoon sent thick, gray clouds 10,000 metres into the sky that expanded into a mushroom-shaped ash cloud visible as far as 150 km away.

The eruption alert was raised on Tuesday to the highest level and the danger zone where people are recommended to leave was expanded to 8 km from the crater.

Officers also evacuated from the Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki monitoring post 7 km from the crater to avoid falling gravel released in the eruption. No casualties have been reported.

Ash and debris fell in a number of places outside the danger zone, including villages of Boru, Hewa and Watobuku. Some residents from Nurabelen village in Ile Bura subdistrict fled to evacuation sites in Konga to avoid the impact of the eruption, the National Disaster Management Agency said in a statement.

"Some residents have also evacuated to Nileknoheng village, which is 12 km from the crater," said Abdul Muhari, the National Disaster Management Agency's spokesperson.

Dozens of flights on Wednesday were cancelled, including those connecting Bali to cities in Australia, Malaysia, India and China, according to the website of Bali's I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport. Volcanic ash can pose a risk to plane engines.

Flights also were cancelled to and from the international airport in Labuan Bajo, another tourist destination in Flores Island, East Nusa Tenggara province. The airport is still operating.

The cancellations and delays affected thousands of travellers.

Australian carrier Jetstar, which flies daily between the tourist hotspot and several Australian cities, said the ash cloud was forecast to clear by late Wednesday and its services would be rescheduled.

Air New Zealand cancelled one return trip to Auckland and would rebook customers on the next available service, the airline said in a statement on Wednesday.

Flights to New Delhi, Singapore and Pudong, China, were also cancelled due to the volcano, according to information on the website for Denpasar airport in Bali. **AGENCIES**

OHCHR flags China over 'infringement' of Tibetian rights

GENEVA, JUNE 18

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk has raised serious concerns over "ongoing infringements" on the rights of people living in Tibet and called to align legislation and policies with international human rights law.

Addressing the 59th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the UN Human Rights Commissioner (OHCHR) detailed a grave assessment of the current global landscape.

He asserted that he has continued to engage directly with China on a wide range of issues.

Raising concerns about the human rights violations in China, Turk highlighted the lack of progress on much-needed legal reform to ensure compliance with international human rights law.

"In Tibet, there are ongoing infringements on cultural and other rights. I call for the release of all individuals detained for exercising their rights and to align legislation and policies with international human rights law," the UN human rights chief stated.

"I continue to engage directly with China on a wide range of issues. I am concerned about the lack of progress on much-needed legal reform to ensure compliance with international human rights law. I also regret that there has not yet been a resolution to the individual cases we have raised," he said. **IANS**

Air pollution reduces life expectancy in Nepal by 3.4 years

KATHMANDU, JUNE 18



Air pollution has emerged as the leading health hazard for death and disability in Nepal, with the Kathmandu Valley and the Terai region emerging as air pollution hotspots of the country, according to a new World Bank Report.

The report stated that air pollution reduced life expectancy by 3.4 years for the average Nepali and caused approximately 26,000 premature deaths annually.

The report titled 'Towards Clean Air in Nepal: Benefits, Pollution Sources, and Solutions,' released on Tuesday, served as a foundational assessment of air pollution in the country and the airshed of the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Himalayan Foothills.

"It (air pollution) affects labour productivity due to increased health-related absences and impaired cognition. The negative impact on the tourism industry and the aviation sector is also significant. The economic cost of poor air quality is estimated to exceed six per cent of Nepal's GDP each year," the report further added, highlighting the severe economic consequences.

According to the report, the Kathmandu Valley and the Terai being the air pollution hotspots, have not witnessed any significant improvement over the past decade. **IANS**

Political parties hold talks with National Consensus Commission on reforms in B'desh

DHAKA, JUNE 18

The second phase of discussions between political parties and the National Consensus Commission (NCC) of the country began on Tuesday as political uncertainty and instability continues to grip Bangladesh. The latest round of talks are aimed at completing the recommendations of various reform commissions set by the interim government and to draft the July Charter.

The discussions focussed on continuing with the reform commission recommendations that were left unfinished during the first round, local media reported.The NCC announced that it will hold discussions with 30 political parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in phases, until Thursday."It will emphasise consensus on issues of disagreement such as Article 70 of the Constitution, the appointment process of presidents to Standing Committees, women representatives, a bicameral parliament, and the appointment of the chief justice," read a statement issued by the Commission. **IANS**

Six coaches of Jaffar Express derail after explosion in Pakistan's Balochistan

BALOCHISTAN, JUNE 18

At least six coaches of Pakistan's Jaffar Express derailed on Wednesday following a blast on railway tracks near Jacobabad in Sindh province, as per reports in Pakistani media.

The train was en route from Quetta to Peshawar when the explosion occurred.

According to police officials, the blast created a crater approximately three feet wide and deep, damaging nearly six feet of railway track.Authorities suspect that the explosion was caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) planted along the line.

Officials stated that no casualties have been reported and that the area has been secured. A formal investigation is currently underway, said railway officials.The Baloch Republican Guards, an armed Baloch separatist organisation, has claimed responsibility for the attack on the Jaffar Express, as well as for targeting containers linked to the Reko Diq project in Chagai, Balochistan, The Balochistan Post reported.

The group's spokesperson, Dosteen Baloch, issued a statement claiming the blast was executed by their operatives using a remote-controlled device near the Jacobabad cattle market.

"In today's attack, six coaches of the train derailed. The Jaffar Express is used by the occupying Pakistani army for the movement of its personnel, and our attacks will be severe in the future," the spokesperson said (rough English translation).

"Our organisation accepts responsibility for these attacks. Our such attacks will continue until the independence of Balochistan," the statement added. **IANS**

Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir's US visit marred by PTI-led protests

WASHINGTON, JUNE 18

Pakistani Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir's high-stakes official visit to the United States has been overshadowed by widespread protests led by members of the Pakistani diaspora and supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

While Munir's visit is being projected as a step towards strengthening military and strategic ties with Washington, the backlash from overseas Pakistanis turned his stay at the luxury Four Seasons Hotel in Washington into a scene of charged demonstrations.

Protesters chanted slogans accusing Munir of human rights violations, branding him as "Pakistanio ke qatil" and "Islamabad ke qatil" -- meaning "killer of Pakistanis" and "killer of Islamabad," respectively.

As official convoys arrived at the hotel, protesters erupted in loud chants. A video widely circulated on social media showed one protester yelling, "Geedad, geedad, geedad (jackal, jackal, jackal)" a derogatory term used to suggest cowardice and deceit.

The clip quickly went viral and was described by analysts as a public embarrassment for the Pakistani military establishment.

Pakistani-Americans demonstrating outside the Four Seasons hotel stated that their goal was to remind General Asim Munir of the crimes he is allegedly responsible for against the people of Pakistan.

In a video shared by PTI USA, Imran Khan's sister, Noreen Khan Niazi, said, "The protest in America was carried out by patriotic Pakistanis -- the same people who keep Pakistan's economy alive through remittances. No one paid them. No one forced them. **IANS**

British Columbia Premier to ask PM Carney to declare Bishnoi gang as 'terrorist group'

BRITISH COLUMBIA, JUNE 18

Canadian politician and the premier of British Columbia, David Eby, is set to ask Canadian PM Mark Carney to declare the Bishnoi gang a "terrorist group", as reported by the Vancouver Sun.As per the Vancouver Sun, Eby said that this is an issue of huge concern not only in British Columbia but also in Alberta and Ontario.

As per the Vancouver Sun, he said on Tuesday that the Lawrence Bishnoi gang had been linked to extortions and other crimes against South Asian community members in B.C., Alberta and Ontario.

Hence, he said he would write to Prime Minister Mark Carney to ask that the gang be given the terrorist designation "to enable police to be able to use the necessary tools to investigate."



According to the Vancouver Sun, police have said South Asian community members are being extorted for cash under the threat of violence or death, and the gang has been linked to some of those threats.

Noting that the Canadian federal government had taken a similar action against a Mexican drug cartel, Eby said, "This is a serious step. We don't make this recommendation lightly, but this activity strikes at public confidence in the justice system, in our democracy."

As per the Vancouver Sun, Satish Kumar, the president of the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Temple and owner of Reflections Banquet Halls, said his life was threatened after he said he wouldn't pay USD 2 million to an extortionist. **AGENCIES**

lifestyle



Huma
explores spiritual essence and culinary heart of Madurai

Huma Qureshi recently embarked on a soulful journey to Madurai, immersing herself in the city's rich cultural, religious, and culinary heritage. From visiting iconic temples to sampling authentic South Indian delicacies, the actress embraced every facet of Madurai's vibrant charm. Taking to Instagram, the Double X actress shared a couple of her photos and videos from Madurai, captioning it, "Postcards from Madurai wearing my sari from Jammu ... #blessed."

In the first image, Huma Qureshi is seen gracefully posing on a staircase, dressed in an elegant white saree. Another photo captures a traditional Madurai meal served on a banana leaf, showcasing the region's rich culinary flavors. She also shared a serene video from a temple visit, along with candid snapshots of the local people, offering a wholesome glimpse into her cultural and spiritual experience in the city.

Meanwhile, Huma Qureshi recently made headlines after hosting a special screening of the action thriller "Ballerina," starring Ana de Armas. She expressed her belief that the future belongs to female-led action stories—something she said she hoped to help shape "one frame at a time."

She posted a video featuring all her family and friends watching the film and captioned it, "Last night I hosted a special screening of #Ballerina for my friends and fam—all action movie junkies like me ... There's something so powerful about watching a woman own the frame—fists, flaws, and all. I truly believe the #FutureIsFemaleAction — and I want to help build that future, one frame at a time." **IANS**



Sonakshi
unveils spine-chilling new song **'Kaali Raatein'** from **'Nikita Roy'**

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who is gearing up for the release of "Nikita Roy", has unveiled a new track titled "Kaali Raatein", a hair-raising melodious track that sits perfectly for the theme of the upcoming supernatural thriller. Sonakshi in a collaboration post with the label Saregama took to Instagram, where she shared the music video that offers a glimpse into the dark night of "Nikita Roy".

The post was captioned it: "Not all dark nights are silent; some haunt you with a tune! #KaaliRaatein is out now." Featuring Sonakshi, the song takes a deep dive into the spooky world of Nikita Roy. Dark, brooding, and atmospheric, Kaali Raatein has haunting vocals and unsettlingly beautiful visuals.

It was in May, when the makers announced that the film, which is directed by Sonakshi's brother Kussh Sinha, will be released in the cinema halls on June 27.

Announcing the new release date for her next, Sonakshi wrote on her Instagram handle, "Mark your calendars! Our edge-of-the-seat thriller 'Nikita Roy' now has a new release date! Catch the suspense unfold on the big screen on 27th June 2025!"

Initially, "Nikita Roy" was slated to debut in theatres on May 30. However, the reason for delaying the release has not been unveiled by the makers. Produced by Nicky Bhagnani, Vicky Bhagnani, and Ankur Takrani under the banner of Nicky Vicky Bhagnani Film, along with Kratos Entertainment, and Nikita Pai Films, the much-anticipated drama also stars Arjun Rampal, Paresh Rawal, and Suhail Nayyar in prominent roles along with others.

The movie has also been co-produced by Anand Mehta, Prakash Nand Bijlani, Shakti Bhatnagar, Mehnaaz Shaikh, and Prem Raj Joshi. Sonakshi concluded the 35-day schedule for the film in London in March this year. **IANS**



Chitrangda on pay parity and age in Bollywood: Change takes time, but it's happening

Bollywood actress Chitrangda Singh has opened up about two important conversations in the film industry—pay disparity and the evolving opportunities for actresses over 40. Sharing her perspective, she acknowledged that while the industry has come a long way, change takes time. Speaking about pay parity, the Housefull 5 actress pointed out that the shift is visible. Singh told IANS, "Gradually, a lot has changed, and it takes a lot of time to change. I feel actresses like Rani Mukherji, Vidya Balan, Kriti Sanon, and Tabu have really contributed to transforming the kind of characters being written for women. She also noted that pay parity is slowly aligning with the drawing power of actors at the box office, adding, "Whoever is pulling the audiences to the theatre is being paid proportionately, I suppose."

Speaking about the topic of roles for women above 40, Chitrangda remained optimistic. While she admitted that certain limitations exist because such roles were not written in the past, she highlighted a positive shift. "There is a lot of work being written for mature women. Even Kareena Kapoor, for that matter, is doing some of the most interesting work right now," she shared. According to her, the focus is shifting—not reducing—to offering different kinds of opportunities suited to actors across age groups. **IANS**

Surveen
calls her 'Criminal Justice 4' role the emotional core of the series

Actress Surveen Chawla has opened up about her role in 'Criminal Justice Season 4', calling her character Anju Nagpal the "emotional core" of the series. Chawla shared that Anju is calm and composed on the outside but carries a storm within, making the character both challenging and deeply compelling to portray. In a recent interaction with IANS, the actress shared her thoughts on preparing for her roles and what drew her to the gripping narrative.

Reflecting on her character in 'Criminal Justice 4,' Surveen stated, "See, for me, Anju Nagpal, my character, is the emotional core, the epicentre, the emotional epicenter of the show. And I think she's calm; she's composed. She's in the midst of a storm but not letting it out, not letting it show. She's keeping it all suppressed inside of her."

"And what drew me to the part, actually, was all of this and much more, which I can't reveal as we speak. But more than just the part, I think it's also the entire team, you know, with such fantastic actors like Pankaj ji, Zeeshan, Shweta, Mitaji, Barkha, and everybody on board. Even, for that matter, Ira, who's playing my daughter. I mean, everybody was so amazing. The cast matters. The director matters. I've been wanting to work with Rohan for a very long time, and finally, when I did get the opportunity, obviously, I wanted to grab it. The Applause team, the Hotstar team—I think it's all in all, you know, like a well-curated recipe, I would say. And I look at a project, honestly, every project, I look at it like that," the 'Hate Story 2' actress added.

Surveen further explained that while a script might seem strong and promising on paper, what truly makes or breaks a project is the team behind it. She emphasized that even the best-written stories can falter without a capable and committed cast and crew to bring them to life. For her, the presence of a solid, reliable team is one of the most crucial deciding factors when choosing whether or not to take up a project. The Pankaj Tripathi-headlined show also starred Shweta Basu Prasad. Directed by Rohan Sippy, Criminal Justice Season 4 is now streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

On the other hand, in "Rana Naidu Season 2," Surveen Chawla reprised her role as Naina, but with a fresh perspective. "She's changed gears," the actress explained, noting how her character is now demanding more accountability and stepping up to take control. "She's no longer a silent observer. Naina is a woman who wants answers—and she's not afraid to go after them."

'Rana Naidu' season 2 also featured Rana Daggubati, Arjun Rampal, Kriti Kharbanda, Sushant Singh, Abhishek Banerjee, and Ashish Vidyarthi. The show streamed on Netflix from June 13. **IANS**



Manushi reveals what went into making Naamumkin from 'Maalik'



Rajkummar Rao will be seen romancing former Miss World Manushi Chillar for the first time in the highly-anticipated drama, "Maalik". While movie buffs have already been treated with the primary track from the drama "Naamumkin", now Manushi has dropped a BTS video on her Instagram handle, revealing what all went behind making the romantic song.

The clip opened with the team checking out the location, after which Rajkummar and Manushi filmed a couple of shots for the melodious track. We could also see the choreographers showing the steps to these two before they performed it on screen. As the video moved forward, the 'Stree' actor got the final touches to his makeup and hair, with Manushi also reapplying her lipstick.

The director was also seen explaining something to Rajkummar and Manushi in between the shots. The leads had some fun behind the screen, like Rajkummar dancing funnily just before the shot and Manushi winking at the camera white getting her makeup fixed. "What you heard was magic, here's what went into making it happen...#Naamumkin Song Out Now. : Link in bio. #Maalik se milne aa jaana 11 July ko sirf cinema gharon mein!," the 'Samrat Prithviraj' actress captioned the post.

"Naamumkin" successfully captures the softer side of a ruthless gangster (Rajkummar) as he falls in love. Composer duo Sachin-Jigar has provided the tunes for the track, whereas the lyrics have been penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya. Varun Jain and Shreya Ghoshal have lent their powerful voices to "Naamumkin". Helmed by Pulkit, "Maalik" will also have Prosenjit Chatterjee, Medha Shankr, Huma Qureshi, Anshumaan Pushkar, and Swanand Kirkire in pivotal roles, along with others. **IANS**

NEWSBRIEFS

Coke Studio Bharat unveils Ishq Bawla, a Haryanvi echo of identity and introspection

CHANDIGARH: Coke Studio Bharat, the platform celebrating India's diverse musical heritage, has been striking a powerful chord with audiences in its third season. With Holi Aayi Re, Holo Lolo, and Punjab Vekh Ke, the platform has already delivered three distinct tracks that celebrate India's diverse cultural roots. Now, it returns with its fourth release—Ishq Bawla. Conceptualized, written, composed, and performed by the acclaimed Haryanvi rap powerhouse Dhanda Nyoliwala and featuring Xvir Grewal, Ishq Bawla reinterprets age-old tales of lost love through a lens of introspection, growth, and individuality. **BPE**

Kellton Tech Solutions Ltd Board approves fund raise, 1:5 stock split

CHANDIGARH: Kellton Tech Solutions Ltd. (BSE: 519602, NSE: KELLTONTEC), a global leader in digital transformation serving startups to Fortune 500 companies announced that the board announced Raising of funds through issue and allotment of up to 55,00,000 warrants to certain Promoter and Non-Promoter Investors, on preferential basis, aggregating up to maximum amount of ₹ 69.30 cr. The promoter, Matnic Finvest LLP, will subscribe to up to 45,00,000 warrants, aggregating to Rs. 56.70 cr, with non-promoter group Karanjit Singh and Srinivas Potluri subscribing to up to 10,00,000 warrants. **BPE**

Galaxy M36 5G, with segment-leading features, is set to launch in India soon

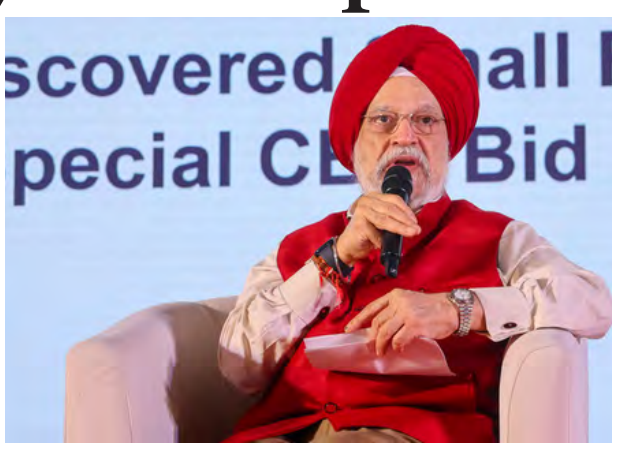
CHANDIGARH: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, is all set to expand its popular Galaxy M series portfolio with the launch of the Galaxy M36 5G. The Galaxy M series, introduced in 2019, is made in India and made for India. Designed for young consumers, the Galaxy M36 5G will offer an impressive combination of style and cutting-edge innovations and will be priced under INR 20000. Galaxy M36 5G will feature an all-new design with a refreshed colour palette and enhanced finish, making it visually appealing and trendy. It will be sleek and extremely lightweight. **BPE**

Axis Bank collaborates with boAt and Mastercard for seamless payments on its newly launched smartwatch, 'Wave Fortune'

CHANDIGARH: Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector Banks in India, today announced that it has collaborated with boAt, India's No.1 wearable brand, and Mastercard, a global technology leader in payments, to seamlessly integrate tap & pay NFC enabled payments for its newly launched 'Wave Fortune', a cutting-edge smartwatch. **BPE**

India growing at 6.5 pc annually, poised to become $8 trillion economy: Hardeep Puri

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18



India's economy is growing steadily at an annual rate of 6.5 per cent and is on track to become an $8 trillion economy in the coming years, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Wednesday.

In an interview with IANS, the minister said, "India has already grown from a $2 trillion to a $4 trillion economy and with the current growth rate of 6.5 per cent, we are headed towards becoming an $8 trillion economy in the near future."

He further emphasised that economic growth directly benefits the citizens.

"As the economy expands, it boosts economic activity and increases per capita income. In today's interconnected world, this also leads to greater exchange of goods and services," he told IANS.

> 'As the economy expands, it boosts economic activity and increases per capita income. In today's interconnected world, this also leads to greater exchange of goods and services'

Puri also pointed out that a stronger economy enhances a country's global standing and credibility.

According to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook released in April 2025, India's nominal GDP is expected to rise to $4.187 trillion in 2025, slightly ahead of Japan's projected GDP of $4.186 trillion.

The IMF projects that India could surpass Germany to become the world's third-largest economy in the coming years.

By 2027, India's GDP is expected to cross the $5 trillion mark, reaching $5.069 trillion, and by 2028, it may rise to $5.584 trillion -- compared to Germany's estimated GDP of $5.251 trillion at that time, according to the IMF projection.

Meanwhile, the minister also assured that India has sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel, and there is no cause for concern amid escalating tensions between Israel and Iran.

"I want to make it absolutely clear that there is no shortage of petrol and diesel in the country. People do not need to worry," he told IANS.

He stressed that India is well-prepared to handle the situation and ensure uninterrupted fuel availability. **IANS**

'One Nation, One Time' under IST to ensure accuracy and national security: Pralhad Joshi

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18



Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday highlighted that the upcoming Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2025, will mandate synchronisation of all legal, commercial and administrative activities with Indian Standard Time (IST), prohibiting the use of alternative time references unless explicitly authorised.

The minister emphasised the strategic significance of the Time Dissemination Project being implemented by the Department of Consumer Affairs in collaboration with CSIR-NPL and ISRO.

Addressing a Round Table Conference on Time Dissemination at Vigyan Bhawan here, the Minister underscored that precise and uniform dissemination of IST across sectors such as financial markets, power grids, telecommunications, transportation, and others is essential to ensuring fairness, accuracy and national security.

The initiative aims to deliver IST with millisecond to microsecond accuracy through five Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSLs) equipped with atomic clocks and secure synchronisation protocols like NTP and PTP, ushering in a new era of digital and administrative efficiency under the vision of 'One Nation, One Time', he explained.

For the common man, this initiative translates into more secure digital transactions, accurate billing in utilities, reduced cybercrime risks and synchronised timekeeping in transportation and communication, ensuring fairness, transparency, and trust in day-to-day services.

Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Nidhi Khare, in her presentation, highlighted the urgent need for accurate, secure and legally mandated dissemination of IST to ensure uniformity across strategic and non-strategic sectors. **PTI**

Stock markets fall for 2nd day amid soaring Middle East tensions

MUMBAI, JUNE 18



Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower on Wednesday as soaring tensions in the Middle East and caution ahead of the US Fed interest rate decision hit investor sentiment.

Surrendering its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 138.64 points or 0.17 per cent to close at 81,444.66. After a weak opening, the index hit a high of 81,858.97 in morning deals but failed to hold onto gains later. The barometer dipped 346.29 points or 0.42 per cent to hit a low of 81,237.01.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged lower by 41.35 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 24,812.05, marking its second day of losses.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services was the biggest loser dropping by 1.79 per cent. Adani Ports fell by 1.55 per cent, Hindustan Unilever by 1.35 per cent, Bajaj Finserv by 1.16 per cent, and Nestle by 0.95 per cent. Losses in ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, NTPC and HCL Tech also dragged the index down.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank surged by 5.12 per cent after a report expressed optimism over its performance in the coming 12 months.

Titan rose by 1.99 per cent, Mahindra & Mahindra by 1.24 per cent and Maruti by 1.12 per cent.

"The domestic market failed to maintain the opening gains as the continuing tensions in the Middle East & volatility in oil prices dragged the overall sentiment. However, auto and consumer discretionary gained in expectations of a demand revival," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Israeli warplanes pounded Iran's capital overnight and into Wednesday as Iran launched a small barrage of missiles at Israel with no reports of casualties.

Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said that the Nifty edged higher initially but failed to sustain the momentum, primarily due to pressure from heavyweight stocks.

"Markets will react to the outcome of the US Fed policy meeting during early trades on Thursday. While most expect no change in interest rates, the Fed's commentary-especially in light of the prevailing global uncertainty caused by geopolitical tensions and trade tariff concerns-will be more crucial," Mishra said.

The BSE midcap and smallcap indices ended 0.34 per cent lower each.

Among BSE sectoral indices, IT dropped 0.76 per cent, BSE Focused IT declined 0.75 per cent, utilities (0.75 per cent), power (0.67 per cent), commodities (0.66 per cent) and metal (0.65 per cent). **IANS**

From robust manufacturing to FDI inflows, India rising on world stage: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday shared some of the major highlights from the Ministry in the past few weeks which include robust manufacturing and rising FDI inflows, among others.

Those in the semiconductor and electronics component manufacturing space have a lot to cheer about. "SEZ reforms have been notified to promote investments and manufacturing. The area required for setting up a factory has been reduced to 10 hectares from the earlier 50 hectares. Moreover, manufacturers have also been allowed to supply domestically after payment of applicable duties," the minister posted on X social media platform.



In good news for leather exporters, especially those in the MSME sector, port restrictions on export of finished, wet blue, and EI tanned leather have been removed, which means they can be exported from any port or Inland Container Depots across the country.

Also, mandatory testing and certifications have been removed, informed the minister.

"India is cementing its position as the preferred global investment destination with FDI inflow of $81.04 billion in FY 2024-25, growing by 14 per cent over 2023-24. **PTI**

Vodafone partners with SpaceX rival AST SpaceMobile for satcom service on smartphones

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

Debt-ridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Wednesday announced a partnership with Elon Musk-owned SpaceX rival satcom firm AST SpaceMobile for delivering satellite service on smartphones directly.

AST SpaceMobile is building the first and only space-based cellular broadband network accessible directly by smartphones, designed for both commercial and government applications, Vodafone Idea said in a statement.

"Vi (Vodafone Idea) and AST SpaceMobile Inc.announced a strategic partnership to expand mobile connectivity across India's unconnected regions. AST SpaceMobile made history by placing the first-ever voice and video call from space using a standard mobile phone, a milestone that demonstrates the real-world viability of its advanced technology," the statement said.

Vodafone Idea's promoter firm Vodafone Plc has already signed a pact with AST SpaceMobile.

During 2024, AST SpaceMobile has secured additional strategic investment from AT&T, Verizon, Google and Vodafone, and new contract awards with the United States Government, directly and through prime contractors. The company has agreements with more than 45 mobile network operators globally, "This partnership will bring together Vi's robust national network with AST SpaceMobile's revolutionary space-based cellular technology, which connects directly to everyday smartphones without the need of any specialised software or device support or updates," the statement said.

Vi said that it will collaborate with AST SpaceMobile on the SpaceMobile Satellite System.

"This space-based cellular broadband ecosystem will be designed to expand Vi's telecom services of terrestrial connectivity, providing voice, video, data streaming, and internet access. **PTI**

Gujarat govt brings ordinance to align state GST law with Centre's 2025 amendments



GANDHINAGAR, JUNE 18

The Bhupendra Patel-led government has issued the Gujarat Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, introducing significant changes to the Gujarat GST Act, 2017.

The move seeks to synchronise the state's indirect tax framework with recent amendments enacted by the Finance Act, 2025, following recommendations of the 55th GST Council meeting.

As the state legislature is not in session, the ordinance was promulgated under Article 213 of the Constitution, allowing the state to push through urgent legislative updates. One of the standout provisions is the introduction of a new Section 148A, which empowers the government to implement a track-and-trace mechanism for certain categories of goods.

This system will require specific items to carry unique identification markings and allow for real-time electronic monitoring across the supply chain. To ensure compliance, a newly inserted Section 122B lays out stringent penalties for violators -- Rs 1 lakh or 10 per cent of the tax due, whichever is greater. The measure is expected to boost supply chain transparency and act as a deterrent to tax evasion.

Apart from this, the ordinance introduces technical and procedural updates to key areas of the Act. **PTI**

Women Rank Term Insurance as the top insurance solution to Secure their child's future: Bajaj Allianz Life Women Term Survey 2025

CHANDIGARH: Bajaj Allianz Life insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers, unveiled insightful findings from its latest study, Bajaj Allianz Life Women Term Survey in collaboration with Pixis Global and Quals.AI. Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life insurance, said, "The findings from Bajaj Allianz Life's Women Term Survey 2025 highlights that women view term insurance as more than just a life cover. They see it as a comprehensive financial solution that aligns with their well-defined financial priorities. Their expectations from a term plan include coverage for children's financial future, health-related expenses, critical illnesses and overall financial security for the family. These insights will continue to guide us in creating solutions that address the specific needs of our women customers to meet their long-term financial goals." **BPE**

Ola Electric commences deliveries of the Roadster X in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH: Ola Electric announced the commencement of deliveries of its Roadster X portfolio of motorcycles in Chandigarh. The company also announced offers worth ?10,000 for the first 5,000 customers who will get Extended Warranty, MoveOS+, and Essential Care free as part of its Ride the Future campaign.The Roadster X Series comes with a mid-drive motor that boosts performance and safety. The powertrain of the Roadster series also features a chain drive and an integrated MCU for efficient torque transfer, providing superior acceleration, and improved range. The Roadster X series also features flat cables in the motor-cycles—an industry-first innovation. **BPE**

Tira Debuts in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH: Continuing its expansion in North India, Reliance Retail's beauty destination Tira has opened its first store in Chandigarh, marking a major step in strengthening its presence across the region. The new store is located at Elante Mall, one of the city's most popular shopping destinations. To mark the launch of its first store in Chandigarh, Tira hosted a spirited bike rally a vibrant celebration of beauty, confidence, and individuality. **BPE**

Vedantu student Daksh ranks 1 in Karnataka

AMRITSAR: Vedantu announces the exceptional performance of its students in JEE Advanced 2025. With top ranks and consistent results year after year, this year reaffirms Vedantu's continued success in delivering high-quality, personalised, and outcome-focused education. Among the standout achievers is Daksh Tayalia from Bangalore, who secured All India Rank 15, scoring a perfect 120 in Mathematics, and emerging as the Karnataka State Rank 1. A student of Vedantu's 3-Year Long Term Batch, Daksh's unwavering discipline, commitment, and trust in the process have been truly inspiring. **BPE**

Amway India strengthens its immunity portfolio

AMRITSAR: Amway India strengthened its nutrition category offering with Nutrilite Triple Protect. A scientifically formulated, plant-based supplement powered by the natural strength of Acerola Cherry, Turmeric, and Licorice. This potent formulation has nutrients that offer triple-action benefits-supporting immunity, reducing inflammation, and providing strong antioxidant protection for the gut, skin, and immune health. Nutrilite Triple Protect embodies the philosophy of sustainable, plant-based, and evidence-backed nutrition. **BPE**

iQOO launches iQOO Z10 Lite 5G

CHANDIGARH: iQOO launched its latest offering - the iQOO Z10 Lite 5G. Designed for today's youth, from college students to users who want to upgrade to a 5G smartphone, the iQOO Z10 Lite 5G delivers a fully loaded entertainment experience, from binge-watching videos and endless social scrolling to attending online lectures. With functional features packed into a stylish design, the Z10 Lite 5G offers a smart, reliable companion for all aspects of modern life.Featuring the segment's biggest 6000mAh battery , the iQOO Z10 Lite 5G is built for non-stop entertainment, delivering all-day power for all day. **BPE**

SEBI likely to discuss reforms on startup ESOPs, PSU delisting, bond investment norms

MUMBAI: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is holding its board meeting on Wednesday, and some important decisions related to startups, public sector companies, and foreign investors are likely to be on the agenda. One of the key topics expected to be discussed is whether startup founders can continue to hold employee stock options (ESOPs) after their company goes public. Currently, once a startup founder is classified as a promoter during the IPO process, they are no longer allowed to receive ESOPs. **IANS**

SPORTS

NICK KNIGHT

"AND I THINK THE LAST SERIES THAT INDIAN WON (IN ENGLAND) WAS IN 2007, PROBABLY JIMMY WAS PART OF THAT SERIES AS WELL. SO, HE'S BEEN A CONSTANT."

No Anderson at Leeds: Gill and co can breathe easy

LEEDS, JUNE 18



To say the least, a relatively inexperienced batting line up led by Shubman Gill would be relieved to see the name of James Anderson, once a constant in the multiple chapters of India-England rivalry over the past two decades, missing in the opposition roster.

From Anderson's first series against India in 2006 to the last one in 2024, the age defying fast bowler kept the celebrated Indian batting line-up on their toes -- his battles with the great Sachin Tendulkar in late 2000s or the much more animated duels with Virat Kohli in the previous decade still fresh in one's mind.

Fast forward to 2025, both India and England have moved on from Kohli and Anderson respectively but considering the injuries to the likes of Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, Ben Stokes may have indulged in wishful thinking, imagining the holder of a record 704 Test wickets opening the bowling at Leeds.

If Anderson can return to county cricket to bail out a struggling Lancashire 12 months after his fitting farewell, trust him to do the same for a depleted England attack.

That is unlikely to happen but by sheer weight of his performances over his 21-year-old career, Anderson has immortalised himself in India-England cricket history with the series trophy named after him and Tendulkar, whom he was able to dismiss nine times.

Anderson not only defied age to last as long as he did for a fast bowler, the hallmark of his career was relentless accuracy and exemplary control over his ability to swing the ball both ways.

Courtesy these special skills, Anderson was able to exploit Kohli's weakness around the off-stump in the 2014 series before the latter overcame those mental demons four years later to "dominate" the world's most prolific pacer in the longest format.

"I really exploited, he had a weakness outside off stump, really exploited that and then the next time I played against him (in 2018) he'd obviously gone away and worked on that and it was like bowling at a different player," Anderson told talkSport recently.

Come Friday, the likely opening combination of K L Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal will have one less challenge to deal with: no Anderson with a brand new Dukes ball.

In the 39 Tests he played against India home and away, Anderson amassed 149 wickets at a very fine average of 25.47. The best of fast bowlers struggled in India but he reinvented his game to end with 44 wickets in 17 Tests in polar opposite conditions. His mastery of reverse swing allowed him to do that.

Former England opener Nick Knight said the Indian batting line up minus Kohli and Rohit Sharma would be happy to see Anderson out of the park but England made the right call by looking at the future.

"England will move forward now. And they've got plenty of talent, plenty of abilities like all these guys. But I'm certainly sure that India would be happy to see him getting retired now.

"And I think the last series that Indian won (in England) was in 2007, probably Jimmy was part of that series as well. So, he's been a constant," Knight told PTI.

He feels the timing to rename the trophy after Tendulkar and Anderson could not be better.

"It's a very, very fine tribute. And the right sort of timing for the Jimmy Anderson-Tendulkar trophy. Just the kind of right thing to do in such an iconic series. I played with Jimmy when he first came in.

"I was sort of someone at the back end of my career. And he was just starting out. You could see right from the start he was a lad who had great control of the swinging ball.

"And very little discernible difference between the one that went in and the one that went away. I think that of all the little skills he had, technically that was a great skill. It's very difficult to predict which way the ball was going out of his hand."

"Very similar action as well. Did not give away telltale signs. So, he was very difficult to face. Obviously, he had enough nip and pace as well. Yeah, I mean, obviously the numbers look after themselves," added Knight.

If not rescuing Lancashire in county cricket, Anderson would have been plotting the Indian batters' downfall as a fast bowling mentor in the England dressing room.

The absence of Anderson and Kohli would certainly take some sheen off the series but expect new stars to be born. AGENCIES

Kohli will be missed more in England than Rohit: Boycott

LEEDS, JUNE 18



India will miss Virat Kohli more than Rohit Sharma in the marquee Test series against England and the duo's recent retirement from the format will "hurt" the transitioning team's chances in the rubber starting on Friday, reckons the legendary Geoffrey Boycott.

The two heavyweights of world cricket will engage in five matches over the next six weeks, beginning their campaigns in the new World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

"The retirement of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma hurts the chances of India beating England. Kohli is the biggest loss as he has been their best batsman and talisman in all three formats," Boycott wrote in his column for the Daily Telegraph. "With so much international cricket played by India, and so little rest, it takes its toll and the mind becomes fatigued."

The former England captain called Kohli's absence a bigger blow. "It does not matter how much talent or experience you have, if you are not mentally fresh and up for the challenge then it becomes draining.

"Rohit was a superb batsman. At his best, a beautiful stroke player, but he won't be missed as much as Kohli because his Test record was good rather than exceptional. In the last couple of years his batting was a little inconsistent, which was not surprising in his late 30s.

"Rohit was never a natural athlete like Kohli and he knows that opening the innings in England can be pretty tough because the new ball moves around more. You really have to be up for the challenge to have any chance of success.

"I just think that over time the wear and tear of opening the innings and being captain in all three formats wore him down," observed Boycott. The two stalwarts of Indian cricket announced their retirement from the game's traditional format last month, after which, the BCCI appointed Shubman Gill as the team's captain in place of Rohit.

India last won a Test series in England in 2007, while the hosts come into the rubber after defeating Zimbabwe in a one-off Test at Trent Bridge last month.

Boycott has urged the Ben Stokes-led side to temper their Bazball style of batting and apply some common sense, as winning is more important than entertaining. "England should beat India if they temper Bazball and use some common sense. At times their cricket has been thrilling and super enjoyable but also reckless batting has lost them Test matches.

"Their only thought should be winning because it is no use telling us how good you are when the last three World Test Championship finals have been played in our country but England have not qualified for any of them. They should be embarrassed. Their aim should be to make the next WTC final. PTI

It's going to be a shame not to play against Virat, says Stokes

LEEDS, JUNE 18



England captain Ben Stokes says not getting to face a competitor like Virat Kohli in a blockbuster Test series is a "shame" and feels the maestro's absence will deprive the Indian team of his fighting spirit and desire to win.

Kohli announced his retirement from the game's traditional format last month, few days after his longtime India teammate Rohit Sharma too decided to call it a day, leaving the BCCI to send a team in transition to the UK under the leadership of Shubman Gill.

In a video released by England Cricket, Stokes reflected on what India will miss following Kohli's retirement.

"What India will miss will be his fighting spirit out in the game, his competitiveness, and his desire to win," Stokes said.

"He has made number 18 his, hasn't he? It'll be a bit weird not seeing number 18 on the back of anyone of any Indian shirt, but he has been class for them for a long period of time."

Kohli has been one of the biggest ambassadors of Test cricket during the course of his magnificent career, and the purists of the game were too happy to see him voicing his support for the traditional format at a time when the sports shortest version -- T20 -- dominated the cricketing landscape.

Stokes, who has also explicitly expressed his preference for the five-day game, said he texted Kohli after the latter announced his retirement.

"I did text him, saying it's going to be a shame not to play against him because I love playing against Virat. We both love playing against each other because we have that same mindset when we are out in the field - that it's a battle," Stokes said.

Kohli retired as India's fourth-highest run scorer in Test cricket, having amassed 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85 in 123 matches. He recorded 30 centuries and 31 half-centuries. PTI

Cook backs Pope over Bethell for India Test series

LONDON, JUNE 18



Former England skipper Alastair Cook backed Ollie Pope to retain the No. 3 spot in the batting line-up ahead of Jacob Bethell during the upcoming five-match Test series against India.

Pope, England's vice-captain, staked his claim with a commanding 171 in the one-off Test against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge, their only red-ball fixture of the summer so far.

"Ollie Pope's 170 meant a lot to me, he and (Zak) Crawley were under the pump and they delivered," Cook was quoted saying in The Independent.

Despite that innings, Pope faces competition from the promising 21-year-old Bethell, who was part of England's recent white-ball series sweep against the West Indies but opted out of the Zimbabwe Test.

"When I left New Zealand I thought they'll go with Jacob Bethell but if he isn't leaving the IPL to come and play a Test match, for whatever reason that is, it's not a punishment, but that's the way the cards have fallen whether it's Bethell's fault or not," Cook said.

"If he's that desperate to play I would have said he would have come out and played, then he'd have guaranteed his England selection. I don't care what's going on behind the scenes on that."

Both Pope and Bethell are in England's 14-man squad for the series-opening first Test at Headingley from Friday.

While Pope brings experience with 56 Tests under his belt and eight centuries, Bethell averages 52.00 from just six Test innings, including a career best 96 against New Zealand last December.

Cook, one of only three England captains to win multiple Ashes at home, also looked ahead to this winter's tour of Australia, where the No. 3 slot will again come under the spotlight.

"Will Pope play at number three in Perth? He's in possession at the minute and we'll find out if he's good enough against the likes of Jasprit Bumrah," the 40-year-old said.

"The issue I've always said about Pope, and I don't think this changes, is his first 20 balls, Tuffers (Phil Tufnell) is more likely to get through his first 20 balls. PTI

Suryakumar flies to England for sports hernia treatment, may undergo surgery



NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

India's T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav has flown to England to consult a specialist for treating a sports hernia related injury, and, if necessary, he could undergo surgery.

Surya, 33, had a terrific IPL for Mumbai Indians scoring over 700 runs, and also played the Mumbai Premier League T20 soon after.

It is not known if the pain aggravated during the Mumbai T20 league as Surya had a gruelling three months of travelling and playing at a stretch.

"Surya is suffering from Sports hernia on right side lower abdomen. He has gone to the UK for consultation. If required, he will be going under the knife," a source close to the cricketer told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Surya, who has played a lot of matches in his career through pain, wanted to fulfil his IPL and Mumbai T20 commitments.

"With no T20 cricket before August-September, Surya thought that this is the best time where he can tend to his injury and also have enough time for recuperation at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru," the BCCI source added. PTI

Liverpool starts Premier League title defense against Bournemouth while Man Utd hosts Arsenal

LONDON, JUNE 18

Liverpool will begin its latest Premier League title defense at home to Bournemouth on August 15, while Manchester United will host Arsenal in the opening round of next season.

The Premier League released its fixture schedule for the 2025-26 season on Wednesday, giving teams and their fans a chance to start planning less than a month since the last campaign finished.

Liverpool will be bidding for a third league championship in six years, likely with Florian Wirtz in its squad, and will play the first match of the season in a Friday night start at Anfield against a Bournemouth team that finished in ninth place.

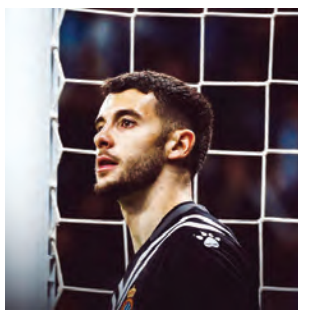
It's quite a tough beginning for Arne Slot's champions, with a trip to Newcastle in the second round followed by a home match against Arsenal - another team in the Champions League - a week later.

Arsenal, which finished second for a third straight year last season, heads to Old Trafford for its first game and will play Liverpool, Manchester City and Newcastle in its opening six matches. Everton bade farewell to its long-time home at Goodison Park at the end of last season and the first game in its state-of-the-art, 53,000-capacity stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock will be against Brighton on Aug. 23.

Thomas Frank 's first Premier League game in charge of Tottenham will be at home to promoted Burnley on Aug 16. That comes three days after Frank's competitive debut with Tottenham, the Europa League champion, against Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain in the UEFA Super Cup. AP

FC Barcelona sign highly-rated goalkeeper Joan Garcia from Espanyol

BARCELONA, JUNE 18



FC Barcelona have signed goalkeeper Joan Garcia from Espanyol. The club confirmed it had activated the release clause of 25 million euros to secure his signing. The player will sign a contract with the club for the next six seasons, until June 30, 2031, in a private ceremony at FC Barcelona's offices on Friday.

Barcelona had signed Wojciech Szczesny, asking him to come out of retirement ahead of the 2025-25 season, and the Polish goalie became the first choice for Hansi Flick between the sticks after captain Marc-Andre ter Stegen suffered a serious right knee injury. Garcia can prove to be a solid signing and potentially be the Catalonians' first choice in the years to come.

Born in Sallent de Llobregat, in the Bages region of Catalonia, the new Barca goalkeeper didn't start between the posts. It wasn't long before he followed in the footsteps of his older brother and picked up the gloves. That was the beginning of his path toward the elite. After leaving Sallent, he moved to Manresa and then to Damm, until Espanyol signed him at the age of 15.

During his time at Espanyol, he became a regular in Spain's youth national teams from the U17 to the U21 level, and he has an Olympic gold medal from the 2024 Games in Paris. IANS

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