

PM Modi honoured with ‘Dharma Chakravarti’ on centenary of Jain guru Vidyanand

New Delhi, June 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured today with the title of 'Dharma Chakravarti' on centenary celebrations of Jain spiritual leader Vidyanand here. Speaking on receiving the award, PM Modi said, "On this occasion, you honoured me with the title of 'Dharma Chakravarti'. I don't consider myself suitable for this. But it is our culture that whatever we receive from saints, we accept it as 'prasad'. So, I humbly accept this 'prasad' and dedicate it to Maa Bharati." The event was also attended by Union culture and tourism minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Rashtrasant



Paramparacharya Pragyasaagar Muniraj, alongside other dignitaries, parliamentarians, and Jain acharyas, said a statement from the Ministry here. "This day is also special because on June 28, 1987, Acharya Vidyanand Muniraj received the title of 'Acharya'. It wasn't just an honour but it was also a

'pavitra dhaara' connecting the Jain culture to ideas, restraint and compassion. When we are celebrating his 100th birth anniversary today, it reminds us of that historic moment", PM Modi said, said the statement. He also visited a specially curated exhibition titled "Life and Legacy of Acharya Shri

108 Vidyanand Ji Maharaj", which showcased murals, paintings, and rare archival material chronicling the saint's contributions. On the occasion, a commemorative stamp and coin were released, alongside a biographical volume detailing saint's life journey. The centenary celebrations which will be observed until April 22, 2026 mark the beginning of a year-long national tribute to the revered saint and scholar, organised jointly by the Culture Ministry and the Bhagwan Mahaveer Ahimsa Bharti Trust. The centenary year will be observed through nationwide cultural, literary, educational, and spiritual

programmes. Born in 1925 in Shedbal, Belagavi (Karnataka), Vidyanand became one of the most respected Jain monks of modern India. He memorised over 8,000 Jain Agamic verses and authored more than 50 influential works, including Jain Darshan, Anekantvad, and Moksh marg Darshan. His historical contributions include designing the official Jain Flag and Emblem during the 2500th Nirvana Mahotsav of Bhagwan Mahavir in 1975. The five-colour flag and the Ahimsa hand symbol are now universally accepted across Jain traditions, as per the statement.

IIT Bombay trespassing case: Mumbai crime branch uncovers shocking security lapses

Mumbai, June 28 : The Mumbai Crime Branch's investigation into the IIT Powai trespassing case has raised concerns over negligence on the part of the institute's security team and exposed serious lapses in campus security. The case involved the arrest of a resident of Mangaluru, Karnataka, for illegally staying in the hostel and attending lectures at IIT Mumbai, which is the premier technological institute in India and one of the leading universities in the world. A man identified as Bilal Ahmed Fayaz Ahmed Teli has allegedly conducted reconnaissance activities within the institute and has illegally stayed inside IIT Powai for 14 days, moving freely in and out of the premises nearly 8-10 times without being detected by the security personnel. Police have found imo and Signal apps, both messaging and calling platforms, on Bilal's mobile phone. Crime Branch officials have retrieved critical CCTV footage and other electronic evidence showing the accused entering and exiting the campus multiple times over the two-week period. The investigation has raised concerns over negligence on the part of the institute's security team. Sources said



Bilal would sleep at various locations on campus, including couches in hostel lobbies and mattresses in vacant rooms, changing his sleeping spot daily. Based on his interrogation, the Crime Branch has mapped his entry routes and movement across the campus. A senior official confirmed that a detailed map has been prepared to assist further investigation. However, the motive behind his extended stay and surveillance remains

unclear. Crime Branch sources further revealed that Bilal uploaded videos of IIT Powai's internal areas on social media platforms using a VPN. Forensic analysis of his mobile phone has uncovered several such videos. Investigators are working to determine the purpose behind these uploads. Between June 7 and 10, Bilal reportedly travelled from Mumbai to Surat, claiming he visited relatives. The Crime Branch is currently verifying this claim. Investigators have also found that Bilal was operating at least 21 email IDs. Given the sensitive nature of the case, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) have now joined the investigation and are conducting separate interrogations of the accused. A senior officer indicated that several pieces of evidence point toward suspicious activities.

Shah to chair Manthan Baithak of Cooperation Ministers on June 30

New Delhi, June 28: The government will organise a 'Manthan Baithak' on June 30 with an aim to review the initiatives and schemes of the Ministry of Cooperation and evaluate the progress made so far.

The 'Manthan Baithak' will be chaired by Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and will see the participation of Cooperation Ministers of states and Union Territories. The primary objective of the 'Manthan Baithak' is to comprehensively review the initiatives and schemes of the Ministry of Cooperation, evaluate the progress made, facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices, and constructive suggestions from States and UTs. It also aims to foster a shared understanding and develop a coordinated endeavor to advance the government's vision of 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) through a mutual convergence, an official statement said.

It would discuss all major initiatives including the establishment of two lakh new Multi-purpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy and fisheries cooperative societies to strengthen last-mile rural



service delivery. A key highlight will be the deliberation on the World's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector, aimed at enhancing food security and farmers' empowerment. States will also present their progress under the "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" campaign and the ongoing "International Year of Cooperatives 2025", along with expectations for wider engagement. The role of states in the activities of the three new National Multi-state Cooperative Societies, National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL), National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL), and Bharatiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) will also be reviewed. Discussions will extend to the White Revolution 2.0 programme and embedding circularity and sustainability in India's dairy sector, alongside procurement support for pulse and maize farmers under the Atmanirbhar Abhiyan.

India, Madagascar discuss boosting defence ties with focus on maritime security

New Delhi, June 28 Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth held a bilateral meeting with Minister of Armed Forces of Madagascar Lt Gen Sahivelo Lala Monja Delphin and discussed ways to strengthen defence cooperation, particularly in the areas of maritime security and capacity building.

Seth led a high-level Indian delegation on an official visit to Antananarivo, Madagascar, from June 25 to 27. During the visit, he represented India at the celebrations marking the 65th anniversary of Madagascar's Independence and the creation of the Malagasy Armed Forces, a Defence Ministry statement said. He also called on Prime Minister of Madagascar Christian Ntsay and conveyed warm greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the 65th anniversary of the



Independence of Madagascar. Besides, the Minister also took part in an Indian community reception organised by the Embassy in Antananarivo. He briefed the members of the Indian diaspora on India's recent developments and ongoing economic transformation. India and Madagascar, as close neighbours and fellow developing nations in the Indian Ocean Region, share deep-rooted bonds of

friendship and strong people-to-people ties. India remains a steadfast and committed partner in Madagascar's development journey. The visit by the Minister of State for Defence reaffirmed India's commitment to deepening its partnership with Madagascar, in line with the vision of MAHASAGAR — Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

Baghel accuses BJP of stalling OBC quota implementation

New Delhi, June 28 : Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel today attacked the BJP, accusing it of deceiving the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community while pretending to champion their cause. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Baghel along with senior leaders Anil Jai Hind, Jitu Patwari and Harish Chaudhary said, "The true nature, character, and face of the BJP have now been exposed."

Once again, it has been proven that while the BJP showcases the face of the OBC community, it actually betrays their interests. "The former Chhattisgarh CM said that in 1994, fourteen percent reservation was granted to the OBCs, which was later increased to 27 percent during the tenure of then Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh in 2003."

He however claimed that the BJP failed to implement this increased quota, even

under the leadership of three OBC Chief Ministers—Uma Bharti, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Mohan Yadav. Questioning the delay, Baghel said that there are no legal impediments to implementing the reservation.

"When the bill has been passed in the Assembly, approved by the court, and signed by the Governor, what is stopping the government from implementing it?" He also pointed to the unanimous decision of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on December 2, 2022, to provide 27 percent reservation to the backward classes.

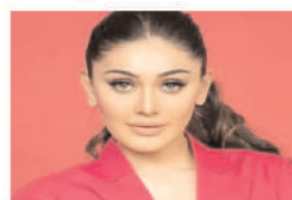
Baghel claimed that the Governor had assured publicly that she would not delay the bill if passed. However, despite the bill being sent to the Raj Bhavan on the same evening, the Governor reportedly said she was "still studying" it, a process that remains incomplete even in mid-2025.

PM pays tribute to former PM Narasimha Rao on his birth anniversary



New Delhi, June 28 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tribute to former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao on his birth anniversary, recalling his pivotal role in shaping India's development path during a crucial phase of the nation's economic and political transformation. In a post on X, he wrote, "Remembering Shri PV Narasimha Rao Garu on his birth anniversary. India is grateful to him for his effective leadership during a crucial phase of our development trajectory".

Actress Shefali Jariwala passes away in Mumbai



Mumbai, June 28: Actress Shefali Jariwala, who became an overnight star with the song "Kaanta Laga", died at the age of 42. Sources said Shefali Jariwala was taken to Bellevue Multispecialty Hospital yesterday by her husband, along with three others, after she suddenly experienced chest pain. It is said that her condition deteriorated around 11 am yesterday. After that, her husband Parag Tyagi took her to the nearby hospital. After reaching the hospital, doctors declared Shefali dead after a preliminary examination, sources said. Senior cine journalist Vicky Lalwani confirmed Shefali's death in his Instagram post. In the post, he said that he contacted the hospital's senior doctors, but they refused to say anything. The news of Shefali's death has caused grief among fans and the industry. Celebrities and fans are paying tribute to her on social media. Dr. Sushant of the hospital later confirmed the actress' death. Shefali's body was sent to Cooper Hospital, where the post-mortem was conducted.

BJP forms fact-finding panel to probe Kolkata law student gangrape

New Delhi, June 28 : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announced today that it has set up a four-member fact-finding committee to investigate the alleged gangrape of a 24-year-old law student at a private college in Kolkata, a shocking incident that has sparked national outrage. Addressing a press conference here, BJP national spokesperson and MP Sambit Patra said the party has taken serious note of the disturbing case, which reportedly involves individuals associated with the student wing of the ruling Trinamool party in West Bengal. "BJP President JP Nadda has constituted a fact-finding team comprising senior leaders and Members of



Parliament to look into the matter and submit a detailed report," Patra said. The committee includes former Union Ministers Satpal Singh and Meenakshi Lekhi, along with Rajya Sabha MP and former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, and senior advocate and MP Manan Kumar Mishra. The panel is expected to visit the site of the

incident in Kolkata's Kasba area and engage with the survivor, local authorities, and the college administration. The BJP has alleged that the accused has political patronage and the criminal cases are on increase in the State led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

According to police sources, the alleged assault took place on the evening of June 15 inside the premises of South Calcutta Law College.

The survivor, a first-year student, has claimed that she was attacked by three men inside a room used by the security staff, after the guard was forced out. Two of the accused reportedly restrained her while the third committed the assault.

India halves ‘Zero-Dose’ kids from 0.11pc to 0.06pc: Health Ministry

New Delhi, June 28: The percentage of children in India who received no vaccinations at all—classified as "zero-dose"—fell from 0.11pc in 2023 to 0.06pc in 2024, the Union Health Ministry said today. This improvement coincides with a reported infant mortality rate of 80 per lakh live births. The Ministry's statement comes days after a report published in Lancet Global Health which noted that India had 1.44 million zero-dose children in 2023, raising concerns over gaps in immunisation coverage and vulnerability to preventable diseases. However, the Union Health Ministry cited the United Nations Inter-Agency Group's 2024 Child Mortality Estimates Report that said, "India's infant mortality rate is 80 per lakh live births, which is an 86% decline compared to the global reduction of 48% since 1990." The infant mortality ratio in India was 130 per lakh in the 2014-16 period. Furthermore, India has achieved a 78% reduction in the mortality rate of children under five, surpassing the global reduction of 61%, and a 70% reduction in neonatal mortality, said the statement. Globally, the reduction from 1990 to 2023 is 54%. The ministry further said that India's Universal Immunisation Program (UIP) currently covers 12 vaccine-preventable diseases and has seen significant expansion. The "Zero Dose Implementation Plan 2024" has been implemented in 143 districts across 11 states, where the number of unvaccinated children is high. Under the Mission Indradhanush, 5.46 crore children and 1.32 crore pregnant women have been vaccinated, it said. The ministry said that India's vaccination rate is ahead of the global average. Every year, the Universal Immunisation Program provides free vaccination to 29 million pregnant women and 26 million infants (0-1 year). Continuous efforts are being made to reduce the burden of unvaccinated children in the country. Life-saving vaccines have had a significant impact on reducing child mortality and morbidity caused by diarrhoea, pneumonia, meningitis, and encephalitis. The statement further said that India has achieved a 78% reduction in the mortality rate of children under five, whereas the global figure stands at 61%. Neonatal mortality has decreased by 70%. Currently, India's vaccination campaign includes 12 vaccines targeting 'preventable diseases'. The ministry also sought to clarify that any comparison of India with any other countries with high-burden zero-dose children needs to take into consideration India's large population size and high vaccination coverage rate.

Maharashtra braces for continued heavy monsoon activity

Mumbai, June 28 : Maharashtra is experiencing one of its most active monsoon seasons in recent memory, with tomorrow expected to bring continued heavy rainfall across the state as the region settles deeper into peak monsoon activity. The India Meteorological Department has issued multiple weather advisories as the state continues to grapple with an unusually intense monsoon that has already broken several rainfall records this year. Mumbai will bear the brunt of tomorrow's weather system, with heavy rainfall expected to reach 22.6 mm accompanied by strong winds that will make umbrella usage challenging for residents venturing outdoors. The city's temperatures will remain moderate between 27°C and 28°C, providing some relief from typical summer heat, though humidity levels will remain high with visibility reduced to just 8.5 km due to thick

cloud cover. The extremely low UV index of 0.8 indicates minimal sun exposure as the monsoon clouds dominate the metropolitan region's skies. In contrast, Pune will experience significantly milder conditions with patchy rain bringing only 0.9 mm of precipitation. The city continues to enjoy temperatures notably cooler than seasonal averages, ranging between 22°C to 24°C, making it one of the more comfortable locations across Maharashtra. Pune has been experiencing temperatures 3.1°C below the seasonal average for June, reflecting the unusual cooling effect of this year's early and intense monsoon arrival. The eastern regions of the state, particularly Nagpur and the broader Vidarbha region, will see partly cloudy skies with minimal rainfall of just 0.1 mm tomorrow. Temperatures in Nagpur will reach 33°C during the day before dropping to 26°C at night, showing a

transitional weather pattern where the monsoon's influence remains less pronounced compared to western Maharashtra. The IMD has maintained yellow alerts for Mumbai and the Konkan coast for both June 30 and July 1, warning of thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds reaching 40-50 km/h. The coastal belt will continue receiving moderate to heavy rainfall ranging from 15-30 mm daily, while western Maharashtra, including Pune, will experience lighter but consistent rainfall with pleasant temperatures between 22-29°C. The Vidarbha region will see mixed conditions with partly cloudy skies and intermittent showers, maintaining relatively higher daytime temperatures of 30-35°C. This intense monsoon activity comes after Maharashtra experienced one of its earliest monsoon onsets in over a decade, arriving on 25 May 2025, which was 14 days ahead of the

normal schedule. The early arrival initially brought intense and unseasonal rainfall that led to significant impacts, including 34 fatalities reported by late May. After a brief pause in late May, the monsoon has regained momentum since mid-June as the northern limit of the monsoon has progressed significantly across the state. The Maharashtra government has issued comprehensive travel advisories following recent monsoon-related incidents, including the tragic collapse of Kundmala bridge in Pune that claimed four lives. Authorities are temporarily closing dangerous spots until proper repairs and safety measures can be implemented. The combination of heavy rainfall, strong winds, and poor visibility requires extra caution during travel, with residents advised to carry waterproof gear and avoid low-lying areas prone to waterlogging. Agricultural communities across the state

are also feeling the impact, with farmers across 21,500 hectares having already experienced crop damage due to unseasonal early rains.

The damage has particularly affected banana and maize crops in Jalgaon and Nashik districts, highlighting the economic consequences of this year's erratic monsoon pattern. As the week progresses, the weather pattern suggests consistent monsoon activity with intermittent heavy spells particularly affecting the Konkan coast and Western Ghats. While temperature extremes are being moderated by monsoon clouds, the persistence and intensity of rainfall will remain the dominant weather feature as Maharashtra experiences what appears to be a particularly active monsoon season that continues to challenge both urban infrastructure and rural communities across the state.

CJI Gavai Gets Emotional, Recalls Father's Sacrifices and His Journey into Law

Nagpur 28 June : Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai turned emotional while addressing members of the Nagpur District Court Bar Association on Friday, as he reflected on his late father's unfulfilled aspiration to become a lawyer — a dream that deeply influenced his own path in the legal profession. Speaking to a gathering of legal professionals, CJI Gavai revealed that he had once aspired to become an architect, but his father's wishes led him down a

different path. "I wanted to be an architect, but my father had different dreams," Gavai said, his voice choked with emotion. "He wanted to be a lawyer but couldn't because he was arrested for participating in the freedom movement."

Gavai paid tribute to his parents

The 52nd Chief Justice of India gave rare personal insights into the roots of his judicial career, reflecting on the hardships and sacrifices made by his family. Gavai paid tribute to his parents, particularly highlighting the



the service of Ambedkar's ideology. He always hoped I would do something meaningful in life.

"Lost my father in 2015: CJI

Gavai also recounted a moment of foresight from his father, who believed his son might someday rise to the top of the judiciary. "When my name was recommended for the post of a judge in the high court, my father told me, 'If you remain a lawyer, you'll only go after money. But if

you become a judge, you'll walk on the path laid down by Dr Ambedkar and do good for society.'"

Sadly, his father passed away in 2015 and could not witness his son rise to the highest judicial post in the country. "We lost him in 2015," Gavai said. "But I am glad my mother is here to witness it." Justice Gavai's emotional address resonated with the audience, offering a rare glimpse into the personal legacy and motivations behind the country's top judge.

Awdhutwadi Police Stn delay may cost PWD engineer his salary

YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST: The Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court has directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to finish construction of Awdhutwadi Police Station in Yavatmal District by August 31. If not completed on time, the court said the cost will be recovered from the salary of the executive engineer. This warning was given during a hearing on Wednesday before Justice Nitin Sambre and Justice Sachin Deshmukh. Earlier, the PWD had promised that the police station would be ready by June 30, but the work was not completed. RTI activist Digambar Paigade had filed a case asking the court to take action. He said the police station building was built without proper permission, and there is no record of where from the money came for the work. The Police Department admitted that the construction was done without approval from the municipal council. The High Court had earlier asked



new building near All India Radio.

The court has now ordered the PWD to submit a written statement (affidavit) by September 30 confirming that the construction is finished. In the past, the PWD had also asked for time to demolish the illegal structure.

The hearing saw Digambar Paigade represent himself, while Advocate Sangeeta Jachak appeared for the Government.

Helmet Stashed in Boot, Not on Head: 20-Year-Old Dies in Collision with Garbage Truck

Nagpur 28 June : A 20-year-old youth lost his life in a tragic road accident near the Bhandewadi garbage dump yard on Friday morning after his speeding moped collided with a Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) garbage truck. The deceased, identified as Niten Pancheshwar, hailed from Rajasthan and was residing in Bidgaon near Pardi. Niten was reportedly not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash, instead keeping it in the vehicle's boot. He was riding with two pillion passengers—40-year-old Tarabai Gadekar



and 12-year-old Adarsh Pache—both of whom sustained serious injuries and are currently undergoing treatment. The accident occurred around 11:45 a.m. when the garbage truck, driven by Dinesh Dhawade, was exiting the Bhandewadi yard and turning left toward a nearby flyover.

According to police

sources, Niten was riding at high speed and failed to stop in time, crashing into the rear of the truck. Employed as a cleaner for a private bus operator, Niten died on the spot. Local passersby helped rush the injured pillion riders to a hospital.

While police have booked the truck driver as part of standard legal procedure, initial findings suggest the accident may have been largely due to the youth's excessive speed and failure to wear a helmet, rather than negligence on the part of the truck driver.

Dual-Colour Number Plates Proposed for Hydrogen-Powered Vehicles

Nagpur 28 June : To simplify the identification of hydrogen-powered vehicles, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has proposed introducing a new category of registration plates with distinct colour codes based on vehicle type. As per a draft notification issued on Friday, hydrogen fuel-powered vehicles will carry number plates featuring a combination of green and blue backgrounds, with text colours varying depending on the vehicle's use. For commercial hydrogen vehicles, number plates will feature a green upper half and



a blue lower half with yellow lettering. Private hydrogen vehicles will have the same green-blue design but with white lettering. Vehicles used as rental cabs will display plates with a black top half and blue bottom half, also bearing yellow lettering. The initiative aims to make hydrogen-powered vehicles easily identifiable while promoting green mobility across India.

Pedestrian Killed After Being Hit by Speeding School Van on Amravati-Nagpur Highway

Nagpur 28 June : A 44-year-old man lost his life after being struck by a speeding school van near the Amravati-Nagpur Highway on Wednesday afternoon. The incident took place around 12:30 p.m. within the Wadi police station limits. The deceased, identified as Mahendra Gajanan Vaidya, was a resident of Wadi and employed at a private firm, Exxon. According to police reports, Mahendra was walking alongside the highway near a solar



company when a school van (registration number MH 31 DS 5615) allegedly hit him at high speed. Eyewitnesses stated that the van driver was driving recklessly and lost control of the vehicle, leading to the fatal collision. Mahendra sustained serious

injuries and was rushed to Mayo Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

Following a complaint filed by the victim's brother, Hemraj Gajanan Vaidya (46), a resident of Nandanvan Slum in Wadi, an offence under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered against the van driver. Wadi police have initiated an investigation and are reviewing CCTV footage and eyewitness statements to ascertain the exact sequence of events.

Seminar by Obstetrics and Gynecology Sanghatna

YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST: For the first time in the city, a seminar on various gynecological diseases was held by the Obstetrics and Gynecology Sanghatna with famous doctors of the country. This unique event held on Saturday was presided over by IAS 3 National President Dr. Kalyan Barmade.

In it, Dr. Kshama Kedar, Head of the Gynecology Department at Government Vasantrao Naik Medical College, guided on abdominal pain in the first trimester of pregnancy. Prof. Dr. Suman Devtale gave information about tubal pregnancy. Dr. Leela Shah from Gujarat gave information on tubal pregnancy. Also, Dr. Girish Mane, Dr. Paresh Gandeche,

Dr. Mehul Sawale, Dr. Nisha Keshwani, Dr. Swapnil Sune, Dr. Sara Koshish guided all the participating doctors.

Dr. Tejaswi Chintawar and Kiran Dhurve conducted the seminar. On this occasion, Dr. Archana Rathod, President of Yavatmal Obstetrics and Gynecology Sanghatna, Secretary Dr. Sheetal Chavan, Dr. Vrushali Mane, Dr. Charuta Ranade, Dr. Rupa Padmawar, Dr. Neelam Gandeche were the main attendees.

On Sunday, expert doctors successfully performed surgeries on 7 different patients through binoculars at the Government Medical College.

This was organized under the auspices of the Indian



Association of Gynecology Endoscopic Obstetrics and Gynecology Association, Yavatmal and the Medical College.

In this workshop, President Dr. Kalyan Barmade, Dr. Nitin Shah, Dr. Sameer Nikhade of Nagpur and Dr. Rahul Lakhe of Akola successfully performed

surgeries on 7 patients. For this, the Dean of the Medical College, Dr. Girish Jatkar, provided the surgical room and all the facilities. Also, the doctors of the anesthesia department cooperated.

All the workshops and surgeries were successfully organized by the President of the Gynecology Association,

Dr. Archana Rathod, Secretary Dr. Sheetal Chavan proposed vote of thanks. Dr. Atul Padmawar, Dr. Mehul Salve, Dr. Naveen Patil cooperated to success the seminar. Dr. Virendra Rathod, Dr. Vidya Chaudhary, Dr. Fatima Mirza, Dr. Ashok Chaudhary were present on this occasion.

Prasad once again Vidarbha Champion

PUSAD / NAGPUR POST: The Vidarbha Zonal Table Tennis Tournament was organised in Chandrapur by the joint efforts of Maharashtra Table Tennis Association and Chandrapur Table Tennis Association. Players from all districts of Vidarbha participated in it. The most important event was the men's singles open group, in which Prasad Deshpande, who was the Vidarbha champion last year, put on the garland of victory around his neck by displaying excellent play. He earned the honor of being the Vidarbha champion for two consecutive years. In the same competition, Parth Pawar of Pusad won the honor of becoming the Vidarbha champion in the 13-year age group. Displaying his aggressive play, he put on



the garland of victory around his neck. In the 11-year age group, Pusad's senior Jagtap

stood third. In the 11-year age group, Priyal Navthale of Pusad came second from Vidarbha, while Shubhra Joshi stood third.

Parth Pawar and Raj Dubey were once again semi-finalists in the 15-year age group. Raj was also a semi-finalist in the 17-year age group. The players were felicitated with cash prizes and medals. They credit their game to PR Sports coach Avinash Deshpande.

Shivsena organises camp at Umri

KALAMB / NAGPUR POST: At Umri in the taluka, Shiv Sena (Shinde) group taluka president Abhishek Pande organised a blood donation and eye check-up camp at Vitthal Mandir on June 26 on behalf of Guardian Minister Sanjay Rathod's birthday. In this camp, 200 patients had their eyes checked and 41 blood donors donated blood. In this camp, an expert doctor examined them. Also, a large number of youths from Umri, Mategaon, Borjai, Parsodi, Chincholi participated in the camp in the presence of Shiv Sena District Liaison Chief Harihar Linganwar, Gajanan Domale, Sachin Mahalle. Also, the newly appointed Agricultural Produce Market Committee Director Harihar Linganwar was felicitated by Shiv Sena. Shiv



Sena District Liaison Chief Harihar Linganwar, Sub-District Chief Sachin Mahalle, Yuva Sena District Chief Akash Kutemate, Taluka President Abhishek Pandey, Sharda Thote, Sushma Dhanre, Sandeep Zoda, Akash Dhurve etc. office bearers and activists were present on this occasion.

Taluka President Abhishek Pande and the Mitra Mandal had worked hard for the success of the program.

BJP brings the mismanagement of sub-district hospital

PUSAD / NAGPUR POST: During visit to the sub-district hospital, Bharatiya Janata Party's Pusad District President Dr. Bharti Fupate said that strict action will be taken against indiscipline and irresponsible officials. During this visit, she brought the mismanagement of the sub-district hospital to the fore.

The sub-district hospital is a market of inconveniences before our eyes, the trouble caused by irresponsible officials and the common people. Pusad Sub-district Hospital is always in the midst of controversy. The shocking

fact is that even though the house of State Minister Indranil Naik is within walking distance, he does not get proper attention. Even though many pregnant women lose their lives during childbirth due to lack of proper treatment, no senior officer has paid attention to this.

On Tuesday, June 24, BJP District President Dr. Aarti Fupate received a call from a person regarding the chaotic situation in the birth registration department at Pusad Hospital. She immediately reached the hospital. At this time, no officer was present there to take



responsibility. The peon was getting clerk's work done. Seeing the trouble being faced by the common people

coming from rural areas, Dr. Fupate gave a strong warning to the Medical Superintendent and

Assistant Medical Superintendent and then warned the common people to remember if they face any trouble.

Due to the efforts of Dr. Aarti Fupate, the villagers of Dharamwadi, Sandawa, Mandwa, Bhojla, Nagarwadi, Gaul (Khu), Pokhari, Yeranda, who had been for about 1 year, immediately received birth registration certificates.

Bharatiya Janata Party District General Secretary Dr. Rupali Jaiswal, former city president Deepak Parihar and Mahesh Kale were present on this occasion.

Authorities should seriously probe incident of minor girl's murder

Deputy Chairperson of Scheduled Castes and Tribes Commission, Adv Dharampal Meshram issues directive



Chandrapur 27 June: The death of a minor 14-year-old girl in Chora locality of Bhadravati taluka is indeed a very unfortunate incident. All necessary information about this incident has been obtained from the parents of the deceased girl as well as from investigating agencies on Friday (June 27). In order to ensure that the deceased girl gets justice, the law enforcement authorities in the district should investigate this case very seriously and submit a report in this concern, Deputy Chairperson of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes Commission, Dharampal Meshram directed.

He was speaking during a review meeting of officials held at Chandrapur Rest House on Friday. Meshram added that is not yet clear whether Ashwini Asutkar, a minor girl from Chora, committed suicide or was murdered on March 20, 2025. The accused involved in the incident is a 22 year old youth and as per the details of the case registered in the aftermath of the incident, it has come to light that the youth had raped her. Unfortunately, it has also been observed that another POC SO related incident has come to light in the same village. The district administration and law enforcement authorities should immediately ensure that such incidents do not recur. The district administration, police department, social justice department, women and child welfare

department should also pay serious attention to the issue. It has come to the notice of the commission that there has been a delay as far as registering a case in the aftermath of the incident is concerned. The team of doctors who conducted the postmortem of the deceased girl have also been directed to submit a detailed report with immediate effect. Also, Warora SDPO Niomi Satam should pay special attention to the case and investigate it properly. The parents of the deceased girl are suspecting that 9 people are involved in this case. So, the phone records, CDRs, social media posts and other related details of all these 9 people should be examined. In such cases, there is a provision that financial assistance worth Rs 3.10 lakh can be given on behalf of the District Legal Services Authority. The concerned department should try to implement the disbursement of the funds to the kin of the victim.

A detailed report should be submitted immediately on the total number of incidents which have taken place in the district under the POC SO and atrocity act. Meshram further directed officials of the district administration to submit a report on the entire matter within a span of 15 days.

Visits home of deceased girl in Chora

Deputy Chairperson of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes Commission, Adv Dharampal Meshram, visited the house of the deceased girl in Chora, Bhadravati taluka. He also discussed the matter with her parents and grandmother and got acquainted about the details of the entire incident.

On the occasion, Warora Sub-Divisional Police Officer Niomi Satam, Warora Sub-Divisional Officer Atul Jatale, Assistant Commissioner of Social Welfare Department Vinod Mohure, Tehsildar Bhandarkar, Police Inspector Pardhi, Legal Advisor of the Commission Rahul Jhamre and other officials were present.

Memorandum to stop heavy traffic

WANI / NAGPUR POST: Shiv Sena city chief Shivraj Peche warned Sub-Divisional Officer Vani that if he does not restrict heavy traffic in the city, he will stage a strong protest.

There are coal and dolomite mines around the city. Heavy traffic is being transported illegally by trucks from these mines every day. This is causing a lot of damage to the road. Citizens have to walk with their lives in their hands, mainly due to the dangerous transportation of cement stone from the mine in Wanjari village. Minor and Major accidents always happen on this road, many



innocent people have lost their lives.

A few years ago, a truck hit a school van. 8 students lost their lives in this. Taking note of this serious matter, a statement was made demanding that heavy traffic be restricted for the safety of

citizens. Anil Ulmale, Raju Lohkare, Rohit Burande, Himanshu Bohra, Vicky Bhatgare, Harish Deulkar, Arun Bohra, Gaurav Gaikwad, Ayyaz Khan, Noman Sheikh, Gedam etc. were present while giving the statement.

Scattered cables: A hazard tarnishing the city

Nagpur 28 June: While the city grapples with numerous civic issues, the administration appears to be taking them lightly. Among these unresolved problems is the growing menace of scattered and hanging cables, posing a serious threat to public safety. These cables run haphazardly across electric poles, rooftops, and in many places, are bundled and left dangling dangerously. Broken cables are often seen lying

across roads, clearly inviting accidents—many of which may already have occurred without public awareness. Such unsightly and hazardous scenes not only endanger lives but also mar the beauty and spirit of the city. Dr. M.A. Rasheed, Citizen Journalist has raised this concern with the administration. He has appealed for urgent action and collaborative efforts to find a practical and long-term solution to

this issue. Ensuring the safety of citizens should be a top priority, and resolving such hazards would help preserve the city's image as well.



Amravati, Sunday 29 June 2025

211-Metre Saree Offered to Wardha River at Kaundanyapur in Grand Religious Ceremony

Amravati (Kaundanyapur), 28 June: Known as the Pandharpur of Vidarbha and the maternal home of Goddess Rukmini and the Panchsati, witnessed a grand spiritual event as a 211-metre-long saree was ceremoniously offered to the sacred Wardha (Varada) River.

The auspicious event was graced by the presence of Amravati Guardian Minister and Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, along with MLA Pratap Adsad. Also in attendance were several other dignitaries, including MLAs Rajesh Wankhade, Praveen Tayde, Sumeet Wankhade, former Minister of State Pravin Pote, BJP Amravati District President Raviraj Deshmukh, former MLA Shekhar Bhoir, former BJP District General Secretary Vivek Gulhane, Kiran Paturkar, and Dinesh Suryawanshi.



The grand ritual included the offering of the 211-metre unbroken saree to the holy Wardha River and the ceremonial abhishek (ritual bath), puja, and maha-aarti of Lord Vitthal and Goddess Rukmini at the sacred Kaundanyapur temple. The event was organised by the Amba Rukmini Cultural Festival Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Pratap Adsad said, "Kaundanyapur is not just a place of faith, but a symbol of Vidarbha's spiritual legacy. It is our duty to preserve and promote this heritage. The offering of the

saree to the Wardha River is an expression of devotion and a step toward creating greater awareness about this sacred place across Maharashtra."

On this occasion, Bawankule also announced plans to draft a comprehensive development blueprint for the Kaundanyapur pilgrimage site, aiming for its holistic spiritual and infrastructural enhancement.

The event saw participation from hundreds of devotees, spiritual leaders, party workers, and local citizens, reflecting deep-rooted cultural devotion and community involvement. The presence of Rajarajeshwar Maharaj, the head of the Rukmini Vidarbha Peeth, further added to the spiritual grandeur of the ceremony.

Ganeshpur's Dr. Kishor Ingle Appointed as Maharashtra's Full-Time Director of Art After 19 Years

Darwha, Yavatmal, 28 June (Nagpur Post/TC): In a landmark moment for Maharashtra's art and culture sector, Dr. Kishor Devyani Ingle, a native of the small village of Ganeshpur in Darwhataluka, has been appointed as the full-time Director of the Directorate of Art, Maharashtra—a position that had remained vacant for the last 19 years.

Born and raised in a modest rural setting, Dr. Ingle's journey from Ganeshpur to becoming the state's topmost art administrator is a testament to his dedication, artistic passion, and academic excellence. From a young age, he exhibited a deep interest in art, which eventually blossomed into a lifelong pursuit leading to this prestigious appointment.

An accomplished painter specializing in the graffiti style, Dr. Ingle has earned national and international recognition for his works. Since 2011, he has been a faculty member at the Government College of Fine Arts in Nagpur. His academic path includes a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Master of

Fine Arts (MFA), and a PhD in Fine Arts from the same institution. Apart from his artistic credentials, Dr. Ingle is known as a sensitive teacher, visionary administrator, and a student-centric intellectual. His appointment was made through the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) interview process and has been officially approved by the state's Higher and Technical Education Department. He is expected to assume charge shortly. At just 42 years of age, Dr. Ingle has become the youngest Director of Art in Maharashtra's history, marking a proud milestone not only for him but also for the entire Yavatmal district. His connection with the community and social consciousness are believed to be central



to his leadership qualities. Notably, when former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited Yavatmal, Dr. Ingle had presented a portrait he painted, which was personally accepted and appreciated by Dr. Kalam—a cherished memory in his artistic journey. Dr. Ingle has also served as a Senate Member of Nagpur University and has actively promoted student engagement through initiatives like 'Aavishkar Cell' and 'Cultural Coordination' programs.

His elevation to this coveted post has brought immense pride and joy to the residents of Darwha and the entire Yavatmal region. Dr. Ingle's rise from a small village to leading Maharashtra's art administration stands as a glowing example of perseverance, talent, and the power of education.

His story is sure to inspire generations of aspiring artists across rural and urban Maharashtra.

How Will Police Inspectors Curb Illegal Activities in Beat Areas?

Local Crime Branch Takes Aggressive Action – Local Police Stations Under Question

Amravati (Chandur Bazar) 28 June (Nagpur Post/DC): situated on the Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh border, has long been vulnerable to various illegal activities due to its strategic location. Major unlawful trades such as smuggling of cattle, teakwood, gutkha, and illicit liquor often occur across this inter-state boundary. However, serious questions are being raised about the role—or lack thereof—of the local police stations in curbing these crimes.



Despite the persistent illegal operations in places such as Warud, Shegaon, Benoda, Morshi, Brahmanwada Thadi, Shirgaon Kasba, Paratwada, Chikhaldara, and Dharni, there seems to be a noticeable absence of strong action by the local police. This has led citizens to wonder if these police stations have truly eliminated illegal activities in their jurisdiction, or if the operations continue under silent approval. Likewise, police stations in Tivsa, Kurha, Chandur Railway, Dhamangaon Railway, and Daryapur—also located on district borders—have been observed to take a passive stance, despite rampant smuggling of gutkha and liquor. It appears that many local

stations have adopted a role of silent spectators rather than law enforcers. Illegal businesses flourishing in beat areas across the 14 tehsils of Amravati district are causing increasing concern among ordinary citizens. Those who dare to lodge complaints are often met with threats and intimidation, discouraging further action. In contrast, the Local Crime Branch (LCB) under the leadership of Tapan Kolhe has launched a series of significant operations, unearthing major criminal activities and making impactful arrests. These proactive efforts highlight the inaction of the regular police force and raise the uncomfortable question—do local police have no accountability? Additionally, some police stations reportedly

have non-functional landline numbers, and even when reached, fail to provide concrete information. This communication gap further erodes public trust and raises doubts about what exactly the police are doing.

Administrative Accountability Required] Several senior officers, including Lakshmi Gautam, Dilip Zhalke, Abhinash Kumar, and Dr. Hari Balaji N., served as Superintendents of Amravati Rural Police and had issued strict directives to act against illegal activities in beat areas. Present Superintendent Avinash Bargal, who previously worked with Amravati City Police, is already familiar with the region. Likewise, Additional Superintendent Shashikant Satav, being a native of the district, holds in-depth knowledge of the local scenario. It is expected that they investigate why local police stations under their jurisdiction have failed to act decisively against illegal activities.

Late-Night Presence Instructions – But What About Illegal Trade?

Recently, the Amravati Rural SP issued orders instructing station house officers (SHOs) to remain present at the police stations until late night. However, no official directive has yet been issued specifically targeting illegal trade in rural areas. With illicit businesses spreading in many parts of the district and local police allegedly turning a blind eye, it is evident that society is not being steered in the right direction. Moreover, there are reports that in some police station areas, individuals acting under the label of "Police Mitra" (Friends of Police) are allegedly functioning as extortion agents. This matter demands immediate attention from the district's rural police leadership.

BJP Leaders Booked for Murderous Assault on Office Staff

Amravati, Chandur Bazar 28 June (Nagpur Post/TC): A computer operator at BJP MLA Pravin Tayde's Chandur Bazar public relations office was seriously injured in a brutal assault allegedly carried out by former BJP Taluka President Murl Makode and Vishal Taywade. The incident occurred around 10:30 p.m. on June 22, when Prajwal Shankarrao Davare (26), a resident of Ashtoli, was returning home from the office. A verbal spat near Nanori Phata escalated into violence, with the accused reportedly attacking Davare with a steel rod, causing severe head injuries. He was rushed to Chandur Bazar Sub-District Hospital. Following a complaint and medical report, a case has been registered, and police have begun legal proceedings.

The incident has sparked discussion about internal disputes within the BJP and raised concerns over the safety of even party workers.

"How Are We Supposed to Walk on This Road?" Ask Farmers

Amravati (Chandur Railway) 28 June (Nagpur Post/DC): Farmers in Kalamjapur are protesting the severely damaged condition of the Bhitke-Kalamjapur road, worsened after recent canal work in the area. The road is riddled with potholes and now filled with mud due to the rains, making it nearly impossible to walk on. Assowing and pesticide spraying work is ongoing, farmers must travel this route daily, facing great inconvenience. They have demanded immediate repairs from the concerned department.

Tribute Programme Held by Maratha Seva Sangh on the Occasion of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Jayanti

Amravati, 28 June (Nagpur Post/TC): A tribute programme was organised on June 26, 2025, by the Maratha Seva Sangh to commemorate the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj. The event took place at the District Liaison Office of Maratha Seva Sangh in Rukmini Nagar, where a floral tribute and puja were offered to the portrait of Shahu Maharaj.

Prominent attendees included Arvind Gawande, State Vice President of Maratha Seva Sangh; Manoharrao Kadu, Working President; former District President Ashwin Chaudhary; P. Bhoiraj Chaudhary; District Secretary Sanjay Thackeray; Gajanan Tale; Sharad Band; Surendra Gawande; Rajabhai Aadhav; Ravi Mohol; Shrikrishna Boche; Manish Patil,



District President of Sambhaji Brigade; Manoj Solanke; and Pallavi Yadgire.

The event saw active participation from office-bearers and members of the Maratha Seva Sangh and Sambhaji Brigade, who paid their respects to the legacy and social reforms of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj.

UPSC-MPSC Felicitation and Guidance Camp to be Held on July 1 in Amravati

Amravati, 28 June (Nagpur Post/TC): In a bid to inspire more youth from the district to pursue careers in administrative services and to enhance their capabilities, a special initiative has been conceptualized by District Collector Ashish Yerekar. A felicitation ceremony for successful UPSC and MPSC candidates, along with a guidance camp for aspiring civil service candidates, will be held on Tuesday, July 1, from 2 PM to 5 PM at Shri Sant Dnyaneshwar Cultural Bhavan, Morshi Road, Amravati.

The event will be inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner Dr. Shweta Singhal. District Collector Ashish Yerekar will preside over the function, which will also be attended by

Municipal Commissioner Soumya Sharma-Chandak, CEO Sanjita Mahapatra, and Superintendent of Police Vishal Anand.

The district administration has planned to hold such programs on the first of every month moving forward. During this session, successful IAS and MPSC candidates from Amravati will be felicitated. UPSC qualifiers Anand Khandelwal, Shivam Tiwari, Rajat Patre, and Namrata Thakre will be honored, and they will also share insights into their preparation strategies and experiences in administrative services. The district administration has appealed to all interested students to take advantage of this inspiring platform.

"Plan Effectively to Boost Agricultural Productivity," Says Guardian Minister Bawankule

Amravati, 28 June (Nagpur Post/TC): — "The state government is running several schemes aimed at the development of the agriculture sector. Effective planning should be done to enhance agricultural productivity," said Maharashtra Revenue Minister and Amravati Guardian Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule during the district-level Kharif season review meeting held today. The meeting took place at the office of the District Superintendent Agriculture Officer under Bawankule's chairmanship. The Minister emphasized organizing "Samvad Baithaks" (dialogue sessions) at village level to guide farmers on agricultural matters.

Present on the occasion were MLAs Ravi Rana, Pratap Adsad, Praveen Tayade, Rajesh Wankhade, former MLA Praveen Pote-Patil, Agricultural Joint Director Pramod Lakhale, District Superintendent Agriculture Officer Rahul Satpute, Director Archana Nistane, Deputy Director Varun Deshmukh, and Taluka Agriculture Officers.

Minister Bawankule reviewed crop planning, pest management, seed and fertilizer stock, and related initiatives under the National Food Security Mission. He stressed the importance of expanding the area and yield of food grains, ensuring proper supply of inputs, and taking strict action against bogus seed and fertilizer vendors.

Special emphasis was laid on guiding tribal farmers in Melghat to grow millets such as kodo, kutki, ragi, and saka. The Minister directed that irrigation and uninterrupted electricity should be ensured through solar pump schemes. He also recommended showcasing successful farmers' fields as demonstration sites for others. An overview of rainfall data, seed and fertilizer distribution, HTBT cotton control, and progress under PM Kisan, Namu Kisan Mahasamman Nidhi, and Gopinath Munde Accident Assistance Scheme was presented by Satpute. The event concluded with the release of awareness posters on nutrient management for crops.

Pest Outbreak Threatens Kharif Crops Across Amravati District

Amravati 28 June (Nagpur Post/TC): An outbreak of Vanji pest infestation has severely affected sprouting cotton, soybean, and pigeon pea crops across the Amravati district. Despite timely sowing after early monsoon showers, farmers are now grappling with this unforeseen crisis, risking the loss of the entire season's investment. Farmers are resorting to various means—chemical sprays, hand-picking, and organic pesticides—but lack of expert guidance and awareness is hampering results. The problem is particularly acute in tribal and remote areas. Experts stress the need for seed treatment before sowing, organic compost application, and soil moisture control.

About the Pest: The Vanji grub hides underground and chews on young roots, causing the plants to dry up and die. Farmers fear they may have to re-sow their fields, incurring heavy losses. Locally, the pest is also known as 'Paissa' due to its coin-like shape when curled.

Citizens' Participation Invited for 'Viksit Maharashtra 2047' Vision Document

Akola, 28 June : As part of the ambitious 'Viksit Maharashtra 2047' initiative, a state-wide survey is being conducted to gather citizens' views and ensure public participation in shaping Maharashtra's future. District Collector Ajit Kumbhar has appealed to the residents of Akola district to actively contribute to the preparation of the state's Vision Document.

To formulate a comprehensive development roadmap, inputs from the general public are considered essential. Village-level awareness is being generated through gram sevaks, AASHA workers, anganwadi workers, and various media channels. This survey aims to understand people's aspirations, problems, and expectations from the government. The collected data will be reflected in the 'Viksit Maharashtra 2047: Vision Document'. Citizens across Akola are encouraged to participate in this important initiative by sharing their inputs and feedback to contribute meaningfully to the document's creation.

Toll Exemption for Warkaris Travelling to Pandharpur

Akola, 28 June : Warkaris and pilgrimage processions heading to Pandharpur for the Ashadhi Wari will receive toll exemption on both light and heavy vehicles until July 10. This benefit will be applicable for both onward and return journeys.

Applicants wishing to avail of this facility must apply at the Regional Transport Office (RTO) by submitting details such as vehicle number, owner's name, mobile number, travel dates, and a self-attested copy of their Aadhaar card.

The Sub-Regional Transport Officer has urged all devotees, warkaris, and palanquins travelling from Akola district to make use of this exemption and apply for the necessary travel passes.

Rajshri Shahu Maharaj Jayanti Celebrated in Amravati by Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti

Amravati, 28 June (Nagpur Post/TC): The Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS), Amravati, celebrated the birth anniversary of Rajshri Shahu Maharaj with great enthusiasm at Sujata Buddha Vihar in Rajhi Nagar, Badnera. The event paid tribute to Shahu Maharaj's legacy, highlighting his message of social equality, justice, and fraternity.

The programme was presided over by Chhaya Bhatkar, President of the Samvidhan Vastistat Sangh. Distinguished guests included Kalpana Harne, Varsha Pakde, Sushma Shete, Bharati Pakde (President, Vastistat Sangh Badnera), and Prafulla Kukde (Working President, MANS Amravati District).

The event began with a floral tribute to the portrait of Rajshri Shahu Maharaj. Ashish Deshmukh read an informative piece detailing the life and work of Shahu



Maharaj. Kalpana Harne and Varsha Pakde also addressed the gathering, shedding light on Maharaj's efforts in social reform and public enlightenment.

Prafulla Kukde provided insights into the activities of the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti and urged women to actively join and support the organization's mission. In her presidential address, Chhaya Bhatkar emphasized the relevance of Shahu Maharaj's progressive thoughts and encouraged women to participate actively in the eradication of blind

beliefs. The programme was introduced by Varsha Pakde, hosted by Sujata Jannik, and concluded with a vote of thanks by Uma Ingole. Valuable support for the successful organization of the event came from Vandana Pawar, Rama Mohod, Rekha Wahane, Monali Sadvate, Manali Ingole, Anjali Mokashe, Uma Ingole, Raj Dongre, and Gunjan Kumar.

The programme concluded with the rendition of a revolutionary song, and it witnessed enthusiastic participation from numerous women from the local community.

Rs 30.30 Lakh Approved Under CM's Medical Assistance Fund for Needy Patients

Akola, 28 June : A total of 37 medical assistance proposals amounting to Rs 30.30 lakh have been approved under the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund to support underprivileged patients in Akola district.

This initiative, conceptualized by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and guided by Rameshwar Naik, has led to the establishment of dedicated CM Medical Assistance Cells in every district. In Akola, the cell operates from the first floor of the new building at the Collector's Office and was inaugurated by Guardian Minister Aakash Fundkar. The unit functions under the guidance of Collector Ajit Kumbhar and Resident Deputy Collector Vijay Patil. The district has 12 recognized hospitals including a government blood bank registered under the Charity Commissioner's Office. In addition, 44 more hospitals are committed to process applications under this scheme. Currently, 67 proposals are under review.

According to Dr. Vishal Yedwar, the cell also undertakes initiatives such as blood donation camps, disaster management mock drills, and awareness drives on tree plantation among beneficiaries.

Five Shiv Sena Workers Injured in Road Accident Near Paratwada

Amravati Paratwada, 28 June: Five Shiv Sena members traveling to attend a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's OSD were injured in a road accident near Jawardi Phata on the Amravati-Paratwada highway. Their EcoSport vehicle reportedly flipped three times after colliding with a car driven by a Land Records officer. Subhash Ghute suffered serious injuries, while Sagar Dange and Ankush Wagh sustained minor ones. A case has been filed against the other driver, Amol Sherekar, under Sections 125(A) and 281. Police are continuing the investigation.

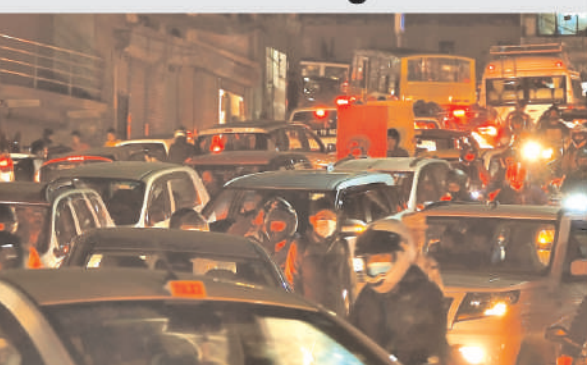
Flight of Aspirations



Launching from NASA's iconic Kennedy Space Centre, the Axiom-4 mission might seem to be just another space odyssey. However, it is a bit different as it carries the grand hopes of peoples from nationalities that are on a mission mode to increasingly exert their influence in the realm of cosmos. The same holds true for India as well. Already making its presence felt in a manner that is more than remarkable, India has taken yet another leap into the future with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's historic journey aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. Nearly four decades after Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma's landmark flight in 1984, India has sent another citizen into space—this time as an operational pilot aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission, launched after multiple weather and technical delays, is a commercial venture by Houston-based Axiom Space. It has brought together astronauts from India, Poland, and Hungary—countries making their first human presence in orbit in over 40 years—alongside American astronaut and mission commander Peggy Whitson, who is the most experienced US astronaut to date. Their spacecraft, the SpaceX Dragon capsule, is now en route to the ISS in a bid to execute precision orbital manoeuvres before docking on June 26. But what stands at the heart of Indian pride is the journey of Shubhanshu Shukla.

He is a decorated test pilot from the Indian Air Force and one of the selected astronauts for ISRO's upcoming Gaganyaan mission. Aboard Ax-4, he is playing a crucial role in mission execution alongside monitoring flight systems and supporting contingency docking procedures. He is, in fact, the first Indian to serve such a critical operational role on a space station-bound flight. His role there would be deeply strategic, and in sync with India's growing aspirations in manned spaceflight. The Ax-4 mission also doubles as a training ground for Gaganyaan. It is a statement of India's readiness to be counted among the most serious players in the global space industry, if it is not already! Shubhanshu's meticulous preparation—training stints at Axiom, NASA, ESA, SpaceX, and Russia's Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre—has made him a perfect fit for the crucial Ax-4 mission. The Ax-4 crew's agenda is as ambitious as its composition. Over their two-week stay, they are scheduled to carry out more than 60 scientific experiments, seven of which are proposed by Indian researchers. These include biomedical studies that may transform diabetes treatment, investigations into muscle and plant behaviour in microgravity, and experiments on materials and cognitive function. In the proud words of his own, Shukla is not just carrying instruments, he is carrying the hopes of 1.4 billion Indians. Back home, Shukla's mission has already stirred a wave of pride and inspiration. Be it the narrow alleys of Lucknow or ISRO's mission control in Bengaluru, his journey is being followed with anticipation, emotion, and dreams of possibility. The belief in his passionate assertion proclaiming "even stars are attainable" should resonate in every nook and corner of India. The time has arrived for India to ensure that it doesn't have to wait for another four decades for the next Indian to go into space. As far as the Ax-4 mission is concerned, it is part of a larger shift in global space dynamics. The partnership between private companies like SpaceX and Axiom with national agencies like NASA and ROSCOSMOS heralds a new era of commercial and collaborative space exploration. The Axiom mission will further reinforce the reality that space is becoming a shared frontier. India is poised to take full advantage of this opening. With Gaganyaan on the horizon and its Moon and Mars missions gaining momentum, ISRO's future looks bold and bright. Shubhanshu Shukla's successful flight validates India's technological readiness and signals its intent to lead in the space economy of the future. As the Dragon capsule nears its docking at the ISS, Shukla's message to his family—"Just wait for me, I'm coming"—carries with it a metaphor larger than space. It is a message to his nation: India is arriving.

Castles on Crumbling Foundation



The national capital, Delhi, is actually a conglomerate of 289 villages, which the British amalgamated prior to shifting the capital of India from Calcutta (Kolkata) in 1911. Since then, a lot of water has flowed in the river Yamuna, and the capital city has undergone phenomenal changes, especially with respect to infrastructural development. Initially, during the British Raj, only the Lutyens' Delhi—also known as the LBZ (Lutyens' Bungalow Zone)—and the Kashmiri Gate area, which served as the capital, were developed. With the passage of time, it slowly started changing like any other city in the world. Every city has a distinct character.

The character of Delhi, since then, has undergone a sea change, and the phenomenon is a continuous process. Till the end of the last century, i.e., 1999–2000, Delhi's roads used to wear a deserted look after 8 pm, as it was basically a city of and for babus, who would attend to their government office duties and retire at the end of the day to quietly return to their cocoons after office hours. Hardly anyone would venture out thereafter. Places like Vasant Kunj or Rohini, etc., were way outside the city limits with negligible habitation, and one could hear jackals growl after sunset. Major infrastructural development took place in the capital during 1980–81 as Delhi hosted the 1982 Asian Games. It was transformed into a modern city with several flyovers, stadiums, etc., in keeping with the norms of such a major sporting event. Similarly, prior to the Commonwealth Games in 2010, several major infrastructural development initiatives had to be mandatorily implemented that were necessary for the host city.

In keeping with the best practices prevalent in the world, several novel projects were also implemented in Delhi, such as Pelican signals, clean modern public conveniences, smart bus queue shelters which were disabled-friendly, etc., besides a world-class Games Village which came up in the Yamuna riverbed along with the Akshardham Temple in the adjacent areas. This was initially met with much opposition from activists, who even approached the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi not to allow the Games Village to be constructed in the Yamuna riverbed.

The last caution before declaration of Emergency

The first statement that the cabinet ministers and some chief ministers issued from Delhi on the Supreme Court's decision came in record time. Its cyclostyled copy was available informally from the government's Press Information Bureau within an hour of the Supreme Court verdict. By then, news agencies had not even finished crediting the full text of Justice Krishna Iyer's 23-page order.

The only inference one can draw from this is that the leaders in the government had made up their minds even before the court's judgement was out. The statement was ready or nearly ready. This is confirmed by the way the conditional stay has been twisted to mean the vindication of the Congress party's stand that Indira Gandhi can continue as the Prime Minister and that there was no impediment in the way. (The decision was to take a positive line and the government information media were instructed accordingly.) One wonders what more the cabinet ministers and other supporters of Mrs Gandhi could have said if the stay had been unconditional.

Shorn of propaganda, the stay given by Justice Iyer is not absolute. For, it does not allow Mrs Gandhi either to vote or draw allowances. This is what judges have done in similar cases earlier. Under the law, Justice Iyer could go only thus far. As he himself said, the office of Prime Minister and its functioning were regulated by a separate set of articles of the Constitution. Now it is left to Mrs Gandhi to decide whether she should continue in office in the face of the conditional stay. Her own counsel, Nani Palkhivala, has said in his arguments before Justice Iyer that there would be "irreparable damage" to the institution of Prime Minister if unconditional stay was not granted. A conditional stay is a cloud which is bound to cast its shadow on the office. It is a disability with which Mrs Gandhi will have to live. It may not physically come in the way of functioning, but it can eat one up within. It is not so much a matter of level disability as one of conscience. The fact that she

has not given her mind encourages the hope that she may still be weighing the issues. Some Congressmen have introduced a new element. It concerns the party strength in the Lok Sabha. True, the loss of Mrs Gandhi's vote does not make any difference and it does not matter whether the party has 350 or 349 members in the Lok Sabha. But the matter transcends numbers. It relates to the stature and moral authority of the Prime Minister who cannot vote in the Lok Sabha, but will continue to be its leader. This is an anomalous situation which will get murkier as the days go by. The effect will be felt all along in the administration. At the same time, the cleavage in the country will grow.

But somehow most Congress leaders seem to be convinced that the blot of conditional stay will be washed away by orchestrated demonstrations in Mrs Gandhi's support. They have plans to refurbish her image by going back to the 1969-brand slogans and by indulging in the same old populism. They, however, forget that the mood of the country is now different. Mrs Gandhi's own credibility is low. Many people believe that radicalism is the creed which she espouses when she is in a difficulty. They ask for her achievements since 1966 when she became Prime Minister. The Bangladesh liberation, however commendable, has not improved the common man's lot. People know too well that the value of the rupee has gone down by 34 percent in the last two years alone and the poverty line has dipped still lower to cover 10 percent more of the population.

This means the very poor are now 50 percent as against 40 percent a year ago. The Congress chief ministers, who assembled in Delhi to ensure that the party's MPs in their states vote for Mrs Gandhi, have agreed to "radical land reforms", the "cancellation" of rural indebtedness and so on. But, by now, they as well as the people know that all that is promised is not meant to be implemented. People have experienced again

and again the fact that a party which depends on the landed aristocracy to "catch" votes and collect funds for elections only talks of progressive steps. The World Bank, in its latest report, has once again pointed out that land reforms have remained mainly on paper. And it is an open secret that every economic policy or decision has a price tag.

Therefore, the "progressive" stance will neither help Mrs Gandhi and other Congress leaders to divert the attention of people nor water down the odium of the conditional stay. In fact, the populist demonstrations may lead to violent clashes, particularly when the opposition prepares a countrywide agitation. It is quite possible that a harassed and irritated government may adopt more authoritarian measures to suppress the opposition point of view. The opposition is not at that restrained or pure. The danger is that a battle which should be fought within the precincts of the law courts may go to the streets. In that atmosphere, how would it be possible for the Supreme Court, or any court, to decide things coolly and dispassionately and give the verdict when it meets on July 14 and later?

If Mrs Gandhi could only step down till the Supreme Court gave its judgement, which might be available by the end of August. At present, it appears that there are great risks in her doing so because an interim successor can take steps to perpetuate himself. But Mrs Gandhi's advantage is that her equation with the masses is still larger than that of any other Congress leader. In this election year, Congressmen will need her all the more.

By stepping down now, she will give a lie to the propaganda that she wants to stay in power at any cost. She will also save the nation from an endless controversy. And when she comes back after an exoneration, she will be the entire country's leader, not of the Congress alone. Kuldip Nayar | Journalist, parliamentarian and diplomat who passed away in 2018

A look below India's poverty lines

Has poverty been nearly eradicated in India?

Yes, if one goes by the findings of a World Bank brief on poverty and equity released in April. As per the report, the proportion of people in India living below the revised international poverty line of \$3 per capita per day at 2021's purchasing power parity (PPP) has declined sharply from 27.1 percent in 2011-12 to 5.3 percent in 2022-23. If one uses the previous international poverty line of \$2.15 per capita per day (2017 PPP) the proportion below the poverty line in India fell from 16.2 percent in 2011-12 to 2.3 percent in 2022-23. This implies that over the period from 2011-12 to 2022-23, about 171 million people were lifted above the poverty line. If, on the other hand, one uses the international poverty line of \$3.65, applicable for lower middle-income countries such as India, the proportion declined from 61.8 percent to 28.1 percent during the same period.

The World Bank's findings are based on data from India's Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys of 2011-12 and 2022-23. Given that the methodology used for these two surveys was different, the World Bank has not clarified how these two sets of data were made comparable. The Indian government did not release the 2017-18 HCES due to data quality issues, although it followed the same methodology as the 2011-12 survey.

In a recent article, former RBI Governor C Rangarajan and Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, argue that India's GDP growth primarily explains this decline in poverty. This is questionable considering the history of East Asian economies, which experienced a sharp decline in poverty levels only at high economic growth rates. China, for instance, reported a sharp decline in poverty levels only when GDP growth exceeded 10 percent between 1978 to 2010. India's average



GDP growth rates have ranged between 3.8 percent and around 7 percent in the last 10 years, except for -5.38 percent in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

Moreover, evidence shows the fruits of growth have largely accrued to the rich. Despite the growth, the share of labour in India's gross value added has recorded only a slight increase whereas corporate profits have surged. Oxfam's Inequality report for India shows the richest 1 percent controlled more than 40 percent of the country's total wealth, whereas the bottom 50 percent owned a mere 3 percent. About 73 percent of the wealth generated in 2017 went to the top 1 percent, whereas the bottom half reported a mere 1 percent increase in their wealth.

Then what explains this steep decline in poverty? There is no doubt that the safety nets provided by the government such as the provision of free foodgrains to over 60 percent of the population and subsidised LPG to poor households largely explain it. However, if less than a twentieth are extremely poor in India, one may question the justification for providing free foodgrains to three-fifths of the population overlooking its adverse fiscal implications and impact on agricultural prices. Unlike the monetary-based poverty line used by the World Bank, the UNDP's multidimensional poverty index (MPI) measures the extent of deprivation

based on 10 health, education and standard of living indicators. Based on it, India reported 234 million people as multidimensionally poor in 2024. The poverty rate in terms of this broader definition of deprivation was 16.4 percent. India along with Pakistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo accounted for nearly half the global multidimensionally poor population of 1.1 billion people.

According to the National Family Health Survey conducted in 2019-21, despite the government's initiatives to address malnutrition such as POSHAN and Integrated Child Development Services, about 35.5 percent of children aged under 5 years are stunted, 19.3 percent 'wasted', and 32.1 percent underweight. Further, 7.7 percent of children are 'severely wasted', or are facing acute malnutrition.

Unemployment among youth, women and rural people continues to be high alongside wage stagnation among workers. As per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey data released by the Union Ministry of statistics, the unemployment rate among youth in the age group 15-29 years in rural areas rose to 13.7 percent in May 2025 and 17.9 percent in urban areas. Unemployment rates for women also rose to 5.8 percent. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy states that India's youth unemployment rate during the past decade has hovered around 22 percent. Critics therefore refer to the past decade as one characterised by jobless growth.

India still has a long way to go before poverty can be totally eradicated. For this to happen, India's annual GDP growth rate needs to be accelerated to 10 percent or more.

While it is laudable that India has outstripped Japan in total economic output, the GDP per capita in India—at \$2,711 in 2024—is still a tenth of that in Japan, where it is at \$33,950.

Family values: Court affirms Tamil Nadu's inclusive gender traditions

In a landmark ruling delivered earlier this month, the Madras High Court affirmed that same-sex couples can form families without legal marriage. It marked a major milestone for LGBTQIA+ rights in India, particularly in Tamil Nadu. Emerging from a habeas corpus petition, the ruling addressed the case of a 25-year-old lesbian woman detained by her natal family. Her partner sought her release so that they could live together. While securing her freedom, Justices G R Swaminathan and V Lakshminarayanan expanded the definition of family under Indian law, emphasising personal autonomy and right to self-determination.

It comes decades after the 2002 suicide of two lesbian women in Erode's Satyamangalam forest after facing societal rejection of their relationship. Despite this, the 2025 verdict builds on Tamil Nadu's progressive legacy rooted in both legal reforms and Indic traditions fostering wider acceptance of diverse identities. The verdict signals progress while recognising the concept of a "chosen family" under Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees life and personal liberty. The court's assertion that "marriage is not the sole mode to



found a family" validates non-traditional relationships and offers hope where despair once prevailed.

Despite a section of society refusing to accept gender-diverse communities, every May to July, vast numbers of indigenous gender-variant and diverse SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics) communities in south India honour their patron deities at temples such as those for Koothandavar Aravan in Tamil Nadu, and for Ellamma, Bhagavati and Mariamman across the region. These communities enact gender-specific Hindu rituals, which have historically provided sacred spaces for early LGBTQIA+ activism. This cultural acceptance, though not universal, has helped shape a more inclusive societal framework and

complemented the legal efforts.

The court's legal reasoning in the latest case was meticulous. The detainee confirmed her lesbian identity and desire to live with her partner, exposing familial coercion. The judges, referencing the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling in the Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty case, noted while same-sex marriage remains unrecognised, same-sex couples can still form families.

The court criticised police inaction and directed law enforcement to protect the couple, reinforcing the judiciary's role in safeguarding individual rights against societal and familial pressures. Tamil Nadu's history of activism and legal milestones has been crucial in reaching this point.

In 1994, former Chief Election Commissioner T N Seshan granted voting rights to transgender individuals, setting a precedent for inclusion. In 2004, advocate G R Swaminathan, now a judge, secured voter identity cards for transgender people, prompting the state to publicise their voting rights. By 2006, a government order aimed to improve transgender living conditions, promoting counselling to prevent disownment and ensure educational access.

National Statistics Day

National Statistic Day 2024 Date, Theme, History: National Statistics Day is an annual event celebrated in India in June to commemorate the birth anniversary of the father of Indian statistics, Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. An Indian scientist and statistician, he was renowned for the Mahalanobis distance and statistical measure. He has made significant contributions to the field of statistics and economic planning in India. Mahalanobis, one of the members of India's first planning commission, played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1931. He was awarded one of the highest civilian awards, the Padma Vibhushan from the Government of India for his contribution to science. It's, however, important to note that National Statistics Day should not be confused with World Statistics Day, a United Nations-designated observance celebrated every five years on October 20. As India celebrates its statistician community on this special day, here is all you need to know about National Statistics Day. National Statistics Day in India is celebrated annually on June 29th to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, the father of Modern Statistics in India. This year, in 2024, National Statistics Day will be observed on Saturday, June 29th, under the theme, "Use of data for decision making."



National Statistics Day 2024: Origin and Significance In 2007, the Government of India designated June 29th as National Statistics Day to honour Mahalanobis' birth anniversary and recognise his extensive work in statistics and economic planning. The first National Statistics Day celebration took place in 2007 and has since become an annual event that highlights the crucial role of statistics in national development. This day serves as a tribute to Mahalanobis' achievements and contributions while encouraging the pursuit of excellence in the field of statistics. Additionally, the day also aims to raise public awareness, particularly among the youth, about the importance of statistics in strategic planning, economic development, and policy-making.

An Imperative Red Line The global order has entered into an era where multilateral forums are increasingly being used for diplomatic tightrope-walking rather than maintaining moral clarity. In these times, India's refusal to sign the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) joint statement has come as a whiff of fresh air. India's posturing at the SCO was bold and, more importantly, necessary. India's Defence Minister's decision to withhold the endorsement of the draft document—as it skipped the mention of the heinous terror attack in Pahalgam while erroneously choosing to highlight India's supposed hand in Balochistan unrest—is a slap on the face of rogue elements who think they can pass with their brutal manoeuvrings. The message out there to the world is very clear—India will not allow terror to be sanitised or selectively acknowledged in the name of consensus. It needs no recall that on April 22, 26 innocent lives, including that of a Nepali national, were claimed in the Pahalgam terror attack. Victims were shot after being profiled based on religious identity. The Resistance Front, a proxy of the UN-designated Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility. Yet, the joint SCO statement—drafted under China's current chairmanship—conspicuously omitted this massacre.

Instead, it cited the hijacking of the Jaffar Express in Balochistan, implicitly pointing fingers at India by parroting Pakistan's long-standing, unsubstantiated narrative of Indian interference in the region. This glaring asymmetry is deliberate and mischievous. China and Pakistan—bound by their "iron brotherhood"—have time and again used international platforms to further each other's strategic narratives. As far as internal fissures in Pakistan are concerned, India has always rejected accusations about fomenting unrest in Balochistan. These blames are indeed baseless deflections aimed at obscuring Pakistan's own role as a state sponsor of terror and its failure to keep its internal divisions intact. The refusal to sign the SCO document is a firm and just extension of India's belief that terror—especially cross-border terrorism—cannot be compartmentalised or tolerated under the guise of diplomatic courtesy.

The Union Defence minister could not have been more articulate as he asserted, "Peace and prosperity cannot co-exist with terrorism and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the hands of non-state actors." It is very crucial to note here that India's position aligns with a growing global consensus that terrorism must be addressed unequivocally. And one should not mistake these as mere words; India has already walked the talk. Operation Sindoor, launched in response to the Pahalgam attack, demonstrated India's commitment to dismantling cross-border terror infrastructure. India's assertion that "epicentres of terrorism are no longer safe" is both a warning and a principle of deterrence.

IMA organises blood donation camp and various programs to mark Doctors' Day

WANI / NAGPUR POST: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) branch Wani is organising various programmes on the occasion of Doctors' Day on Monday, July 1. These include tree plantation, blood donation camp, poster exhibition, workshop and inauguration of IMA's new hall. IMA Wani President Dr. Shirish Kumarwar has appealed citizens to participate in the blood donation camp in large numbers. The programme will begin with tree plantation. At 9 am, IMA office bearers and members will plant trees at the rural hospital. At 9:30 am, IMA's new hall will be inaugurated in front of the bus stand. Dr. Mahendra Lodha



has made this place available permanently for the organization. SDO Nitin Hingole will inaugurate the programme while Maharashtra IMA office bearer Dr. Mangesh Gulwade will be presided. Chief Officer of Wani Nagar Parishad Dr. Sachin Gade, Tehsildar Nikhil Dhuldhara, Taluka Medical

Officer Dr. Sameer There, Medical Superintendent of Rural Hospital Dr. Dharmendra Sulbawar will be present as the chief guests. Immediately after the inauguration, a blood donation camp will start at IMA Hall. Along with the citizens, doctors from Wani and their families will also donate blood in this camp. This camp is being held in collaboration with Lifeline Blood Bank, Nagpur. A poster making competition is being organised for students according to WHO's 2025 theme "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures". An exhibition of these posters will be put up in the hall and the results will be announced by the dignitaries. Blood transfusion is an important and responsible process. Therefore, a workshop on blood transfusion for nurses and medical staff will be held at IMA Hall. The workshop will be held at 4 pm. At 9 pm, a workshop has been organised for IMA members. Dr. Harish Varbhe and Dr. Viraj Varbhe of Lifeline Blood will guide the attendees. IMA Wani President Dr. Shirish Kumarwar, Secretary Dr. Sanket Alone, Vice President Dr. Sunil Jumna, Joint Secretary Dr. Swapnil Gohokar and office bearers have appealed to participate in large numbers in the blood donation camp and all other organised programmes.

MP Deshmukh inspects flood affected area

PUSAD / NAGPUR POST: MP Sanjay Deshmukh inspected the damage caused to the farmers and the rural residents who were victims of the cyclone in the taluka on Wednesday 25 June. During a personal visit to the villages of Vanwarla, Chondi, Banshi, Pimpalgaon, Mungshi in the taluka, he assured to follow up with the government for compensation for all the damage and understand the severity. On this occasion, the



Deputy District Chief of Shiv Sena (UBT) party, Adv. Virendra Raje, Taluka Chief Ravi Pande, City Chief

Vaibhav Sune, Senior Shivsainik, Mohan Vishwakarma, Sanjay Bhone, Minority Department officials Abbasbhai, Vaibhav Patil, Suraj Thakur, Shankar Mate, Santosh Bhende, District Central Bank Director Anukul Chavan, Vaibhav Fuke as well as many villagers, Tehsildar Mahadev Joravar, Block Development Officer Sanjay Rathod, Amol Metkar and Revenue Department employees were present.

Vidarbha-Based Film 'Terav' Shines with Six Nominations at Maharashtra State Awards

Nagpur 28 June : The nominations for the preliminary round of the 61st Maharashtra State Marathi Film Awards have been announced by Cultural Affairs Minister Adv. Ashish Shelar, along with the winners in the technical and child artist categories. Among the ten films selected for the final round is

Terav, a production from Vidarbha. Directed by Harish Itape and produced by Narendra Jichkar under the Vidarbha-based Anjanikripa Production banner, Terav has earned six major nominations. Shot entirely in Vidarbha, Terav features a cast largely drawn from the region.

41 Shivsainiks donate blood in camp

KALAMB / NAGPUR POST: On the initiative of Guardian Minister Sanjay Rathod, a free eye checkup and blood donation camp was organised at Zilla Parishad Primary School Umri on Thursday (26) under the guidance of Shiv Sena Taluka Chief Shinde Group Abhishek Pande.



Bobhate, Vijay Pandit, Sanjay Waikar, Yashwant Parchake, Sachin Jagtap, Sandeep Jagtap, Shubham Jagtap joined the Shivsena Shinde Group. On this occasion, newly appointed Director of Agricultural Produce Market Committee Pandharkawade Harihar Linganwar, District Chief Gajanan Domale were

OCPC Announces 29th Photography Competition

Nagpur 28 June : The Orange City Photographers Club (OCPC) has announced the 29th edition of its Annual Photography Competition, inviting entries from both amateur and professional photographers. The last date for submission is June 30. This competition offers a creative platform for photography enthusiasts to showcase their talent across categories such as Wildlife and Nature, Travel, Events, and Street Mobile Photography. Participants are required to submit their entries in document format, along with their name,

address, email ID, and mobile number. The selected photographs will be featured in a special exhibition to be held from August 16 to 19. Winners will be honoured and awarded during the event. Dr. Matrishwa Vyas serves as the Convenor of the competition, with Chetan Joshi, Rajan Gupta, and Pankaj Gupta as Co-Convenors. For detailed submission guidelines, participants can visit <https://photo-competition.ocpc.in> or contact OCPC President Gajanan Ranade or Secretary Jayesh Vasani.

If find snake in house, take precautions

YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST: Keep the area near your house clean during the rainy season, do not throw stale food near your house, wear shoes or slippers while walking outside, use batteries in the dark, take proper care while cleaning bricks, stone piles, and leaves. Keep pets away from your house. Snake bites can be prevented by taking precautions against these things. Also, place a cloth under the door at night so that the snake does not enter the house. Take a photo of the snake you see first so that you can identify the snake as a snake. Do not try to kill, harm, or catch the snake. The amount of venom does not depend on whether the snake is small or big, so keep a safe distance from the snake and keep an eye on it. There are mainly 4 poisonous snakes in our area, namely, Nag (Cobra), Manyar, Ghonas, Furse, which can cause death to humans if not treated by the government and statutory authorities. In case of snakebite, the patient should be admitted to



the nearest government hospital without getting into any technical difficulties and a trained snake sitter should be called immediately. Helping Hand is an organization that is active in every taluka of Yavatmal district. This information was given by the founder president of Helping Hand, wildlife researcher and Sarpa Mitra Nilesh Meshram. He also appealed to contact the phone numbers 9850577616, 9859155437 if a snake sitter needs to be called anywhere in the district.

City Congress aggressive against expensive books in private schools

YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST: On June 28 (Saturday), a memorandum was submitted to the District Collector of Yavatmal under the leadership of President Prof. Dr. Bablu alias Anil Deshmukh on behalf of the Yavatmal City Congress Committee against the exorbitant prices of educational books in private schools and financial exploitation of parents. This memorandum states that a set of 8 books is usually available in state government schools for ₹3600/-. However, in private schools, the same number of books for the same class are sold for up to ₹6000/-, which is taking a big hit on the pockets of parents. The memorandum states that since private schools are forcing expensive books of selected private publications instead of SCERT/NCERT approved books, it is necessary to stop the trade going on in the name of



education. The city Congress Committee has made the following demands in a statement: The books used by all private schools in the district and their prices should be investigated. Action should be taken against schools that force expensive private books instead of SCERT/NCERT. Control should be brought to bear on additional expenses incurred in the name of notebooks, stationery, project books, etc. Schools should be made mandatory to present their expenditures transparently to parents. An independent parents' grievance redressal committee should be established at the district level for such complaints. Underlining that "education is a right, not a facility", the city Congress has demanded that the administration should pay serious attention to this and immediately investigate and take appropriate action. On this occasion, Yavatmal City Congress Committee President Prof. Dr. Bablu alias Anil Deshmukh, Yavatmal Taluka Congress Committee President Ramesh Bhisankar, Agricultural Product Market Committee Yavatmal Chairman Ravi Dhok, Vishal Pawde, Javed Ansari, Chhotu Sawai, Devrao Chavan, Ganesh Pande, Ashok Bhutade, Dr. Sachin Yereme, Ramesh Thul, Social Media Congress Committee District President Krishna Pusnake, Prof. Pandhari Pathe and many office bearers and activists were present.

NMC Halts Admissions in 30 Maharashtra Medical Colleges for Failing to Meet Norms

Nagpur 28 June : For the second consecutive year, the National Medical Council (NMC) has halted admissions to several medical colleges in Maharashtra. This includes five newly established institutions in Vidarbha and five older colleges that failed to meet the required standards. In total, 30 medical colleges across the state did not qualify under NMC norms. The move has sparked concern among students and parents, who fear a reduction in the overall intake capacity for medical education in Maharashtra. The National Medical Council (NMC) carries out annual inspections of medical

colleges to assess their compliance with prescribed standards. During this year's inspection, it was found that 30 medical colleges across Maharashtra failed to meet the required criteria. The admission process for the academic year 2025-2026 has been halted for 10 medical colleges that failed to meet the National Medical Council (NMC) criteria. These include five newly recognised colleges in Vidarbha—located in Buldhana, Amravati, Washim, Gadchiroli, and Bhandara—as well as older institutions in Akola, Yavatmal, Chandrapur, Gondia, and Nagpur.

Vanchit's chain hunger strike for Ghanta Gadi

PUSAD / NAGPUR POST: The city's Ghanta Gaadi service has been disrupted and citizens are facing a lot of hardship. Against this backdrop, a chain hunger strike started in front of the Pusad Nagar Parishad from Friday (27th) on behalf of the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi. The first day of the hunger strike was conducted in a very disciplined, peaceful manner and in accordance with democratic values. A large number of citizens, office bearers and social activists from various colonies were present on this occasion. The hunger strike was led by the Taluka President of the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, Buddhadrathna Pundalik Bhalerao.

District Vice President Dattatreya Shikare, City President Jayatand Ubale, City Organizer Madhukar



Sonawane, IT Cell Head Madhur Khillare, Sandeep Adhav, Rajratna Lokhande, Pritam Aalne, Akash Pathade, Prasad Khandare, Arjun Bhagat, Vicky Gauri, Sarfaraz Nirban, Milind Pathade, Sheikh Mohammed, Arjun Ukhde and other activists were present with him. The money paid from public taxes is being given to contractors, but the Ghantagadi service is closed. This is unfair. Bhalerao clearly stated on this occasion that our fight is for the rights of the city residents. If the administration does not take immediate measures, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi has warned of intensifying the chain hunger strike.

'They Forcibly Took Me to the Guard Room... Undressed and Raped Me': FIR Reveals Horrific Details in Kolkata Gangrape Case

Nagpur 28 June : Three individuals, including a former Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP) office-bearer and two current students, have been arrested in connection with the alleged gang rape of a law student on a college campus in Kasba, South Kolkata. According to the FIR filed by the victim, the primary accused, 31-year-old Monojit Mishra, reportedly reacted violently after she declined his marriage proposal, citing her existing relationship. He allegedly confined her in a room, issued threats to her and her partner, and warned that her parents could be implicated. "I touched his feet, but he didn't let me go... They forcibly took me to the guard room, undressed me and raped me," the victim stated in her FIR, according to a media report. The victim further alleged that the accused filmed the assault and threatened to release the video if she did not comply with their demands. When she resisted and attempted to escape, she was reportedly beaten with a hockey stick, resulting in injuries. According to reports, the incident



took place between 7:30 PM and 10:50 PM on Wednesday within the premises of South Calcutta Law College. Police arrested two of the accused, Monojit Mishra and Ahmed, on Thursday evening near a traffic signal in Kasba, South Kolkata, and seized their mobile phones. The third accused, Mukherjee, was taken into custody from his residence around 12:30 AM on Friday, with his mobile device also being confiscated. **BJP IT Cell Chief Condemns Kolkata Gang-Rape Incident, Slams TMC Government** Reacting to the recent gang-rape case at a South Kolkata college, BJP Information Technology Cell head Amit

Malviya strongly criticized the West Bengal government on Friday, alleging a serious lapse in law and order under the Trinamool Congress (TMC) regime. Malviya stated that West Bengal has become "a nightmare for women" under the TMC's rule, where "rape has become a routine tragedy." In a post on X, he leveled grave allegations, saying, "Reports suggest college authorities were instructed to lock the gates while the crime was being committed!" He followed up with a pointed question: "College authorities were instructed to lock the gates while the crime was taking place?" Calling it more than just a criminal act, Malviya said, "This is not just a crime. This is a cover-up of the highest order. The TMC has become a party of rapists and their protectors." He further pledged, "We will not allow political power to bury this crime. We will not let Mamata Banerjee's regime silence the voice of justice. The BJP stands firmly with the victim, and we will fight relentlessly until justice is served."

Jagannath Ratha Yatra by ISKCON

Nagpur 28 June : The annual Jagannath Ratha Yatra, organized by ISKCON Nagpur's Shri Shri Radha Gopinath Temple, will take place on Saturday, June 28, 2025. The grand procession will begin at 11:30 AM from Poddadeshwar Ram Mandir, Mayo Hospital Chowk, and will be graced by the divine presence of His Holiness Shri Krishna Chaitanya Swami Maharaj, a Tridandi Sannyasi and disciple of HH Lokanath Swami Maharaj, currently based in New York, USA. According to ISKCON Nagpur spokesperson Dr. Shyamsundar Jagannath, the yatra, Lord Jagannath, along with His elder brother Subhadra, will be brought in a ceremonial convoy from the residence of Dharmaputra Yudhisthir Das at Empress City to the venue near Chandralok Building, Central Avenue, at 10:30 AM. There,



the deities will be offered a traditional Chhappan Bhog — a 56-item offering. A special ratha puja and grand aarti will be performed in the august presence of HH Krishna Chaitanya Swami Maharaj and distinguished guests before the yatra begins. The ratha yatra will proceed through major city landmarks including Seva Sadan Square, Agrasen Square, Lal Imli Square, Vallabhacharya Square (Nanga Putla), Khule Square, New Itwari Road, Gaudhi Putla Square, Bachhraj Vyas Square (Badkas Square), Tilak Putla, Thadashwari Ram Mandir, and Agyaram Devi Square before culminating at the ISKCON Temple.

Give an account of Rs 9 crore spent on road repairs: High Court

YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST: A water supply pipeline laid in the city under the Amrut scheme. In this, roads in all major areas were damaged. The MJP gave a fund of Rs 9 crore to the Yavatmal Municipal Council on February 23, 2023 to repair these roads. A petition was filed in the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, objecting that the money from this fund was spent on roads in the outskirts of the city instead of repairing the roads in the main parts of the city. The court has ordered that the account of the nine crores spent by the Municipal Council Chief Officer in this case should be submitted by July 9. Digambar Pajgade took information about the poor condition of the roads in Yavatmal city. From this, it came to light that the Municipal Council had spent a fund of nine crores in the wrong place. The citizens of Yavatmal are fed up with

commuting on poor roads. Many have developed incurable spinal diseases. In such a situation, the funds received for road repair were spent in a convenient manner without being spent on priority. Due to this, the problem of poor roads in the city persists. The pits dug for pipelines on the main roads. This matter was raised in the court through a petition. A bench of Justice Nitin Sambre and Justice Sachin Deshmukh asked the Yavatmal Municipal Council Chief Officer to submit a detailed account of the expenditure of the road repair fund by July 9 in this case. The condition of the city's roads has become dire. In this situation, a petition for misuse of nine crores is pending in the court. Now, everyone's attention is on which account is being presented before the court by the Municipal Chief Officer in the case.

GlobalLogic Inaugurates a STEM Innovation Lab in Nagpur to Advance Regional Talent

Nagpur 28 June : GlobalLogic, a digital product engineering leader and a Hitachi Group company, today inaugurated Robo Shiksha Kendra, a cutting-edge STEM Innovation Lab at C. P. Berar High School, Nagpur. Implemented in collaboration with India STEM Foundation, this initiative is part of GlobalLogic's flagship

#EducatetoEmpower CSR initiative. It is aimed at empowering students from underserved communities with equitable access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and hands-on learning opportunities. This initiative is envisioned to equip school

students with critical future-ready skills. The newly launched STEM Innovation Lab in Nagpur is designed to offer immersive, experiential learning in emerging technologies such as robotics, artificial intelligence, electronics, and coding. It will also support teacher capacity-building

through structured training programs. The lab is expected to benefit over 400 students from classes 6th to 11th in its first phase, with the potential to reach ~500 students annually as part of its long-term vision. Nagpur holds a strategic value for GlobalLogic. With its growing talent base, educational

infrastructure, and rising importance in India's broader tech landscape, the region aligns well with GlobalLogic's long-term community engagement and workforce development goals. This initiative marks a key milestone in GlobalLogic's commitment to fostering inclusive growth in high-potential regional hubs.

Chief Minister's Assistance Fund: A Helping Hand of Hope for Life

Financial Aid Sanctioned for Ekansh Swapnil Khadse from Dilawarpur to Purchase Sound Processor



Amravati, June 28 (Nagpur Post Representative) SALIL KALE: In a heartening gesture under the Chief Minister's Assistance Fund, a financial grant was sanctioned for Ekansh Swapnil Khadse, a hearing and speech-impaired child from Dilawarpur in Chandur Railway taluka, to help him acquire a sound processor. The cheque for the aid amount was formally handed over by Maharashtra Revenue Minister and Guardian Minister of Amravati District, Chandrashekhar Bawankule.

Youth Dies in Railway Accident Near Dhamangaon – Deceased Identified as Resident of Gunjkhedra

NP Dhamangaon Railway : A tragic incident occurred near Dhamangaon Railway on June 27, 2025, around 8:30 PM, where a young man lost his life in a railway accident. The deceased, estimated to be between 25 and 28 years of age, was found dead on the railway tracks near Gaurakshan. Upon receiving information about the incident, both the Railway Police and Dattapur Police immediately rushed to the scene. The deceased was later identified as Ninad Vasantrao Dighade, a resident of Gunjkhedra near Pulgaon. Preliminary reports suggest that Ninad had left his home following a domestic dispute. His family members had been searching for him ever since. Unfortunately, his lifeless body was discovered on the tracks at Dhamangaon Railway. Further investigation into the incident is currently being conducted by the police.

On Sat, 28 Jun, 2025, 2:59pm NAGPUR POST AMT, <nagpurpostamt@gmail.com> wrote: Unidentified Man Dies in Railway Accident Near Dhamangaon Railway – Police Seek Public

Assistance for Identification (Dattapur, June 28 (Nagpur Post Representative): An unidentified man, estimated to be between 25 to 30 years old, was found dead in a suspected railway accident near Pole No. 709 at Dhamangaon Railway on the night of June 27. The Dattapur Police have registered an Accidental Death Report (ADR No. 26/2025) under Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code. According to the complaint filed by Prasannaajeet Bhimrao Meshram, a 23-year-old railway cleaning worker and resident of Dattapur, the body was discovered on the railway track around 9:15 PM. The matter was reported to the police shortly after midnight on June 28.

Sub-Inspector Dhananjay Zate of Dattapur Police Station is leading the investigation. Despite efforts, the identity of the deceased remains unknown. The police have released the following description of the deceased to assist in identification: Age: Approximately 25 to 30 years Height: 167 cm Complexion: Fair Clothing: White checked

and prevented further harassment, bringing much-needed relief to the students present at the scene. Their brave action, taken under the guidance of Dattapur Police Inspector Girish Tathod, has been widely lauded by the local community. Citizens have hailed Arun pawar and Sachin kadam as role models and guardians of the town's dignity.

In light of recurring incidents, there is now a growing demand for the public for enhanced police patrolling, increased deployment of law enforcement at key locations, and urgent improvement in public transportation services to ensure student safety—particularly for female commuters.

Eve-Teasers Troubling Female Students at Shastri Chowk — Two Police Volunteers Take a Stand

Dhamangaon Railway, June 28 (By Nagpur Post Representative): A rising nuisance of eve-teasers at Shastri Chowk, near the bus stand in Dhamangaon Railway, is causing serious distress to female students. The area, a crucial transit point for hundreds of students commuting daily from nearby villages for their education, has become a hotspot for unruly youth loitering without purpose. The issue is particularly severe during peak commuting hours—from 10AM to 1 PM and again from 4 PM to 6 PM. Witnesses report that groups of young men routinely harass school and college-going girls, especially during delays in State Transport (ST) bus services. The mismanagement and irregular timing of buses often result in students being stranded for extended periods, further exacerbating the problem. In a commendable act of courage, two youth police volunteers, Arun Pawar and Sachin Kadam, intervened on Thursday to confront and restrain two of the troublemakers at Shastri Chowk. The duo physically tackled the accused

Various activities to mark Minister Rathod's birthday

DIGRAS/NAGPUR POST: Shivsena has resolved to implement social service activities on the birthday of Maharashtra State Soil and Water Conservation Minister and Guardian Minister of Yavatmal Washim district Sanjay Rathod on Monday, June 30. Digras taluka Shiv Sena office bearers are always at the forefront in promoting public service and public interest. Minister Sanjay Rathod always encourages his activists and helps them in this work. Digras Shivsena, which runs on the policy of 80 percent social work and 20 percent politics of Hindu Hriday Samrat Shivsena chief Balasaheb Thackeray, organized a tree plantation at the local sports complex (Krida Sankul) area on Sunday, June 29 at 9 am and a blood donation camp at the hall of Kanhaba Petrol Pump at 11 am. Shiv Sena Taluka Chief Uttam Thawkar, City Chief Dr. Sandeep Dudhe, and Sub-District Chief Rajkumar Wankhade have informed that on Monday, June 30, fruits will be distributed to all the patients of the rural hospital at 9 am and all Shiv Sena office bearers and activists will leave for the well-wishing programme organised at the Public Relations Office of Sanjay Rathod in Yavatmal.



Two Notorious Criminals Arrested with Sharp Weapons by Crime Branch Unit 01 in Amravati City

Nagpur Post | Amravati | June 27 In a decisive crackdown on criminals carrying weapons, the Crime Branch Unit 01 of Amravati City Police arrested two individuals in possession of sharp weapons from the jurisdictions of Nagpur Gate and Gadge Nagar police stations. The action was taken under the guidance of Police Commissioner Arvind Chawariya, as part of a broader campaign to curb serious offences and arms possession in the city.

Acting on directives issued by the Commissioner to intensify surveillance on known offenders involved in crimes against the body and those illegally carrying weapons, the Crime Branch team conducted patrols on June 27, 2025. Based on specific intelligence inputs from informants, police officers swiftly reached the identified locations — Jameel Colony Chowk (Nagpur Gate PS jurisdiction) and near Royal Tiles, Jamjam Nagar (Gadge Nagar PS jurisdiction).

There, two men with a criminal history were found brandishing sharp-edged knives and shouting aggressively, causing public panic. Both were apprehended on the spot, and sharp weapons were seized from them.

Accused Details:
1. Syed Mehndi Miya Syed Peer, Age



23, Resident of Jameel Colony near School No. 08, Amravati.
2. Mohammad Ishaq Mohammad Mushtaq, Age 24, Resident of Jamjam Nagar, Amravati.

Seized Weapons:
One old, used iron knife, black in colour, with a total length of 13 inches (blade: 9 inches long, 2 inches wide), pointed, serrated on one side with a sharp tapering end. Estimated value: ₹500.

One old, used iron knife, black in colour, 15 inches in total length (blade: 9 inches, handle: 6 inches), pointed, sharp on both edges. Estimated value: ₹500.

Total Seized Property Value: ₹1,000

The arrested accused were charged under Section 4/25 of the Arms Act and Section 135 of the Maharashtra Police Act for violating prohibitory orders under Sections 37(1)(3). Further investigation

revealed that the first accused, Syed Mehndi Miya, has a previous criminal record with an attempted murder case (Section 307 IPC) at City Kotwali and two NDPS-related cases at Nandgaon Peth Police Station. The second accused, Mohammad Ishaq, has two cases registered under Section 324 IPC at Gadge Nagar Police Station.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of:

Deputy Commissioner of Police (HQ) Kalpana Baravkar
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 1) Sagar Patil
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime) Shivaji Bachate
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Gadge Nagar Division) Arun Patil
Executing Team from Crime Branch Unit 01: PI Gorakhnath Jadhav, API Manish Wakode, PSI Prakash Chopate, Police Constables Firoz Khan, Satish Deshmukh, Sachin Bahale, Prashant Mohod, Alimuddin Khatib, Nazimuddin Syed, Vikas Gudhe, Sachin Bhoyar, Ranjit Gawande, Suraj Chavan, Nikhil Gadam, Drivers Ashok Khangar and Kishore Khengre.

The Amravati City Police continue to take firm action against criminal elements to maintain public peace and safety.

Crackdown on Gambling Den by Chandur Railway Police at Malkhed Weekly Market

NP Chandur Railway, June 27 (Nagpur Post Representative): In a swift and strategic action, Chandur Railway Police raided a gambling den at Malkhed Railway village near the BSNL tower during the weekly market, acting on a tip-off from an informant.

The tip revealed that several individuals were involved in an illegal card gambling activity called "Ekka Badshah" (Ace King). Acting promptly on the information, the police team discreetly reached the spot in a private vehicle. Upon reaching the BSNL tower near the market area, officers observed a group of men seated in a circle. After confirming with witnesses and verifying the ongoing gambling activity, the police team conducted an immediate raid.

During the operation, the following items were seized in the presence of panch witnesses:

Cash: ₹7,960 used in gambling
Mobile Phones: 3 Android phones worth ₹73,000 and 4 basic phones worth ₹2,000

Motorcycles:

1. Honda Shine (MH-27 DS 5495) – Rs 75,000
2. Bajaj Pulsar (MH-27 CF 5817) – Rs 75,000
3. Hero Honda Persion (MH-27 AB 2319) – Rs 35,000
4. Honda Shine (MH-27 CK 4924) – Rs 60,000

The total value of the seized property amounts to approximately Rs 2,84,960.

Nine individuals were apprehended during the raid and have been booked under Section 12(A) of the Maharashtra Gambling Act. The accused have been identified as:

1. Sumer Singh Dasu Chavan (38)
2. Chandu Hanja Chavan (65)
3. Deepak Vishnu Chavan (55)
4. Premdas Shival Chavan (52)
5. Sudhir Shaligram Chavan (38)
6. Raju Vasudev Jadhav (49) – all residents of Lalkhed



7. Pravin Sudhakar Meshram (34)
8. Ram Ambadas Kalsarpe (28)
9. Ashok Laxman Jewde (62) – all residents of Malkhed Railway

The action was carried out under the able guidance of Superintendent of Police Vishal Anand, Additional Superintendent Pankaj Kumawat, and Sub-Divisional Police Officer Anil Pawar.

The team was led by Police Inspector Ajay Akare, assisted by PSI Rohit Kudale and police staff including Shivaji Ghughe, Nilesh Rithe, Gajanan Waghmare, Pravin Meshram, Atul Kshirsagar, and Prashant Dhoke.

The Chandur Railway Police's prompt action has received appreciation for curbing illegal activities in the region.

Ulhas Vaidya Passes Away



Yavatmal, June 28: Ulhas Vaidya, a resident of Anjaneya Society in Yavatmal, passed away on the morning of June 28. He had retired as an officer from the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC). Known for his friendly nature, Vaidya was also a distinguished mentor in the game of chess. He is survived by his wife Madhuri, a son, and a large extended family. His final rites were performed at Mokshadham at 3 PM the same day.

Controversial statement against farmers: NCP (SP) protests through symbolic Jode Maaro movement

PUSAD / NAGPUR POST: BJP MLA Baban Lonkar's controversial statement against farmers in a meeting in Partur was publicly protested by NCP Sharadchandra Pawar in Pusad. Memorandum was given to the sub-divisional officer by the party under the guidance of state general secretary Sharad Maid in the presence of numerous activists. The video of the speech in which BJP MLA Baban Lonkar made controversial statements twice in three days went viral on social media. On Saturday, the party office bearers expressed the anger of the farmers through a Jode Maro movement.

For this, in the morning, on behalf of all the office bearers and activists of Pusad Taluka Nationalist Congress Party Sharadchandra Pawar, they gathered at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Chowk and held a Jode Maro movement against the photo of Babanrao Lonkar. They submitted a memorandum to the sub-divisional officer in the presence of numerous activists and demanded his suspension.

On this occasion, Sahebrao Thenge, Deepak Jadhav, Nana Bele, Anukul Chavhan, Nana Jalgaonkar, Deepak Harimkar, Parmeshwar Jaiswal, Jai Dalvi, Narendra Khandare, Balwant Manwar, Deepak Avchar, Shrikant Wankhede, Adv Sheikh Junaid, Praveen Kadam, Akshay Tayde, K. G Chavan, Syed Naib, Nilesh



Dagoria, Datta Shinde, Pawan Chavan, Raj Khan, Sheikh Avesh, Rohan Sheikh Naved, Pandurang Chopde, Nitin Pawar, Ganesh Dinde, Shivashish Mulankar, Satish Jadhav, Sandesh Ranveer, Vishal Dudhane, Abhimanyu Shinde, Kailas Jalgaonkar, Dheeraj Kamble, Sumedh Akash Kawale, Rahman Kuldeepke, Sheshrao Chavan, Uttam Chapke, Rathod, Sumit Paikrao,

Citizens Voice Concerns in Public Dialogue Program with Guardian Minister

Amravati, June 28 – Citizens of Amravati got an opportunity to voice their grievances directly to Guardian Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule during a public dialogue program held today at the Government Rest House. A large number of people attended the event, where they submitted petitions and shared concerns regarding issues such as electricity bills, land ownership, roads, employment, agriculture, housing, and water.

MLAs Pratap Adsad, Rajesh Wankhade, Praveen Pote-Patil, Additional Collector Govind Dane, Resident Deputy Collector Anil Bhatkar, and Tehsildar Vijay Lokhande were also present.

Minister Bawankule personally interacted with the citizens, listened to their issues attentively, and instructed the district administration officials to take immediate and appropriate action on the complaints. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals, reaffirming the government's commitment to responsive and accountable governance.

Commissioner Soumya Sharma Spearheads Amravati Cleanliness Drive

Amravati, June 28 – In a proactive initiative, Municipal Commissioner Soumya Sharma Chandak personally inspected cleanliness in several city areas including Oxygen Park, Congress Nagar Nala, and Biyani Chowk. She directed officials to remove construction debris, clear drainage, and enforce penalties for illegal dumping.

She urged departments to increase sanitation equipment where necessary and called for active public participation in beautifying the city through tree plantations and solid waste management.

"Regular sanitation and public involvement are key to a healthy city," she remarked.

BUSINESS

Samsung Unveils 2025 Bespoke AI Appliances in India; Debuts Innovative Bespoke AI Laundry Combo



New Delhi, 28 June: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today introduced its 2025 Bespoke AI appliance lineup, built on four distinct consumer benefits: Easy, Care, Save and Secure to enrich and simplify your lives with AI. These experiences are powered by Samsung's new AI Home screen interface, Bixby voice assistant with two-way natural communication, Samsung Knox security, and seamless SmartThings connectivity, delivering hyper-personalised, energy-efficient, and secure smart home solutions for modern Indian households.

The Bespoke AI line-up is driven by four key values that directly benefit consumers: Easy, Save, Care, and Secure.

■ **Easy:** Bespoke AI appliances now simplify your tasks by using AI and seamless connectivity to automate daily chores via AI Home, Bixby, and SmartThings. For example, AI Home enables automated routines, remote control, and real-time monitoring. Bixby allows users to ask detailed questions about appliances and control them using natural, two-way voice commands, without the need for a nearby phone or speaker.

■ **Save:** Bespoke AI appliances are engineered to help consumers save energy and time. AI Energy Mode helps manage power consumption. AI Vision Inside in refrigerators tracks food items and expiry dates, suggesting recipes to avoid waste. AI Wash features on the Bespoke AI Laundry Combo™ and Top Load washers optimize cycles based on soil levels and load types, saving valuable time and water.

■ **Care:** Bixby assists with appliance care and maintenance alerts, while SmartThings notifies users of any motion, smoke, or leaks detected through its' connected 3rd party devices. Bespoke AI ensures peace of mind with features such as inactivity alerts at a loved one's home, helping families feel reassured from afar.

■ **Secure:** Samsung Knox ensures multi-layered protection with a visualized dashboard across appliances and smartphones. Five Samsung products including the Bespoke AI Family Hub and Bespoke AI Laundry Combo have been verified to level 'Diamond' from UL Solutions' IoT Security Ratings.

"We are proud to bring the 2025 Bespoke AI digital appliances line-up to India, where innovation meets intention. These are not just smart appliances; they are intuitive companions built for Indian homes," said JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia.

"We are confident our Bespoke AI appliances will revolutionize modern Indian households so that consumers can experience the comfort of seamless smart home living," said Ghufan Alam, Vice President, Digital Appliances Business, Samsung India. It eliminates the hassle of transferring clothes between machines, allowing users to save time and prevent odours from lingering after wash cycles. Powered by AI Wash & Dry, the Bespoke AI Laundry Combo senses laundry weight, fabric type, and soil levels, automatically adjusting water, detergent, wash time, and drying conditions for each load. This ensures optimal cleaning performance and personalized laundry experience without the guesswork.

Price & Availability: Samsung's 2025 Bespoke AI appliance range is now available across leading online and offline retail channels, including Samsung Exclusive Stores, Samsung.com as well as major e-commerce platforms. The Bespoke AI Laundry Combo is priced at INR 319000, offering all-in-one washing and drying convenience with smart automation.

Pump and dump scam: Sebi says has raided many shell companies

Mumbai, 28 June: Markets watchdog Sebi has confirmed reports in a section of the media that it had carried out raids in multiple locations and on multiple shell companies for what it considers to be cases of pump and dump scams.



"Sebi has conducted search and seizure operations at multiple locations in June in connection with pump and dump in certain scrips and has seized incriminating evidence," Sebi said in a statement Friday, confirming various news reports regarding its raids in the pump and dump scam. "Further investigation in the matter is under progress," the regulator added in the statement without offering any more details such as the number of companies raised or the value of the alleged scam etc. Some section of the media has been reporting since last week that Sebi raided around two dozen shell companies involved in the Rs 300-crore pump and dump' scheme across Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Gurugram. These raids are one of the biggest in Sebi's history in terms of monetary value. The raids primarily involved 15-20 shell companies which were allegedly created by promoters of some listed companies to pump and dump their own shares. At least two listed agro-tech companies along with their promoters are said to be at the helm of the alleged network, sources had said.

"Sebi has seized several documents including company documents, rubberstamps. Preliminary assessments suggests the scam was at least Rs 300 crore, however more details would emerge once the seized documents are analysed," a source was quoted by one such report. Generally, in cases of pump and dump schemes, Sebi issues an order against the entities. In in very few cases, Sebi also uses its search and seizure powers against the entities like in the current case. The pump and dump scam works in the following manner: promoters create shell companies and register them as proprietary traders which will buy and sell the company stocks later. In the past, there have many instances where Sebi has gone after promoters of small and mid-cap companies for manipulating their stocks.

SPORTS

Sable a man on mission ahead of World C'ships

Bengaluru, 28 June: Fit again after recovering from a nagging calf injury that plagued him for over a year, India's premier 3,000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable has his sights firmly set on bettering his personal best in the upcoming meets, the foremost being the World Championships in September. The reigning Asian Games champion has been undergoing high altitude training in Ooty and also sharpening his form at the Sports Authority of India's Centre here this season. "Last year was not good, it didn't even look like I'll be able to perform well. But this year I am competing in the Diamond League, so preparation (for the World Championship) is good," Sable said. "My target is to notch my personal best, closer to eight minutes. 15 days are left of training, I think I will be able to go near eight." The 30-year-old was battling a calf injury since the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023. He opened his 2025 season with a time of 8 minutes, 22.59 seconds at the Xiamen Diamond League, followed by an 8:23.85 effort in Shaoxing. However, he bounced back by clinching gold at the Asian Championships in Gumi, South Korea in May after clocking an improved 8:20.92. "Preparations are going well. I was injured in the opening of the season. But despite that I participated in two Diamond League events in China. "The results weren't good because of the injury."

Then I competed in the Asian Championship to boost my confidence. I started training in November, the off season also went well. I faced a lot of trouble due to injuries last season. I had a calf injury, there was a lot of pain in my right calf and hamstring. It started after the Asian Games and continued the entire year. The pain was there till January-February this year. "The 30-year-old had failed to reach the final at the last World Championships, finishing a disappointing seventh in his heat. But this time, he's determined to do better. The 30-year-old was battling a calf injury since the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023. He opened his 2025 season with a time of 8 minutes, 22.59 seconds at the Xiamen Diamond League, followed by an 8:23.85 effort in Shaoxing. However, he bounced back by clinching gold at the Asian Championships in Gumi, South Korea in May after clocking an improved 8:20.92. "Preparations are going well. I was injured in the opening of the season. But despite that I participated in two Diamond League events in China. "The results weren't good because of the injury. Then I competed in the Asian Championship to boost my confidence. I started training in November, the off season also went well. I faced a lot of trouble due to injuries last season. I had a calf injury, there was a lot of pain in my right calf and hamstring. It started after the Asian Games and continued the entire year. The pain was there till January-February this year. "The 30-year-old had failed to reach the final at the last World Championships, finishing a disappointing seventh in his heat. But this time, he's determined to do better.

Amanjot 2.0: All-rounder Kaur determined to make a mark for India

CHENNAI 28 June: WHEN Amanjot Kaur walked onto the field at the SSN College Ground, Chennai on January 7 for Team E during the senior women's one-day challenger Trophy clash against Team A after an eight-month injury layoff, she did not feel nervous. Instead, Kaur was grateful to be back on the field. It was when a back stress fracture and a ligament tear in her hand put her out of action in April 2024, Kaur realised how much the sport meant to her. Like most players, recovery was not easy either. With so much time to kill, the mind may play havoc. Kaur had to adapt and started doing chores like making salad, painting and watching movies to keep herself busy and occupied during rehabilitation. And when she finally made a comeback, the Punjab all-rounder unleashed herself like never before.



months for Kaur, the road to getting to that point in Chennai began mid 2024. When the 24-year-old injured her hand during the Bangladesh tour in April 2024, it did not feel as bad. Even the MRIs and scans showed a grade two tear, but the pain was immense. It was only when she did an ultrasound, Kaur realised that her ligament got folded at the joint because of which she could not extend her hand. Coupled with the back

she took back-to-back three-ers in the ODI tri-series. Now, Kaur is in England, hoping to make a mark as a genuine all-rounder in all three departments in the five T20Is and three ODIs that begin on Saturday.

"I am very excited but I have to control my emotions," Kaur told this daily ahead of the England tour in May. "I have to bowl according to the conditions and the team's requirements. It's not like if the conditions are good, I have to overdo with my swing. I want to continue from where I left in Sri Lanka and not leave it behind. No point in doing it in bits and pieces. I am very excited."

Even though her team did not make the final, she impressed with her bowling in the senior challengers and went on to play a crucial part in Mumbai Indians winning their second Women's Premier League title. An India comeback followed in Sri Lanka where

pain she felt during training, Kaur reported to the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. She was not able to move properly.

"For a couple of months, I had to be on bed rest. I did not know what to do with all the time I had. I was cranky. The initial period was very tough. My family doesn't understand cricket."

The injury was a big setback for them. We are in the circuit, so we know that the injury is part and parcel of the game. But my family did not get it. They think that there are six or eight months and there are so many other young players and someone will come in. They think from a different point of view," the 24-year-old explained.

Middle-distance runner Twinkle lands in dope net; faces four-year ban

New Delhi, 28 June: IT is starting to be bit more frequent. Weeks after Sneha K had to be omitted from the Asian Athletics Championships team, middle distance runner Twinkle Chaudhary tested positive. According to the World Athletics anti-doping watchdog Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), Twinkle tested positive for anabolic and androgenic steroid (AAS) Methyltestosterone. She was part of the team that travelled to Gumi in May and is understood to have been tested there.

Twinkle has been provisionally suspended. Interestingly, she competed in Taiwan and won silver and at the Asian meet she finished fourth. The event in Taiwan came after the meet in Gumi. At AIU's senior national federation athletics competition in Kochi, Twinkle represented Reliance and won the 800m with a timing of 2:00.71 (new meet record). It needs to be seen if the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) had tested her. She has been provisionally suspended under World Anti-Doping Agency's anti-doping rule. She faces a

maximum of four year ban for first offence. Interestingly, the substance is the same substance that up and coming javelin thrower DP Manu tested positive for. Not just Shivpal and Sneha, even long distance runner Kartik Kumar, silver medal winner at the 2023 Asian Games, tested positive during a test conducted by the United State Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). The NADA has been collecting samples from top athletes not just in India but abroad as well.

This has once again brought the focus back on Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) decentralisation policy and the difficulty of monitoring.

ENTERTAINMENT

Actors reflect on the scenes from their shows that ended up becoming a viral joke!



Mumbai, 28 June: This International Jokes Day, we celebrate not just the joy of laughter but the legacy of scenes that transformed into iconic punchlines into moments that began on screen but quickly became part of everyday conversations and viral meme culture. & TV's most beloved actors, Aasif Sheikh (Vibhuti Narayan Mishra, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) and Yogesh Tripathi (Daroga Happu Singh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), reflect on the hilariously memorable scenes from their shows that unexpectedly became viral sensations. Yogesh Tripathi, aka Daroga Happu Singh, shares, "It's incredible how certain lines just catch on and become part of people's lingo! One of the most viral scenes is when Happu, exasperated, shouts, 'Arrey Dada, thand rakhi!' Just crack I said it, with that perfect mix of sass and satire, the way people use it. I still hear fans shout it when they spot me! Another fan-favourite is when Happu proudly announces, 'Naam hai Daroga Happu Singh!' with that signature hair flick. That scene quickly became a meme template, and people started recreating it with their twists. And of course, how can I forget the iconic line, 'Main 9 bachchon ka baap hoon!' That one never gets old. It's become a running joke that audiences just love. It shows how comedy, when it clicks, travels far beyond the screen, and becomes a part of real-life humour."

Aasif Sheikh, aka Vibhuti Narayan Mishra, fondly reminisces, "One scene that truly went viral was when Vibhuti flirtatiously tells Angoori Bhabhi, 'I like it when you call me Nalle!' That line became so popular that people still send me memes and reels made on it. Then there's the ever-famous, 'Hello Bhabiji?' - delivered with that perfect mix of charm and mischief. Fans picked it up instantly, and now it's all over meme pages and social media. Another gem is 'I am sorry- Vibhuti's exaggerated English apology. It's been turned into a punchline for everything from relationships to work memes! The dry delivery and comic timing made it unforgettable. As an actor, there's no bigger reward than watching your dialogue live on, being shared, laughed at, and quoted across generations. It means the performance is connected, and that's the true magic of comedy."

Watch these iconic characters and their rib-tickling antics in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 PM and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 PM, every Monday to Friday, only on & TV!

Rannvijay Singha is all set to host Zee TV's Chhoriyan Chali Gaon and says, "As someone who has grown up with both the comforts of city life and a deep connection to the soil, this format spoke to me on a personal level"

Mumbai, 28 June: Continuing its legacy of presenting groundbreaking non-fiction formats that celebrate India's diversity and emotional depth, Zee TV is set to launch Chhoriyan Chali Gaon. This refreshingly unique reality show brings together the worlds of "India" and "Bharat". Under the channel's refreshed brand identity, 'Aapka Apna ZEE', this upcoming show promises to take viewers on a heartfelt journey of transformation, cultural immersion, and human connection. 12 renowned independent, urban women will leave behind the fast-paced comforts of their city lives to spend over 60+ day living in a rural Indian village. Without gadgets, luxuries, or shortcuts, they'll take on real village chores, navigate daily life, and embrace the simplicity and wisdom of age-old customs. The show's storytelling is anchored in three strong pillars: Rural Survival & Adaptation, Cultural Immersion & Emotional Growth, and Competition & Social Strategy. From lighting a chulha to forming deep bonds with villagers, each episode will serve up a powerful blend of laughter, conflict, insight, and inspiration.

instantly drawn to it. As someone who has grown up with both the comforts of city life and a deep connection to the soil, this format spoke to me on a personal level. It's not just another reality show - it's a journey, a mindset shift. In today's world of instant gratification, where everything from food to comfort is just a click away, this show challenges that convenience. The contestants will truly understand what it means to earn a single meal through sheer effort and hard work. Hosting it gives me the chance to witness real change, raw emotion, and untapped resilience. I'm excited to be part of something so rooted, meaningful, and entertaining at the same time. I believe audiences won't just watch this show - they'll feel it, and perhaps, rediscover a part of themselves in the process."

Adding authenticity and warmth to the format is television personality and youth icon Rannvijay Singha, who comes on board as the host. More than just a presenter, Rannvijay takes on a multifaceted role as a mentor, motivator, guide, and storyteller as well as the voice of the villagers. His grounded presence and deep-rooted connection to real India make him the ideal voice to lead both the contestants and the audience through this eye-opening experience.

Speaking about joining the show, Rannvijay shared, "The moment I heard the concept of Chhoriyan Chali Gaon, I was



"Pushpa Impossible is a show with soul and I'm grateful to be part of it" - Gaurav Chopra of Sony SAB's 'Pushpa Impossible'

Mumbai, 28th June, : Gaurav Chopra is winning hearts with his impactful performance as Professor Rajveer Shastri in Sony SAB's Pushpa Impossible. Stepping into an already established world, Gaurav brings depth, restraint, and quiet strength to a layered character who challenges yet supports Pushpa in equal measure. In this candid conversation, Gaurav opens up about taking on such a layered role, the dynamics of his character, and his bond with his co-actors.



are connecting with it in such a strong way. Even the look is something people have picked up on - it's quite different from how they've seen me before, and that reaction has been so heartening. It honestly makes me happy. Pushpa Impossible is a show with soul and I'm grateful to be part of it

1. You've played a range of characters over the years. What makes Rajveer Shastri different from your previous roles?

Rajveer Shastri is quite different from the characters I've played before. He believes in Pushpa and sees her potential, but he also understands the challenges she faces because of where she comes from. He knows she needs guidance and support to prepare for the road ahead - and he's quietly helping her get there. What I find interesting about Rajveer is that he doesn't make a big deal about the help he offers. If he senses that Pushpa is distracted or not giving her best, he steps in behind the scenes, fixes things, and never even mentions it. There's something admirable in that - in helping without needing recognition. That quiet strength and selflessness are what set him apart.

3. Have you found any similarities between yourself and Professor Rajveer Shastri? Or is he completely different from your real-life personality?

I've been fortunate to play a wide variety of roles - different professions, different situations. Sometimes I relate to them, sometimes they're nothing like me, but that's the fun of being an actor. That's why we do what we do. Rajveer Shastri, the character I'm playing now, shares some emotional experiences with me, things I've personally felt recently. That emotional connection is the common thread between us, even though he's quite different from who I am in real life. As an actor, you build the rest of the character around that thread - you add body language, clothes, gestures, tone, and attitude. And I'm so glad the audience has noticed and appreciated those layers. Their positive feedback truly means a lot.

2. It's been a couple of months now since your entry into Pushpa Impossible. How has the experience been so far, both on and off screen?

It's been about a month and a half since I started shooting. What's interesting is that every moment has depth, and some of the scenes have been so powerful that they honestly feel award-worthy in their intensity. I'm genuinely enjoying the way the character has been written and directed, and working with such talented co-actors makes it even better. The best part is the overwhelming positive response the character is getting - people

4. While most characters root for Pushpa, Rajveer constantly challenges her. Does he doubt Pushpa's potential, or is he trying to prepare her for the harsh realities of the legal world?

Rajveer doesn't doubt Pushpa's potential - in fact, he sees it very clearly. But he also knows that the legal world is tough, and he's not someone who'll sugarcoat reality. His way of supporting her is by pushing her, challenging her to rise above her circumstances and be truly prepared. There are many layers to Rajveer, and with every scene, I try to bring out a little more of that complexity. The beauty of working in this show is that it allows that depth to come through.

Not water, but this — NASA announces historic discovery in our Solar System

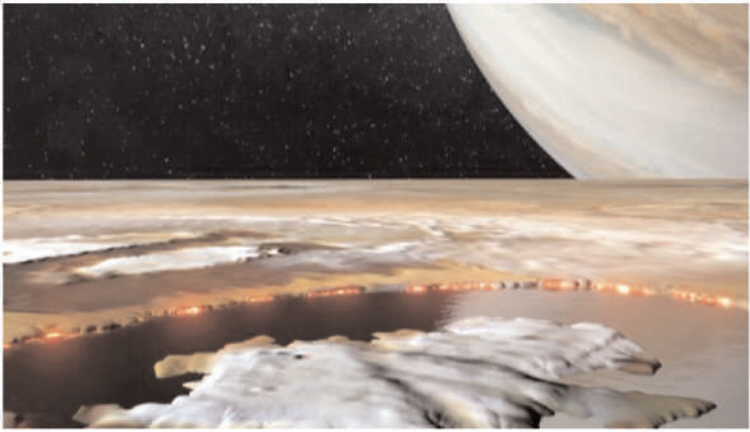
NASA it's not done studying Mars, but that doesn't mean it can't search for water in other places in our solar system. Water in ice form is very common, especially at the South Pole of the planets, and even on the moons. Natural satellites are also in the equation, as the moons of Jupiter have shown interesting signs of possible water in liquid form coming to the surface soon. On the other hand, it wouldn't be a place for humanity to call home, but this can lead to more observations in cosmic objects previously that don't call for that type of attention.

Jupiter is not the focus, but it's the starting point for a new endeavour

Even though moons are not the focus, NASA continues to study everything it can to have a better understanding of how the elements crucial for our living on Earth are used in the universe. Helium, carbon, and oxygen are among the most abundant elements in the universe, and all of them have an impact on our daily life, for good or bad. NASA's Juno mission is focused on getting to know Jupiter better, the biggest planet in our solar system. Its main goal is to figure out how much water it has, looking for signs of hydrogen and oxygen molecules. We already knew its atmosphere is mostly hydrogen and helium, but researchers have also spotted traces of methane and ammonia.

NASA spotted something moving on Jupiter's moons

According to NASA, Jupiter was probably the first planet to form, thanks to all the hydrogen and helium in its atmosphere. It ended up holding most of the gas and dust that didn't go into making the Sun. Back in 1995, the Galileo probe surprised scientists by showing that



Jupiter was warmer than expected, and that it didn't have as much water as people thought. Meanwhile, its 95 moons — especially Io — have been a huge draw for researchers. Io has some of the strongest volcanic activity in the solar system.

With data from its camera during two flybys, Juno captured an aerial view of Loki Patera, the biggest lava lake ever seen. It's roughly 200 km (125 miles) wide, and its surface looks smooth and shiny, a sign that the lava cooled down quickly and turned into a volcanic glass called obsidian.

How was it discovered?

Juno's JIRAM (Jovian Infrared Auroral Mapper) spotted volcanic depressions across Io with cooler crusts in the center and hotter edges where fresh lava comes out. This tells us that magma doesn't just sit still — it's constantly overturning and resurfacing. The discovery was announced by Juno's lead investigator, Scott Bolton, during a press conference at the European Geophysical Union General Assembly in Vienna. Another NASA Juno team

member, Alessandro Mura from the National Institute of Astrophysics in Rome, explained that about 3% of Io's surface might be covered by molten lava lakes. The data also suggests that some areas resemble volcanic glass — a result of lava cooling down too quickly to form crystals.

The weakest moon

Jupiter's moons are divided into two groups: the four Galilean moons (Io, Ganymede, Europa, and Callisto) and smaller, irregular moons. Ganymede is the largest of them, and NASA has been looking into its possible liquid metallic core. Among these moons, Io is the weakest in some ways, but it's also the most active.

The combined gravity of Jupiter, Europa, and Ganymede stretches and distorts Io, creating friction inside the moon. This constant tugging heats its interior and fuels its volcanic activity. Jupiter itself has been an object of interest for a long time. Back in February, it was one of the seven planets that lined up in a rare cosmic alignment.

Top 10 richest temples in India: The net worth of No 1 is estimated at Rs 3 lakh crore

India is home to countless temples that are not just centres of deep spiritual significance, but custodians of immense wealth. These sacred spaces, often centuries old, attract millions of devotees and tourists each year, many of whom contribute generously through offerings of cash, gold, silver, and precious stones. Over time, such donations, and the vast land pieces these temple trusts own have elevated them to the ranks of wealthiest religious institutions in the country. (Image: AFP)

No 1. Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala | Regarded as the richest temple in the world, Padmanabhaswamy Temple holds assets worth Rs 1.2 lakh crore. Its treasure trove comprises gold ornaments, diamonds, antique silver, and emeralds. The discovery of a concealed vault in 2015 further added to its immense fortune.

No 3. Guruvayur Devaswom, Guruvayur, Kerala | This historic shrine, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, is notable for its considerable wealth. It holds bank deposits totalling Rs 1,737.04 crore and possesses 271.05 acres of land. Additionally, it has a vast reserve of gold, silver, and gemstones.

No 4. Vaishno Devi Temple, Jammu | Perched at an altitude of 5,200 feet, this revered temple devoted to Goddess Durga ranks among India's richest. Between 2000 and 2020, it received offerings of more than 1,800 kilograms of gold, 4,700 kilograms of

the Tirumala Hills, this temple is among the wealthiest religious sites globally, with an estimated value of Rs 3 lakh crore. It welcomes nearly 50,000 pilgrims each day and earns an annual revenue of approximately Rs 1,400 crore through offerings, gold, and other valuable contributions.

No 5. Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Maharashtra | Located around 296 km from Mumbai, this temple sees around 25,000 devotees each day. Established in 1922, it garnered donations of over Rs 400 crore in 2022. The temple also operates two hospitals and offers free meals to thousands of pilgrims daily.

No 6. Golden Temple, Amritsar | Celebrated for its magnificent architecture and gold-plated structure, the Golden Temple serves as the spiritual nucleus of Sikhism. Completed in 1581, it is reported to generate an annual income of around Rs 500 crore.

No 7. Meenakshi Temple, Madurai | Famed for its elaborate architectural design and lively religious festivals, the Meenakshi Temple draws more than 20,000 visitors each day. It is



silver, and cash donations exceeding Rs 2,000 crore.

No 8. Siddhivinayak Temple, Mumbai | Situated in the Prabhadevi locality of Mumbai, this Ganesh temple is one of the wealthiest in the country, with an estimated value of Rs 125 crore. It receives daily offerings worth Rs 30 lakh and houses a gold-adorned idol weighing 4 kilograms.

No 9. Somnath Temple, Gujarat | A prominent pilgrimage destination, the Somnath Temple is believed to enshrine the first of the 12 jyotirlingas. The temple features 130 kilograms of gold in its sanctum and an additional 150 kilograms on its spire.

No 10. Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri, Odisha | Dating back to the 11th century, this sacred site is a key part of the Char Dham Yatra. It is estimated to be worth Rs 150 crore and possesses roughly 30,000 acres of land.

Developed by Pune's ARDE and Bharat Forge: Close Quarter Battle carbine ready for frontline ops

A FULLY indigenous and highly effective system for counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism (CI/CT) operations, the Close Quarter Battle (CQB) carbine developed by the Pune-based facility of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Pune-headquartered Bharat Forge as development partner — is ready to be inducted into the Indian Army for frontline operations.

The lightweight, compact and effective weapon system has been designed by the Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) which is a key facility of Armament and Combat Engineering Cluster of the DRDO. A post on X by the DRDO read, "Significantly boosting Atma Nirbharta in critical technology, 5.56x45 mm CQB Carbine, designed and developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment and produced by Bharat Forge Ltd selected as L1 in Indian Army Request for Proposal (RFP)."

An RFP was initiated by the Ministry of Defence for procurement of more than 4.23 lakh units of the Close Quarter Battle carbines in November 2022. The CQB designed by ARDE and manufactured by the development partner, Bharat Forge Ltd was also fielded. Many other industries also fielded their respective products. After extensive



performance evaluation and other quality and maintainability trials, five weapons were qualified. CQB carbine fielded by Bharat Forge Limited and designed by ARDE was the lowest bidder (L1), DRDO officials said. ARDE selected Bharat Forge Limited and Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) — which is a government of India enterprise — through a competitive bidding process for development contracts and established the technology with both industry partners in a span of two years.

The CQB weapons manufactured by both the industry partners had qualified in the RFP trials and Bharat Forge manufactured system emerged as the lowest bidder. The 5.56x45 mm CQB carbine is a light weight, compact, effective weapon for use in close combat CI/CT operations. The design of CQB carbine is based on the high strength steel alloy based machined upper and lower bodies with bottom opening configuration.

The CQB carbine is designed to fire in-service 5.56x45 mm ammunition. One of the unique

features is it can fire both the NATO ammunition and INSAS ammunition.

The weapon weighs less than 3.3kg with an effective range of 200 meters. ARDE-Bharat Forge CQB is a 100 percent Make in India weapon, DRDO officials said. The carbine uses forged steel technology and metal injection moulding technology which makes it highly reliable and accurate. The weapon is equipped with a 30 round magazine with a very high rate of fire.

The weapon was tested in all terrains, operating conditions and in temperature ranges from subzero to scorching heat conditions. "It is a case of full synergy between the development agency and manufacturing agency which has led to the success of the product making the DRDO proud," an officer said. ARDE has already developed a 7.62x51 mm Assault Rifle named Ugram, which means ferocious. Ugram's design is based on the CQB Carbine platform and has an effective range of 500 meters. This weapon is being manufactured by Hyderabad based Dvipa Defence India Pvt Ltd as a development partner.

Which is the Newest District of Punjab? Know About It

Punjab is one of the most important states in northern India, known for its rich culture, history and fast development. Over time, the state has made changes to improve administration and bring government services closer to the people. One such change is the creation of a new district, which helps make governance more efficient and supports the needs of the local population.

An Overview of Punjab Punjab, known as the "Land of Five Rivers," is a lively state in northwestern India. It has rich farmlands, strong farming traditions and a large Sikh population. The state is famous for the Golden Temple, colorful festivals and joyful dances like Bhangra and Gidda. Punjab's culture, food and music make it one of the most vibrant and special regions in India.

Number of Districts in Punjab

Punjab, a state in northern India, has a total of 23 districts. These districts help in better management and development of the state. Each district has its own local administration and government offices.

Newest District of Punjab

The newest district of Punjab is Malerkotla, created on June 2, 2021. It became the 23rd district of the state. Malerkotla was earlier part of Sangrur district but was separated to form a new district.



The city of Malerkotla now serves as its district headquarters.

Location of Malerkotla District

Malerkotla is located in the northwestern Indian state of Punjab. It lies on the Sangrur-Ludhiana State Highway and is also connected by the Ludhiana-Delhi railway line. The city is around 50 km from Ludhiana and 35 km from Sangrur, making it easy to reach by road or train.

Historical Background of Malerkotla

Malerkotla has a rich history. It was established in 1454 by Sheikh Sadruddin-i-Jahan, an Afghan nobleman. Later, in 1600 A.D., it became a princely state ruled by the Sherwani family.

During the British period, it was once of the princely states that joined India in 1947. After joining the country, Malerkotla became part of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU). Later in 1956, it was merged into Punjab.

6 years, 400 trials, and a breakthrough—how Kashmir gave India its first gene-edited sheep

Srinagar: Kashmir has a little lamb. And she is a bit of a celebrity too. Visitors throng to get a glimpse, take pictures all day. Scientists track every move of hers, taking notes on how she is growing. She is, after all, India's first gene-edited sheep. She has enhanced muscle mass as a result of successfully altered DNA. There is a whole list of suggested names that the scientists at Srinagar's Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) have sent all the way up to the university's vice chancellor for approval. In a region dominated by headlines of conflict, SKUAST is quietly making a mark with scientific innovations. And it has come with a lot of perseverance. It took Suhail Margey, his team of seven, and their supervisor—senior scientist Riaz Ahmad Shah—six years to reach this milestone. Margey was midway through a meal of mutton and rice when his laptop chimed with news of another sheep. India's first gene-edited farm animal had been born on the fifth trial. It was a Friday, and Margey's prayers had been answered. "This wasn't just the birth of a lamb—it was a landmark moment in genome editing," he said, clad in a white skull cap, his long beard flowing down his chest. "I left dinner midway and settled on the couch to re-read the sequencing results." The goal? Kashmiri scientist Riaz Ahmad Shah was no stranger



to failures and breakthroughs. In 2009, he cloned India's first buffalo calf, Garima, during his PhD at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in Karnal. In 2012, he cloned the world's first Pashmina goat, Noori. Now, his student, PhD researcher Margey, is following the same path—adding another feather to the cap, and taking Kashmir's cloning legacy one step further.

Margey's idea was to target a gene in a sheep variety to boost muscle weight.

The team pitched it to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and got funding from the National Agricultural Science Fund, setting the project in motion. Over the next half a decade, the team carried out nearly 400 trials.

It began with embryo formation. Then came cloning. Strategies kept changing and evolving. They shifted from using dead animals to living ones. And pushed the research forward through repeated failures. "DNA, in our language, is called the book of life. For a layman, you can think of DNA as letters.

When you edit a gene, you fiddle with those letters," said Shah, seated on a sofa at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry at SKUAST's Shuhama campus. "In this case, we wanted to increase the muscle mass of a sheep's body. So we identified and zeroed in on the myostatin gene—a negative regulator of muscle growth."

The goal: make the sheep gain 30 per cent more muscle mass than normal.

"And once you knock off—or deactivate—that gene, you get more muscle mass," Shah added. Sister sheep

At the mountaintop Research Centre for Sheep and Goat at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, two lambs chase each other inside a fenced enclosure. One stands out with a heavier, muscled body.

The other looks like any ordinary sheep.

A stark difference one cannot miss. These two female lambs were born to a single recipient female. But only one had the muscle-growth gene successfully altered.

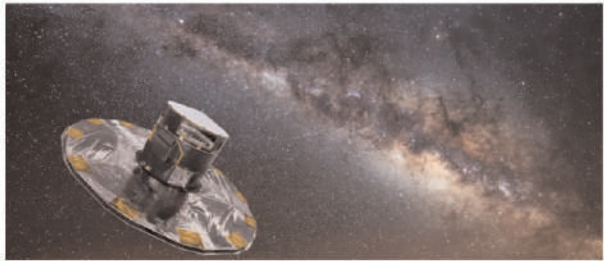
Scientists discover rare planet at the edge of the Milky Way using space-time phenomenon predicted by Einstein

Astronomers have used a space-time phenomenon first predicted by Albert Einstein to discover a rare planet hiding at the edge of our galaxy.

The exoplanet, dubbed AT2021ueyb, is a Jupiter-size gas giant located roughly 3,200 light-years from Earth. Orbiting a small, cool M dwarf star once every 4,170 days, the planet's location is remarkable — it is only the third planet in the entire history of space observation to be discovered so far away from our galaxy's dense center. Yet perhaps more exceptional than the planet's location is the method used to discover it. The effect, known as microlensing, occurs when the light of a host star is magnified by the warping of space-time due to a planet's gravity. The researchers published their findings May 7 in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*. "This kind of

work requires a lot of expertise, patience, and, frankly, a bit of luck," study co-author Marius Maskoliunas, an astronomer at Vilnius University in Lithuania, said in a statement. "You have to wait for a long time for the source star and the lensing object to align and then check an enormous amount of data. Ninety percent of observed stars pulsate for various other reasons, and only a minority of cases show the microlensing effect."

Nearly 6,000 alien worlds beyond our solar system have been discovered since the first exoplanet was detected in 1992. The two most common detection methods, called transit photometry and radial velocity, detect planets through the dimming of host stars as they pass in front of them, or from the wobble that the planets' gravitational tugs impart upon them.



Ararar method, known as microlensing, is derived from Einstein's theory of general relativity and is produced by massive objects as they warp the fabric of the universe, called space-time. Gravity, Einstein discovered, isn't produced by an unseen force but by space-time curving and distorting in the presence of matter and energy. This curved space, in turn, determines how energy and matter move through it. Even though light travels in a straight line, light traveling through a curved region of space-time also travels in a curve. This means that when

a planet passes in front of its host star, its gravity acts as a lens — magnifying the star's light and causing its brightness to spike.

"What fascinates me about this method is that it can detect those invisible bodies," Maskoliunas said, essentially by measuring the bodies' shadows. "Imagine a bird flying past you. You don't see the bird itself and don't know what color it is — only its shadow. But from it, you can, with some level of probability, determine whether it was a sparrow or a swan and at what distance from us. It's an incredibly intriguing process."

Science in Ancient India: A cinematic tribute to Bharatiya knowledge systems

CHENNAI: Marking a milestone in the revival of ancient Indian knowledge, the first-ever documentary dedicated to ancient Indian science has been released. Titled *Science in Ancient India*, it is the result of an intensive research initiative and stands as a testament to India's rich scientific legacy, one that predates many modern innovations.

Spearheaded by HISTORIKA, an organisation committed to uncovering India's true historical narrative, this debut production is the culmination of nearly six months of rigorous research. A dedicated team of seven core members undertook an in-depth study of more than 87 ancient Indian scriptures, exploring the vast spectrum of Vedic, post-Vedic, and classical Indian scientific thought. While the team's mission is to help re-establish Bharat's position as a Vishwa Guru—a global beacon of knowledge and innovation—the documentary brings ancient Indian science to life through a powerful combination of visuals, music and visual effects (VFX). The film delves into several core scientific disciplines including: Fluid dynamics – Principles and applications recorded in ancient

Indian texts

Surgical precision – Techniques described in Ayurveda and medical treatises like the *Sushruta Samhita*

Astronomy – Sophisticated models, observatories, and calculations by luminaries such as Aryabhata and Varahamihira **Metallurgy** – Advanced smelting, alloying, and rust-resistant techniques, exemplified by artifacts like the Iron Pillar of Delhi **Mind sciences** and social systems – Profound insights into human cognition, consciousness, governance, economics, and societal organisation **The documentary serves as a powerful medium to highlight the legacy of ancient Indian science, countering centuries of neglect and colonial distortion. By presenting India's scientific heritage in an engaging format, Science in Ancient India contributes to a broader cultural renaissance—educating viewers, inspiring the next generation, and reclaiming a long-overlooked narrative of innovation and intellectual brilliance.**

JAJPUR: The Rath Yatra of the holy Trinity was celebrated at various places including Dharamsala and Gadamadhapur in Jajpur district on

Friday. In Dharamsala, the Chhera Pahanra ritual was performed by the IIC of the local police station. The ceremonial sweeping of the chariots at Gadamadhapur was conducted by the royal scion. On the day, Dharamsala IIC Ranjan Kumar Majhi was brought to the Jagannath temple at Bhalukhai in a specially-decorated vehicle from the police station. He performed the ritual on the chariot with a golden broom. Similarly, 47-year-old Aparna Dhir Singh Bharadwaj, the scion of Gadamadhapur royal family, performed Chhera Pahanra and other ceremonial rituals of the Trinity at Gadamadhapur.

The annual sojourn of the holy Trinity at Chhatia attracted a huge crowd of devotees. The three chariots were pulled from Chhatia to Badaghumi, covering a distance of about 12 km. The chariots covered at least 8 km on National Highway-16. Rath Yatra was also celebrated at Sukinda, Jajpur Town, Ichhapur, Nagan, Bahadalapur, Bari, Haripur, Kuakhia, Narasinghpur, Jagannathpur, Jenapur, Chausathipada, Dasarathpur, Brahmabarada, Binjharpur, Narasinghpur, Talagarh and Danpani.