

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 Pragyasagar 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.

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.

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 procurements support price for pulse and maize farmers under the Atmanirbhar Abhiyan.

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, Borjari, 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.



Kishan Reddy vows full central backing for sustainable mineral & coal growth in North-East

Guwahati, June 28: Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G Kishan Reddy, on Saturday reaffirmed the Centre's "unwavering support" for accelerating mineral and coal development across India's eight North-Eastern states. Speaking on the second day on the second North-East Mining Ministers' Conclave here, Reddy said robust mining infrastructure, quicker project clearances and eco-friendly practices are crucial to realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision. "Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim are our Ashta Lakshmi," the minister told delegates, stressing that stronger Centre-state coordination would create jobs, draw investment and spur inclusive growth. Ministers and senior officials from all eight states presented detailed roadmaps covering block auctions, the hunt for critical minerals, efforts to revive coal mines, and moves to develop minor minerals with an eye on environmental safeguards. Several representatives pressed for greater financial and



technical assistance from New Delhi to overcome logistical hurdles in the resource-rich but infrastructure-poor region. Additional Secretary (Mines) Sanjay Lohiya used the platform to urge the Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and state agencies to "dramatically scale up" modern, time-bound exploration—particularly for strategic minerals vital to energy security and high-tech

manufacturing. "The policy and budgetary push is already in place; it must now translate into action on the ground," he declared. On the conclave's sidelines, Reddy inaugurated a new Indian Bureau of Mines regional office in Guwahati alongside Assam Mines Minister Kaushik Rai and Mines Secretary V L Kantha Rao. The facility, officials said, will bolster regulatory oversight and provide technical support to budding mining projects across the North-East.

Court denies bail to man accused of raping 70-year-old tourist in Pahalgam

Srinagar, June 28 : A local court in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Friday rejected the bail application of a man accused of raping a 70-year-old tourist from Maharashtra at the popular resort town of Pahalgam over three months ago. The horrific incident occurred in March this year. In its order, the Principal Sessions Judge, Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina yesterday observed that the "revered" and elderly guest was "treated so shockingly in a land of saints and seers" that she would forever regret her choice to visit Kashmir.

"The alleged incident is highly unfortunate, condemnable by all possible words, and ought to have jolted the conscious of this society which claims its moorings to be based on rich ethical values and culture but now stands shaken to the hilt. A revered guest, who was a senior lady was on her visit to this land of saints and seers, was treated so shabbily and shockingly that for all times to come, she will have remorse over the choice of place she made to spend a period of her old age days with her children," the Judge Raina said. "It is not an isolated act to be ignored, but a reflection of a higher degree of depravity and sick mentality prevailing in the society—which must bow



its head down in shame and invites a serious introspection as to what it stood for, and how that has now collapsed," he added. The prosecution told the court that a 70-year-old widow from Maharashtra, who was in Pahalgam with her son's family to enjoy the "beauty of Kashmir", was allegedly sexually assaulted by the accused.

Taking the advantage of her being alone in her hotel room at Pahalgam, the accused entered her room, gagged her mouth in the blanket, raped her, caused her injuries, and then fled through the window of the room. So brutal was the sexual assault on her that the old lady was unable to sit and move and remained in pain for days together," the court was told.

The court said the investigation in the case is going on and the perusal of the

Case Diary (CD) file prima facie reveals the commission of offence of rape on a senior citizen. The accused had moved an application for bail on the grounds that the police harboured some personal grudge against him and his father, on account of which he has been falsely implicated in the case. The court, however, said, "This court does not legally reconcile with the prayer for bail at this stage, which is accordingly rejected."

The judge said this court, which every day witnesses the reflection of the probity level of this society, expresses its concern that it is hopelessly getting eroded on various fronts. "No sooner the sheet-anchors, conscious keepers, watch dogs, and philanthropists of this society will rise to the occasion to check what is going wrong on the moral front of the society,

the better will be for saving the Kashmir as the paradise on earth in its true sense, the judge said. "Mere meadows, mountains, lush green fields, forests, springs, rivers, rivulets and gardens will not come to the rescue of Kashmir as a desired tourist destination," the judge added. The court order opens with an Urdu couplet: "Raste mein sanghrazon ne diya pani muhlay Zarra zarrah mayeray Kashmir ka mehman nawaz (en route, pebbles offered me water. Every particle of my Kashmir is a cradle of hospitality). The judge said Kashmir's rich cultural values combined with a blend of hospitality par excellence, has attracted tourists from across the world to visit, experience and enjoy the enchanting beauty of Kashmir—often described as "heaven on earth".

These tourists have, in turn, enriched the culture and value system of the Kashmir to a level that matches the global standard of civilization. He added that the incident has cast a shadow over the said legacy of Kashmir—it unfortunately also relates to Pahalgam which is not known in the world today for good reasons, contrary to the status it enjoyed on the tourist map of the country and the world.

Four member AX-4 crew in ISS begins preparations for research studies

Chennai, June 28: The four member crew at the International Space Station (ISS) have started their preparations for research studies. Axiom Space in an update said on June 27 Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) Commander Peggy Whitson, Pilot Shubhanshu Shukla, "Shut Mission Specialist Slawos Wisniewski, and Mission Specialist Tibor Kapak completed their first full day aboard the ISS, marking the end of flight day three. As they continued adjusting to life in microgravity, the crew focused on integration with the resident Expedition 73 crew. Together, they completed training on emergency protocols and procedures, ensuring seamless coordination. The crew transferred high-priority cargo and emergency equipment between Dragon and the space station. This included payloads, essential supplies, and safety gear, all carefully logged and stored for operations. The Ax-4 astronauts also began preparing for their research studies. They initiated setup for several experiments and began transferring samples to designated modules.

Drug smugglers arrested with poppy straw, heroin in Udhampur, Jammu



Jammu, June 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested two narcotic smugglers with contraband of poppy straw and heroin in Udhampur and Jammu districts.

A spokesman today said that a police team of Rehambal led by SHO Purab Choudhary, while on patrolling duty at a naka point Flatla, intercepted a suspicious person on way from Garnai towards Tikri. The suspect tried to escape on



seeing the police. "On frisking of Rafaqat Hussain, a resident of Kouri, Judda, Reasi, 4.496 kg of poppy straw was recovered from his possession. He was arrested," police said. In another incident, police recovered 9.80 grams of heroin from a narcotic smuggler in Bishnah area of Jammu. Further investigation is underway to trace the source and the intended recipients of the narcotic, said police.

Dry wooden logs surface in Kullu flash floods stir environmental concerns

Kullu, June 28: The emergence of a large number of dry wooden logs during flash floods in Kullu district on June 25 has triggered concern among environmentalists and social activists, raising suspicion of possible illicit felling of trees in the region. Videos circulating on social media showed wooden logs and debris being carried by the swollen Parvati and Beas rivers, with many of the logs later seen floating in Pandoh and Larji dams on June 26. The visuals have reignited worries over deforestation and mismanagement in forested areas of the district. While uprooted trees, bushes and wooden logs are often washed down during monsoon-induced floods, the unusually high volume of timber has drawn sharp attention. Similar footage had surfaced in August 2023 from Thunagin Mandi district during a flash flood, leading to heated debates in the media and the Himachal Assembly, especially as the area falls under the constituency of former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. Environmentalists argue that the pattern suggests more than just natural causes, especially given the repeated occurrence of such incidents. "This points to a



systemic issue, possibly even organised illegal felling deep in the forests," said a local activist, requesting anonymity. Responding to the public outcry, Conservator of Forests, Kullu Circle, Sandeep Sharma, said, "We have formed three teams to investigate the matter, as the area falls under the Sainj, GHNP, and Parvati forest divisions." "Preliminary findings do not indicate illicit felling. The wood appears to have originated from uprooted, fallen, or decaying trees scattered across nearly 20,000 hectares of forested land," he added. However, Sharma confirmed that a detailed probe into the possibility of illegal logging is underway. The incident has once again brought into focus the vulnerability of Himachal's forest wealth to both natural and man-made threats during the monsoon season.

Punjab cracks down on online child sexual abuse: 2 held, 33 suspects identified

Chandigarh, June 28: In a major crackdown on online child exploitation, Punjab police's cybercrime division has arrested two suspects and identified 33 others involved in viewing, transmitting and distributing of Child Sexual Exploitative and Abusive Material (CSEAM) using various online platforms, said DGP Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Friday. The operation, codenamed CSEAM-4, conducted on Thursday, spanned 40 locations across 18 districts and three commissionerates following actionable cyber tip-lines from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The Supreme Court in a judgement had clarified that

viewing, possessing and not reporting CSEAM content is punishable under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act.

CSEAM refers to any content depicting or exploiting minors in a sexual manner, including photos, videos, or media, which is illegal to produce, distribute, or possess, causing long-lasting harm to victims and considered a severe form of child exploitation due to the lasting impact it has on victims.

Those arrested have been identified as Akash Babu of Rajasthani Colony in Khanna and Harpreet Singh of village Burmajra in Morinda, Rupnagar. DGP Yadav said that the State

Cyber Crime Cell meticulously analysed digital evidence from platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and Telegram to track offenders. He said that during operation, 33 suspects were identified across Punjab, with teams from field units dispatched under the guidance of ADGP (Cybercrime) V Neeraja. The raids led to the registration of two First Information Reports (FIRs) and the seizure of 34 mobile phones, which have been sent for forensic analysis to recover deleted data, with more arrests anticipated, he said. The DGP said that based on the examination, more FIRs will be registered and suspects involved in CSEAM crimes will be arrested.

Interview mistakes to avoid- And what to do

Mumbai 28 June: Things not to say at interviews

Considering the volatile job market these days, looking for a suitable job and clearing the test for it has become stressful for many professionals. Walking into an interview can feel like stepping onto a stage: Where all eyes are on you, and you try your best to give the right answers. Yet, many candidates make common mistakes and miss the mark for the job, not because they lack skills, but because of small errors in preparation or presentation. But, these are simple mistakes that can be avoided easily. To help you ace the interview, here we list some mistakes to avoid and what to do instead:

Mistake: Failing to research the company
When you go for an interview, it is important to first

know about the company, their work culture and their products. Going unprepared for an interview may look as if you are not interested in the profile, and this can go against you.

Instead: Spend time on the company's website, social media pages, research about their recent news articles. Note any major projects, or leadership changes in the company. This will make you appear as genuinely enthusiastic about the company and your new role.

Mistake: Arriving late or dressed inappropriately
Showing up late for the interview or being too overdressed or underdressed sends the wrong message about your reliability and fit.

Instead: Plan your

journey in advance and aim to arrive 10–15 minutes before the interview.

7 reasons to add honey to your cup of milk

Mumbai 28 June: What happens when you add honey to milk

Milk is a powerhouse of nutrition. And when we talk about honey, Ayurveda reveres it as both a medicine and a natural preservative, used extensively for internal and external therapeutic applications. But have you ever thought of combining these two to make a powerful concoction that has helped boost overall metabolism? This piece of information explores 7 reasons to add honey to your cup of milk. Scroll down to find out.

Promote better sleep
It is said that honey stimulates the release of serotonin, which the body converts to melatonin—the hormone responsible for good sleep. When it is paired with warm milk's tryptophan, it works as a natural bedtime relaxer. A 2024 review states honey as a functional food that may help address sleep disorders by improving sleep

Good for bone health
Milk is proven to be rich in calcium and when honey is added to it, it helps in better absorption of this calcium, supporting strong bones and preventing issues like osteoporosis. According to a study by the National Library of Medicine, honey's polyphenols act on several signaling pathways that promote bone formation and they also inhibit bone resorption.

Improve digestion
It is said that honey acts as a mild laxative and soothes the gut, while warm milk aids smoother digestion. They together work as a concoction that helps prevent constipation and improve the gut health. It is mentioned in the study that honey contains non-digestible carbohydrates like oligosaccharides that serve as prebiotics, promoting the growth of beneficial gut bacteria such as Lactobacillus and Bifidobacteria. This helps boost digestive health and also prevent gut inflammation and infections.

Energy booster
Honey is rich in natural sugars, which provide a quick energy boost and the protein found in milk aids sustained energy and together they work as a powerhouse of energy. It is said that honey contains a mix of glucose and fructose, which are absorbed at different rates, providing a more gradual and sustained release of energy and help maintain blood sugar levels.

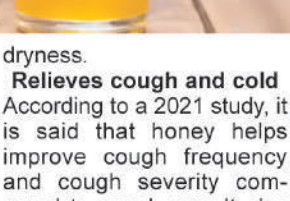
Good for skin health
It is also said that the nutrients in milk, when combined with honey's antioxidants, help promote clearer and glowing skin. The combo also helps reduce the skin dryness.

Relieves cough and cold
According to a 2021 study, it is said that honey helps improve cough frequency and cough severity compared to usual care. It also says that honey offers a cheap, widely available alternative to antibiotics, potentially helping reduce antimicrobial resistance. It is also said that when mixed with milk, honey has shown benefits comparable to popular cough medicines in reducing acute cough symptoms in children.



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Central Railway
E-Auction for the NFR Contract
Catalogue No: NGP-PMBJK-25-02
1. PMBJK-NGP-NGP-PMBJK-2-25-2/ Provision for operation of Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadi Kendra at Nagpur Railway Station for a period of 3 years /
Start: 15.07.25, 15:00 Hrs / End: 15.07.25, 15:30 Hrs. For Detailed information kindly visit www.ireps.gov.in
[Apex-102] ACM (Goods)/NGP
कलराक व विलोक्त सामान के साथ यात्रा करना वैधानिक अपराध है



Central Railway
OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. DRMWNGP-53-2025-01 OF 25/06/2025
Name of work: Repairs to Open well, bore well, pump, water storage tank and shed for bore well, repairs to electrical work in connection with submersible pump at various location in Amla-Chhindwara and Amla-Narkhed section under ADEN Amla Sub-division. (i) Approximate cost: Rs. 2,46,77,074.40 (ii) Earnest Money: Rs. 2,73,400.00 Date & time of closing of tender: 17/07/2025, 15:00 Hrs. Complete details and instructions for e-tendering and online participation for the above work is available on Railway's website www.ireps.gov.in
[Apex-102] DRM (Works), Nagpur
कलराक व विलोक्त सामान के साथ यात्रा करना वैधानिक अपराध है

Central Railway
OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. DRMWNGP-54-2025-01 OF 26/06/2025
Name of work: Hiring of pumps for pumping out rainwater from LHS under ADEN (South) Nagpur sub-division of S.DEN (CT) NGP's jurisdiction of Nagpur Division. (i) Approximate cost: Rs. 6,52,998.19 (ii) Earnest Money: Rs. 13,100.00 Date & time of closing of tender: 18/07/2025, 15:00 Hrs. Complete details and instructions for e-tendering and online participation for the above work is available on Railway's website www.ireps.gov.in
[Apex-102] DRM (Works), Nagpur
Download UTS App for Tickets

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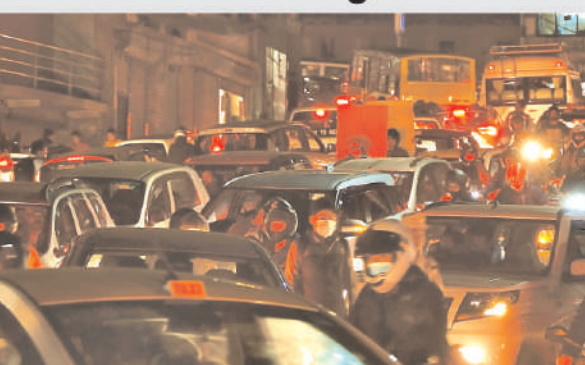
Flight of Aspirations



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.

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.

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.

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 Dhuldhare, 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. Citizens were examined by a medical doctor in the camp. On this occasion, 41 Shivsainiks cultivated their social commitment by donating blood. On this occasion, former Sarpanch of Umri Janardan Rokde, Bhimrao Sonale, Praveen Botre, Atul Ghotekar, Praveen Jununkar, Mukesh



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, Buddharatna Pundalik Bhalerao.

District Vice President Dattatreya Shikare, City President Jayanand 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 Rathayatra by ISKCON

Nagpur 28 June : The annual Jagannath Rathayatra, 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 BJP 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.

'Sholay' restored, premiered in Italy on

June 27: Director Ramesh Sippy

Mumbai, June 28: Ramesh Sippy's 1975 all-time hit 'Sholay' had its world premiere in Italy, in the restored, uncut version at the prestigious Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival in Bologna. The screening, which celebrates the classic film's 50th anniversary took place on June 27, 2025 at the open-air Piazza Maggiore.

Speaking on the occasion Sippy's veteran director Ramesh Sippy said, "Did I ever think Sholay would come so far? Not at all! I remember when we were making it we

were confident we were making a good film.

But a film that would shatter all records and will go on to be regarded as the one of the greatest films of all times? No, we never expected that."He remembers 'Sholay' was declared a flop on release. "The reviews were negative. There was no audience. But it picked up (at the box office) in the second week."

Ramesh Sippy who made other noteworthy films such as 'Andaz', 'Shakti' and 'Shaan', refuses to

acknowledge 'Sholay' as his favourite film.

"I put in an equal amount of effort in making my other films. If they didn't turn out to be 'Sholay' it doesn't mean they were films made with less concentration.

Blockbusters, like disasters, are not planned."Asked to name one favourite character in 'Sholay', Ramesh Sippy replies, "Gabbar Singh, of course. He is everyone's favourite. Everyone including Amitabh Bachchan wanted to play him."

Minister Seethakka pays tribute to PV Narasimha

Rao on his birth anniversary

Hyderabad, June 28: Telangana Panchayat Raj, Women and Child Welfare Minister Dr Danasari Anasuya Seethakka today paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister and Telangana's proud son, PV Narasimha Rao (PVNR), on his birth anniversary at Praja Bhavan. Accompanied by Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani and Congress leaders Kunja Surya and Regulapati Ramya Rao, Minister Seethakka offered floral tributes to the portrait of PV and recalled his

remarkable contributions to the nation. Speaking on the occasion, she hailed PV as the architect of India's economic reforms and a true champion of the poor. "He was not only a polyglot, but also deeply understood the pain and struggles of the people," she said. She highlighted PV's role in implementing land reforms, distributing lakhs of acres to SCs, STs, and BCs, and his significant efforts in improving education and healthcare. "PV Narasimha Rao's legacy lives on through the many welfare



schemes he initiated. He remains an inspiration to us all," Seethakka stated, calling



the tribute a token of respect to one of Telangana's greatest sons.

CLAT 2025 Guide – Exam

Date, Syllabus & Prep Tips

Nagpur 28 June: The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) is a national-level entrance exam for admission to undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) law programmes offered by 24 National Law Universities (NLUs) and several other institutions across India. Considered as the gateway to India's top law schools, the CLAT Exam evaluates a candidate's aptitude and reasoning abilities for a career in law. CLAT 2025 was conducted on 01 December 2024, with the first merit list released by NLUs on 26 May 2025. For the upcoming session, CLAT 2026 is scheduled to be conducted in December 2025.

UP govt schools to get ECCE educators for pre-primary children

Lucknow, June 28: Around 8,800 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) educators will be engaged to empower children between three and six years in the government-run primary and composite schools in Uttar Pradesh. The Education department has approved a budget of Rs 113.30 crores for this project. The Primary Education Department will keep these educators on contract for 11 months and give them a honorarium of Rs 10,313 per month. The order to this effect was issued by Anand Kumar Singh, Deputy Secretary, Primary Education Department. It says that

ECCE educators will work to develop the Anganwadi center of the respective schools to provide pre-primary education to children between the ages of three to six years. Out of 1.33 lakh primary schools in the state, Anganwadi centers are operated in more than 70,000 where children from three to six years are kept in 'Bal Vatikas' to prepare them for the pre-primary section. At present, this responsibility is being shared by the Anganwadi workers and the teacher of the concerned school. The Deputy Secretary has said that an eight-member committee headed by the District Magistrate will

select the ECCE Educator. The committee will include Principal, the BSA (Basic Shiksha Adhikari), District Programme Officer, District Employment Officer and others. Educational Qualification for an ECCE Educator is graduation with 50 per cent marks along with home science as main subject or nursery teacher education, Nursery Teacher Training (NTT), CT nursery, DPSE's two-year diploma or equivalent qualification. The age of the applicant should not be more than 40 years. For the financial year 2024-25, the Education department has approved the consent and budget to appoint 10,684

ECCE Educators for Bal Vatikas in the primary and composite schools of the state. The process of selection is underway by the Basic Education Department. (The Uttar Pradesh government has recently initiated the construction of 'Chief Minister Composite Schools' in 39 districts to provide continuous education from pre-primary to Class 12 on a single campus. Currently, Uttar Pradesh's government education is segmented across primary, upper primary, and secondary schools. This composite model aims to streamline this structure.)

Police attach property of 'notorious drug

peddler' worth Rs 50 lakh in Srinagar

Srinagar, June 28: The police in Srinagar district today attached a residential property, comprising a two-storeyed house along with land, worth approximately Re 50 lakhs of an alleged drug peddler. Police said property of notorious drug peddler Bilal Ahmad Wani of Siggufwara, Anantnag, was attached under the provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The accused person is involved in case FIR No. 05/2025 under sections 8/20, 29 of the NDPS Act, registered at Police Station Shaheed Gunj, police



said. They said the property has been established as having been acquired through proceeds of illicit drug trafficking. Acting under Sections 68-E and 68-F of the NDPS Act, the immovable

property has been formally seized and attached. The said property has been attached as per proper procedure under law. The said property shall not be sold, transferred, or otherwise dealt with

without prior permission from the competent authority. Police said the accused person has a history of drug peddling and was actively involved in supplying narcotics, especially targeting the local youth, thereby posing a serious threat to public health and safety. "This action is part of J&K Police's continued crackdown on drug trafficking networks. By targeting and dismantling the financial infrastructure of such networks, police aim to curb the spread of narcotics and safeguard the community," Police said.

Boycott movie, but demand to revoke Diljit's citizenship absurd: BJP

Chandigarh, June 28: Amid 'Sardarji 3' controversy, RP Singh, a national spokesman for the BJP, has termed the demand to revoke the citizenship of actor Diljit Dosanjh as "absurd." "Singh, in a late Friday night X post said that Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) demanding Diljit Dosanjh's citizenship be revoked was absurd. He said the film was shot before the Phalgam

attack.

"Boycott it if needed—but don't vilify a national asset," Singh said, adding that, "TV anchors invite Pakistanis for TRPs daily. Do we question their patriotism? Let's not weaponize nationalism," he said.

'Sardarji 3' was released outside India on Friday due to controversy surrounding the movie for the presence of Pakistani actress Hania Amir in the movie's cast.

Neeraj Chopra reclaims World No. 1 rank

Lausanne, (Switzerland) June 28: India's javelin ace Neeraj Chopra has reclaimed the World number 1 rank in the latest rankings released by World Athletics. Chopra had lost this position to Grenada's Anderson Peters in September, 2024. In the rankings released earlier this week Chopra has 1445 ranking points compared to Anderson Peters' 1431. Germany's Julian Weber is third in the rankings while Paris Olympic Gold

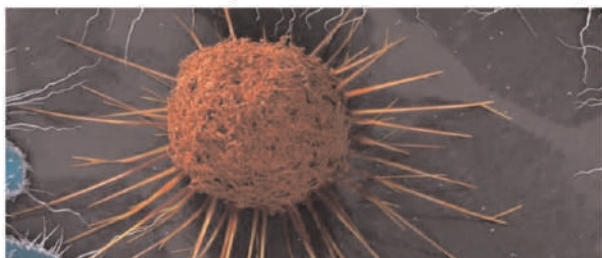
medallist Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan is fourth with 1370 points and Czechia's Jakub Vadlejch completes the top five list. Chopra's consistent performances in 2025 has seen him climb back to the top. Neeraj won the Potch Invitational in Potchefstroom, South Africa in April and followed it up with a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League in May. He logged a new national record of 90.23m at Doha to enter the coveted 90m club. He was second again at the Janusz



Kusocinski Memorial in Poland but returned to winning ways at the Paris Diamond League in June. He clocked a best of 88.16m in Paris. Neeraj also added the Ostrava Golden Spike title to

his kitty earlier this week. Neeraj has Trumped Anderson Peters in all four of their meetings this year. The two elite athletes will face off again at the NC Classic 2025 in Bengaluru on July 5.

Deadly blood cancer can now be detected early with blood test: Study



New Delhi, June 28: A team of Israeli and US researchers have developed a simple blood test that can detect a person's risk of developing leukaemia — a deadly blood cancer.

In the study, published in the journal Nature Medicine, the researchers suggested that this test may replace the current more invasive method of bone marrow sampling used to diagnose certain blood cancers, Xinhua news agency reported. The team led by researchers from Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel focused on myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) — an age-related condition in which blood-forming stem cells do not develop properly.

MDS can lead to severe anaemia and may progress to acute myeloid leukaemia, one of the most common types of blood cancer in adults.

Currently, diagnosing MDS requires the bone marrow sampling procedure that involves local anaesthesia and can cause significant discomfort and pain.

The team discovered that rare stem cells, which occasionally leave the bone marrow and enter the

bloodstream, carry crucial information about early signs of MDS.

Using advanced single-cell genetic sequencing, they were able to analyse these cells from a standard blood sample and detect warning signs of disease.

The researchers also found that these circulating stem cells can act like a biological "clock," offering insights into a person's chronological age.

In men, these cells change earlier than in women, which may help explain why blood cancers are more common in males.

"The researchers also discovered that the migrating stem cells can serve as a clock for our chronological age, and that in males, their population changes earlier than in women in a way that increases the risk of cancer. This finding may explain the higher prevalence of blood cancers among men," said Dr. Nili Furer, from Weizmann.

The researchers believe this blood test may also help identify other age-related blood disorders in the future.

They noted that the findings are being tested in a large-scale clinical trial at multiple medical centres worldwide.

Abandoned coal pits turn into fish farms, provide livelihood in Jharkhand

Ramgarh 28 June: In the coal-mining heartland of Jharkhand, abandoned water-filled pits left behind by mining companies are being transformed into profitable fish farms, providing livelihoods for displaced communities and addressing protein shortages in rural areas. Around 1,741 such abandoned coal pits exist across Jharkhand, with many dating back to the 1980s.

While coal mining companies are legally mandated to undertake scientific closure of these pits, implementation has been poor due to expensive costs involved. The Kuju Fishermen Cooperative Society, operating from the 22-acre Ara coal pit in Ramgarh district, has emerged as a success story in this transformation. Shashikant Mahto, now Secretary of Kuju Fishermen Cooperative Society, began the initiative in 2010 without proper infrastructure. "I began fish farming in the water-filled abandoned Ara coal pit without any cage. I had randomly put fish seed and harvested a good crop," Mahto said. His first catch, a 15-kg Katla fish, won him the



first prize at a government 'mela' and Rs 5,000 in prize money, along with four fishing cages. The venture has scaled dramatically since then. By 2012, Mahto had installed four cages of 6x4x5 metres each and harvested 6-7 tonnes of fish. Recognising the potential, Mahto and other residents formed the Kuju Fishermen Cooperative Society. The collective approach enabled them to access central and state government schemes, including the National Mission for Protein Supplements and funding from the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT). Today, 68 society members operate 126 cages across the 22-acre Ara coal pit, which falls under Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) in Ramgarh district.

The entire Rs 4-crore cage infrastructure was funded through 100 per cent government subsidy. Last year, the society produced 40 tonnes, primarily Pangasius and Monosex Tilapia from the Aramonepit, which was sold in local markets and neighbouring Bihar. The society also operates in another 16-acre pit, abandoned since 1988, where they harvested 10 tonnes last year. However, regulatory challenges remain. "We gave our land for the mining project. We cannot start fish farming in abandoned coal mine pits without a proper NOC (No objection certificate) from the coal company," Mahto said. The district collector issued necessary clearances with state government support.

‘Over 99% new telecom subscribers join Jio, Airtel network in May’

New Delhi 28 June: The total number of telecom subscribers in India grew marginally to 120.7 crore in May with Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel adding over 99 per cent new customers during the month, according to data published by sector regulator Trai on Friday. The total net subscriber addition by telecom service providers was 43,58,231 while Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel jointly added 43,51,294, thereby accounting for 99.84 per cent of the total net subscriber addition in May. The overall growth in subscriber base was mitigated by loss of subscribers by debt-ridden Vodafone Idea (Vi) and public sector firms BSNL and MTNL. The total telecom subscriber base in the country grew to 120.7 crore with landline connection growing by 3.34 per cent to 3.86 crore and mobile connections rising to 116.84 crore in May. The

total subscriber base in April was 120.3 crore. Reliance Jio dominated the mobile subscriber base, comprising 5G FWA (fixed wireless access) connections, with 40.92 per cent share with net addition of 27 lakh customers taking its total wireless base to 47.24 crore. Bharti Airtel held 33.61 per cent share with net addition of 2.75 lakh taking its total subscriber base to 39 crore in May. Vi lost 2.74 lakh, BSNL 1.35 lakh, and MTNL 4.7 lakh and Reliance Communications lost 30 mobile subscribers in May. In the wireline segment, Reliance Jio led the chart with net new subscriber addition at 12.76 lakh. It was followed by Bharti Airtel which added around 99,000 new subscribers. Tata Teleservices added 4,890 new subscribers, Vi 1,795 and STPL 252. State-run MTNL was the biggest loser of fixed line customers in May. It lost 66,834 fixed line subscribers

and BSNL lost over 46,000 customers.

The total number of broadband subscribers in the country reached 97.48 crore in May. Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel submitted internet subscription data in required format to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India after a gap of five months. Reliance Jio led the broadband segment with 49.44 crore subscribers comprising customers in both mobile and wireless segments. It was followed by Bharti Airtel with 30.2 crore broadband subscribers, Vi 12.66 crore, BSNL 3.43 crore and Atria Convergence 23.2 lakh customers.

The 5G FWA subscriber base decreased to 74 lakh in May from 75 lakh in April due to Reliance Jio shifting over 10 lakh Fixed Wireless Access - Unlicensed Band Radio (FWA-UBR) subscribers in FTTX category—which falls under fixed line segment.

Lychee: The tiny tropical superfruit with health benefits

Mumbai June 28: Despite the small size of the lychee, it delivers a surprising nutritional punch. Lychee is a nutritious fruit offering numerous health benefits, including weight loss, skin health, immunity, digestion, bone health, blood pressure management, virus protection, and many more, making it a great addition to a healthy diet. Just a handful of lychees can provide a powerful antioxidant kick, perfect for countering the oxidative stress of modern living. And because it's rich in natural sugars, lychee satisfies a sweet tooth without the processed

potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, and manganese. It's also a good source of dietary fiber, protein, and antioxidants like proanthocyanidins and polyphenols, as per Organic Facts. These nutrients come together to support everything from immune strength to skin health, and even bone density.

Benefits of lychee: Lychee's rise in global popularity isn't just because of its tropical flavor.

Here's a deeper dive into how it supports wellness in today's world:

Immune booster: One of the highest fruit sources of vitamin C, lychee supports the production of white blood cells and strengthens your natural defenses.

Anti-inflammatory

properties: Its polyphenolic compounds help reduce inflammation, potentially lowering the risk of chronic diseases.

Improves circulation: The iron, copper, and manganese content assists in healthy blood formation, supporting better oxygen transport and energy levels.

Supports heart function: High potassium helps control blood pressure, while antioxidants fight free radicals that can damage arteries.

Skin hydration and glow: The combination of water content and antioxidants contributes to clear, youthful skin.

Creative ways to enjoy lychee: You can enjoy lychee in many forms: fresh and peeled, blended into



smoothies, frozen in desserts, or infused into drinks. It also complements savory dishes, balancing spice with a floral sweetness.

Scattered Cables: A Hazard Tarnishing the City Nagpur

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.

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-fer 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

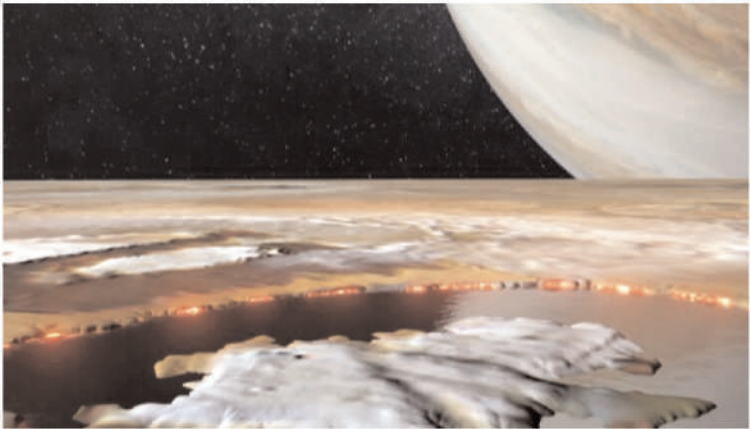
NASA it's not done studying Mars, but that doesn't mean it can't search for water in other places in our solar system. Water in ice form is very common, especially at the South Pole of the planets, and even on the moons. Natural satellites are also in the equation, as the moons of Jupiter have shown 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)

Apart from helping the poor, the financial stature of these temples extends beyond mere opulence — it reflects the devotion of followers and the role these temples play building the cultural, economic, and social fabric of India. From managing hospitals and educational institutions to feeding thousands of poor people daily, the revenues generated by these temples are channelled into philanthropic activities. Yet, the astonishing reserves of treasure highlight the extraordinary confluence of faith and fortune that defines spirituality in India. Let's take a look at the top-10 wealthiest temples in India, according to Firstpost.

No. 1 Tirumala Tirupati Venkateswara Temple, Andhra Pradesh | Nestled in

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. 2. 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



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

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

estimated to earn Rs 60 million annually.

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, hestimeam 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 to 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.

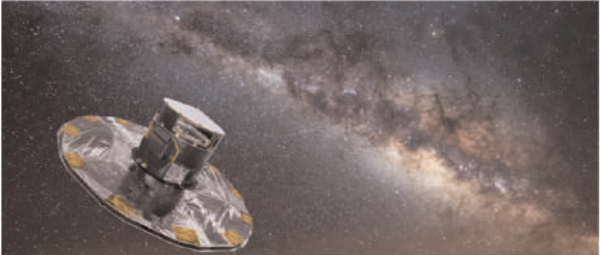
Scientists discover rare planet at the edge of the Milky Way using space-time phenomenon predicted by Einstein

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.



A rare 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

C HENNAI: 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, Naguan, Bahadalapur, Bari, Haripur, Kuakhia, Narasinghpur, Jagannathpur, Jenapur, Chausathipada, Dasarathpur, Brahmabarada, Binjharpur, Narasinghpur, Talagarh and Danpani.