

## PM calls for global efforts for strong, disaster-resilient future for world

**New Delhi, June 7 (UNI)** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for global efforts to build a strong and disaster-resilient future for the world, stressing the need for construction of infrastructure that remains steadfast against time and tide.

Addressing the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure 2025 via video conferencing, the Prime Minister outlined five key global priorities to strengthen disaster resilience.

These are: The importance of integrating disaster resilience courses, modules and skill development programmes in higher education; a global digital repository to document best practices and learnings from



countries that have faced disasters and rebuilt with resilience; innovative financing for creation of actionable programmes; necessity of strengthening early warning systems and

coordination and special attention to vulnerabilities of small island developing states.

Pointing out that India had established a tsunami warning system benefiting 29 countries, the Prime Minister said India recognizes the small island developing states as large ocean countries and the need for special attention to their vulnerabilities.

'Strengthening Early warning systems and coordination is crucial,' he said, adding that a global digital repository of learnings and best practices of building back from disasters would be beneficial for the entire world. Highlighting the theme of the conference, 'Shaping a Resilient Future for Coastal Regions,' Modi underscored the vulnerability of coastal regions and islands to natural disasters and climate change.

He cited recent disasters including Cyclone Remal in India and Bangladesh, Hurricane

Beryl in the Caribbean, Typhoon Yagi in South-east Asia, Hurricane Helene in the United States, Typhoon Usagi in the Philippines, and Cyclone Chido in parts of Africa and emphasized that these disasters had caused significant damage to lives and property, reinforcing the need for resilient infrastructure and proactive disaster management.

Recalling India's past experiences with devastating disasters, including the super-cyclone of 1999 and the tsunami of 2004, the Prime Minister emphasized how India adapted and rebuilt with resilience, constructing cyclone shelters across vulnerable areas and contributing to the establishment of a tsunami warning system benefiting 29 countries.

## Govt issues advisory for curbing unfair trade practices on e-commerce, online platforms

**New Delhi, June 7 (UNI)** As part of the government's broader strategy to strengthen consumer protection in digital era and curb unfair practices in e-commerce and online services, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has asked all e-commerce platforms to take necessary steps to ensure that their platforms do not engage in deceptive and unfair trade practice which are in the nature of dark patterns. The CCPA issued an advisory to bolster ongoing efforts to 'strengthen consumer protection in the digital era and curb unfair practices in e-commerce and online services,' an official statement said on Saturday.

All e-commerce platforms have been advised to conduct self-audits to identify dark patterns, within three months of the issue of the advisory and take necessary steps to ensure that their platforms are free from such dark patterns. The e-commerce

platforms, based on self-audit reports, have also encouraged to give self-declarations that their platform is not indulging in any dark patterns.

The self-declarations by the platforms will enable fair digital ecosystem along with building trust between consumers and e-commerce platforms. The CCPA also issued notice to e-commerce platforms in some cases that have been found violating the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns. 'All e-commerce platforms are, therefore, advised to refrain from deploying deceptive design interfaces that mislead consumers or manipulate their decision-making,' the statement said. The CCPA has been keeping a close watch on the violation of the Guidelines issued for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns. Instances of dark patterns have been noticed on e-commerce platforms. The Department of Consumers

Affairs also constituted a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising representatives from Ministries, regulators, voluntary consumer organizations and NLU's. The mandate of this JWG is to examine and undertake measures to identify violations of dark patterns on e-commerce platforms and share the information with the Department of Consumer Affairs on regular intervals. The JWG shall also suggest appropriate awareness programmes for creating awareness amongst the consumers.

The Department of Consumer Affairs had notified Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns in 2023 and specified 13 dark patterns including False urgency, Basket Sneaking, Confirm shaming, forced action, Subscription trap, Interface Interference, Bait and switch, Drip Pricing, Disguised Advertisements and Nagging, Trick Wording and Rogue Malwares.

## IMD issues yellow alert as rain and thunderstorms loom over Mumbai

**Mumbai, June 7 (UNI)** A yellow alert has been issued for Mumbai due to expected rain and thunderstorms, the Meteorological Department said on Saturday. The Regional Meteorological Department attributed the weather to oligocyclonic conditions affecting the region, along with weak southwest monsoon winds. Mumbai witnessed significant rainfall at several locations on Friday, while other parts of Maharashtra remained under cloudy skies. Temperatures held steady without much increase, but the combination of humidity and intermittent rain created a muggy and uncomfortable atmosphere for residents. Meteorologists

predict that this pattern will continue through the weekend, with light to moderate rainfall and the possibility of thunderstorms. Since the onset of the monsoon, rainfall has been moderate, with Colaba recording 30 mm and Santa Cruz 47.1 mm over the past six days. Despite temperatures being slightly below average—32.2°C in Colaba and 31.7°C in Santa Cruz—the high humidity contributed to a warm sensation. Notably, Santa Cruz received 14 mm of rain on Friday, while Colaba

remained dry. Similar weather is forecast for districts including Jalgaon, Nashik, Pune, and Nagpur, where isolated thunderstorms are also anticipated. This weather pattern extends from Madhya Maharashtra to Coastal Andhra Pradesh, as well as parts of Karnataka and Telangana, where cloudy conditions prevail. Despite the challenges posed by the monsoon, farmers are reporting success, exemplified by a local grower cultivating Iranian dates organically and earning notable profits. Rain is expected to continue over the weekend, although thunderstorm activity may decrease if conditions change.

## Three arrested for demanding Rs 1L extortion from meat seller

**New Delhi, June 7:** The Faridabad police have arrested three men for allegedly demanding Rs 1 lakh in extortion from a local meat seller. An FIR in the matter was registered at the Mujesar police station. According to police, the complainant, Anil, a resident of Rajiv Colony in Faridabad and owner of a meat shop at Hardware Chowk reported that he received a WhatsApp call from an unknown number on May 30. During the call, the caller threatened him and demanded Rs 1 lakh as extortion. On the night of June 4, three men identified as Akshay, Salman and Sumit arrived at Anil's shop in a black Scorpio.

They allegedly took Rs 10,000 from him by force, claiming it was on behalf of two individuals named Rohit and Vicky. They further threatened to kill him if the full extortion amount was not paid. Following the incident, Anil approached the police, and an FIR was filed. During the investigation, a team from the Border Crime Branch arrested the three



Salman (28), both residents of Dabua Colony, Faridabad. "During interrogation, the accused confessed that they are close friends and had demanded the extortion on the instructions of a man named Vicky to establish their dominance in the area," said a Faridabad police spokesperson. "The accused have been taken into police remand for further questioning."

accused on Friday. They have been identified as Sumit (30), a resident of Fatehpur Chandila village and Mohammad Akshay (28) and Mohammad

## Day after giving death threats to Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, 25-year-old man held

**New Delhi, June 7:** A 25-year-old man was apprehended on Saturday for allegedly giving a death threat to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, police said. Though he has been identified as Shlok Tripathi, a police source said the accused is a fraudster and frequently changes his identity. He was arrested by the Delhi Police and is being interrogated in the office of the force's Special Cell in northwest Delhi, an official said. The accused made the threat on the emergency helpline 112 in neighbouring Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday.



The Ghaziabad police alerted their Delhi counterparts and also dispatched a team to Panchwati Colony, from where the call was reportedly made, the caller managed to evade getting caught, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ghaziabad, Ritesh Tripathi said.

## India urges global collaboration on heat-humidity index amid rising heatwaves

**New Delhi, June 7 (UNI)** India has called for enhanced global collaboration to develop a real-time, localised heat-humidity index tailored to regional vulnerabilities as it noted that such climate extremes are trans-boundary and systemic threats. "India has taken a proactive and forward-thinking approach to extreme heat risk management under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Dr PK Mishra, principal secretary to the Prime Minister. Delivering the keynote address during the special session on Extreme Heat Risk Governance in Geneva, he stressed that rising temperatures pose a systemic risk to public health, economic stability, and ecological resilience. "Heatwaves are trans-boundary and systemic risks, particularly for densely populated urban areas," Mishra said as he welcomed the UN body's efforts to advance a Common Framework for Extreme Heat Risk Governance, describing it as a vital platform for shared learning, guidance, and global collaboration, said a statement here. While urging global stakeholders to invest in technology exchange, joint research, and accessible knowledge platforms through the Common Framework for Extreme Heat Risk Governance, Mishra called for a global focus on developing a localized heat-humidity index based on real-time data to enhance early warning systems, advancing building technologies and passive cooling innovations that are affordable and culturally appropriate. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has adopted a proactive and integrated strategy to



confront extreme heat, he said adding, "India has moved beyond reactive disaster response to forward-looking preparedness and long-term mitigation." He cited the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)'s guidelines on heatwave management, first issued in 2016 and revised in 2019, as foundational in enabling localised Heat Action Plans (HAPs), the statement added. He also applauded the pioneering Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan, which demonstrated how early warnings, institutional coordination, and grassroots outreach can significantly reduce heat-related deaths. India's approach, Mishra noted, is a whole-of-government and whole-of-society effort, involving ministries of health, agriculture, labour, urban development, water, power, and education.

"More than 250 cities and districts across 23 heat-prone states have implemented HAPs with the NDMA's support. These plans have resulted in improved surveillance, hospital readiness, and awareness campaigns, contributing to a marked reduction in heatwave mortality," he added. Mishra highlighted the role of public health institutions, civil society, academic partners, and local governments, stressing the value of traditional knowledge and local experience in shaping effective interventions. "Extreme heat deeply impacts communities," he said, "and India has made schools and health centers central to its strategy of climate resilience."

## Mumbai police book filmmaker Manish Gupta for stabbing driver over salary dispute

**Mumbai, June 7 (UNI)** Bollywood filmmaker Manish Gupta has been booked for allegedly stabbing his driver with a kitchen knife following a salary dispute, police said on Saturday. According to Mumbai police, the incident occurred on Thursday night at Gupta's residence in the Sagar Sanjog building in Andheri area of a Mumbai suburb. Police sources said the victim, 38-year-old driver Mohammad Lashkar, had worked with Gupta for three years, earning a monthly salary of ₹23,000. However, Gupta reportedly never paid his salary on time, leading to frequent altercations between them. Gupta also failed to pay Lashkar's salary for the previous month and sacked

him. On June 5 when Lashkar demanded his pending salary, Gupta allegedly refused to pay and reportedly took a knife from the kitchen and stabbed him on the right side of his body. The Versova police station registered an FIR against Gupta on June 6 under Sections 118(1) (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 115(2) and 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), and 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Sources in Versova police said that so far Gupta has not been arrested, but police served him a summons directing him to appear in the police station.

## UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy in New Delhi, to meet PM Modi, EAM

**New Delhi, June 7 (UNI)** UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy is visiting New Delhi today, to further advance the India-UK relationship during talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, besides other government officials. His visit comes after the two nations agreed on the Free Trade Agreement, which is set to increase trade by more than pounds 25 billion every year. Foreign Secretary Lammy will meet with Prime Minister Modi on his second visit to India to discuss ongoing economic and migration partnership, a statement from the British HC said. The Foreign Secretary will also welcome progress in the migration partnership, including ongoing work on safeguarding citizens and securing borders in both countries. Addressing migration remains a top priority for the government - the Foreign Secretary is focused on working internationally with global partners to secure the UK's



borders at home. Foreign Secretary David Lammy said: "Signing a free trade agreement is just the start of our ambitions - we're building a modern partnership with India for a new global era. We want to go even further to foster an even closer relationship and cooperate when it comes to delivering growth, fostering innovative technology, tackling the climate crisis and delivering our migration priorities, and providing greater security for our people."

The Foreign Secretary will also meet with leading figures in Indian business to discuss how we can unlock even greater investment by Indian business in the UK. Our investment relationship supports over 600,000 jobs across both countries, with over 950 Indian-owned companies in

## India's active Covid cases rise to 5,758; 4 deaths reported in 24 hours

**New Delhi, June 7 (UNI)** India is witnessing a fresh increase in Covid-19 cases, with active infections climbing to 5,758, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's update as of 8 am on Saturday. A total 391 new cases and four deaths were registered in the past 24 hours. One fatality each was from Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra, as per the ministry's Covid dashboard. While overall hospitalisations remain low, health authorities are closely monitoring the evolving situation, especially with the emergence of new subvariants. Kerala is currently leading the spike, having reported 127 new infections, pushing its active

caseload to 1,806 — nearly half of the country's total active cases. Other states contributing to the recent surge include West Bengal, which recorded 26 new cases (active cases now at 622), and Delhi, which added 73 infections (active tally at 655). Maharashtra, which experienced major outbreaks in previous waves, reported 29 new cases, bringing its cumulative case count to 577, as per the Central government data. According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) May 2025 classification, two new subvariants — LF.7 and NB.1.8.1 — have been labeled as Variants Under Monitoring. These variants are not yet considered Variants of Concern or Variants of Interest, but they



are suspected to be contributing to rising infection numbers not only in India but also in China and other parts of Asia. Meanwhile, the JN.1 strain remains the most dominant variant in the country, accounting for 53% of all positive cases, based on genomic data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG). Although there is currently no significant

increase in hospital admissions, health experts warn that public complacency could reverse recent progress. The virus continues to evolve, with symptoms such as fatigue, sore throat, and gastrointestinal discomfort becoming more common with newer strains.

The Ministry of Health urges the public to continue following basic preventive measures, including regular hand hygiene, wearing masks in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, and getting tested at the first sign of symptoms. Those who test positive are strongly advised to isolate immediately to prevent further spread.

## Kharge, Rahul and Priyanka greet people on Eid ul-Adha



**New Delhi, June 7 (UNI)** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday extended greetings to the people on the occasion of Eid ul-Adha. On his social media handle X, Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Eid al-Adha Mubarak to all! On this joyous occasion, may love, peace, and prosperity fill every home. Wishing everyone happiness, blessings, and a spirit of brotherhood."

and work towards a peaceful, harmonious, and just society. Eid Mubarak!" Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi, in his post, said, "Eid Mubarak to everyone! May love and understanding fill our hearts and unite us all." Wayanad MP, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on X said, "Eid al-Adha Mubarak to all! On this joyous occasion, may love, peace, and prosperity fill every home. Wishing everyone happiness, blessings, and a spirit of brotherhood."



# RBL Bank empowers communities in Nagpur through Education and Healthcare initiatives

**Nagpur, 7 June :** RBL Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks, today hosted its flagship CSR initiative UMEED Dandhanvantari in Nagpur. By organising these impactful programmes on the same day, the Bank reinforced its commitment to improving education and healthcare access for underserved communities in the city.

The event was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnis, as the Chief Guest. Several other



esteemed dignitaries, including, Balakrishnan Natarajan, Head – CSR Anshul Chandak, Head-

Treasury and Rohit Agrawal, Head – FIGU along with senior RBL Bank officials were present on the occasion.

Under its UMEED initiative, RBL Bank distributed 100 bicycles to underprivileged girl students

in Nagpur, addressing a critical challenge, the lack of transportation that often led to dropouts among school-going students.

The effort aims to facilitate easier, safer and more accessible commute, thus empowering young girls to pursue their education without interruption. Since 2023, the Bank has distributed over 4,800 bicycles and school kits across India. RBL Bank's continued investment in girls' education demonstrates its belief in the transformative power of learning.

## Bank Employee Steals Rs. 4.58 Crore from 41 FD Accounts, Loses It All in Stock Market Investments

**Kota 7 June:** A former ICICI Bank employee, Sakshi Gupta, was arrested for allegedly siphoning off ₹4.58 crore from 41 customer accounts over two years.

As a relationship manager in Kota, she reportedly misused the funds hoping for high returns but lost it all. According to a media report, Sakshi Gupta worked at ICICI Bank's Shriram Nagar branch in Kota from 2020 to 2023. She was arrested by Udhayog Nagar police on May 31 after a detailed investigation. Investigators revealed that Sakshi Gupta accessed over 110 accounts of 41 customers between 2020 and 2023 by misusing the 'User ID' system and carried out multiple illegal transactions. She allegedly invested the siphoned funds in the stock market, hoping for quick profits.

The fraud continued for over two years without customers realising that their money was being withdrawn. However, Gupta's plan backfired as she incurred heavy losses in the stock market and couldn't return the money to the customers' accounts.

To hide the fraud, she

reportedly changed the contact numbers linked to the accounts, preventing customers from receiving transaction alerts.

According to a media report, sub-inspector Ibrahim Khan of Udhayog Nagar police station said, "She linked the phone numbers of her family members to these accounts and withdrew more than ₹4 crore. She even devised a system to receive the OTPs on her system so that the account holders wouldn't get a whiff of the fraud." Khan further said that Gupta used the account of an elderly woman and passed ₹3 crore through it without her knowledge. "She systematically transferred funds, sometimes using the account of an elderly woman who had no knowledge of the activity as a pool account. By mid-February 2023, over ₹3 crore had passed through that single account," the police officer was quoted as saying by TOI.

The case came into light only when a customer came to the bank to ask about his FD account.



The bank then filed a report with the police on February 18.

ICICI Bank acted quickly after uncovering the fraud, filing an FIR immediately.

"The interest of our customers are of paramount importance to us. Immediately upon discovering the fraudulent activity, we filed an FIR with the police," a spokesperson told LiveMint.

The bank has suspended Sakshi Gupta and settled claims of affected customers, adding, "We have a zero-tolerance policy against any fraudulent activity and thus suspended the employee involved. We would like to reassure that genuine claims of impacted customers have been settled."

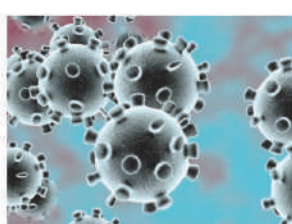
## 22 new Coronavirus positive cases reported in Maharashtra on Friday, 5364 in India

**Nagpur 7 June :** Maharashtra reported 22 new coronavirus-positive cases on Friday. With the fast spread of the new variant of Coronavirus, the total number of active cases in India has gone up to 5364 on Friday, which includes 764 new cases.

Four Corona deaths have also been reported, two in Kerala, and one each in Punjab and Karnataka. The

maximum number of coronavirus-positive cases has been reported from Kerala.

The number of new cases has risen to 192. Gujarat with 107, West Bengal with 58, Delhi with 30, and Maharashtra with 22 come next. The Centre has directed all the government hospitals to be prepared to meet the challenges if the mild coronavirus infection spreads



fast. The preliminary symptoms are cough, cold, fever, exhaustion, headache, muscular pain, gastrointestinal problems etc.

## Woman in Amravati duped of Rs 25.53 lakh via online investment

**Nagpur 7 June :** A 26-year-old woman was duped of over Rs 25 lakhs, assuring good returns on investment by a person who identified himself as Jasmit Singh, as a representative of New Zealand Gold Merchants Limited. An online account in the name of Vaishnavi Sonar was opened through which the complainant transferred Rs 25,53,478. Initially, she was given the returns to gain confidence. Later, she realized that the money could not be withdrawn from the account. She later lodged a complaint with Amravati's Benoda Police Station. Police have registered an offence against the unidentified person and are investigating.



## Vedanta's Nand Ghar to Transform 100 Anganwadis in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra through Public-Private Partnership

**Gadchiroli, 7 June :** In a significant step toward inclusive rural development, Anil Agarwal Foundation's flagship initiative, Nand Ghar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Zilla Parishad, Gadchiroli, to transform 100 Anganwadi Centres into modern Nand Ghars in Maharashtra.

The partnership was formalized in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnis, reinforcing the state's commitment to bringing inclusive development to its most underserved regions.

This initiative, undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, will directly impact the lives of 3,900 children under 6 years of age



and over 1,700 women and adolescent girls. The modernised centres will provide early childhood

education, access to nutrition meals, primary healthcare, and skill-development, creating an opportunity for holistic growth and development.

The project is a testament to Maharashtra's commitment to bridging development gaps in tribal areas through innovation and inclusive partnerships.

With 25 Anganwadis in Thane, Maharashtra already transformed into Nand Ghars, this collaboration builds on the past success and aligns with India's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Poshan 2.0. It also advances UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 (Quality Education), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 5 (Gender Equality) placing children and women at the center of inclusive progress.

## Man Found Dead in Locked House in Vihirgaon; Hudkeshwar Police Launch Manhunt for Accused Friend

**Nagpur 7 June :** A murder investigation is underway after the body of a man was discovered inside a locked house in Vihirgaon late Friday night, under the jurisdiction of Hudkeshwar Police Station. The deceased has been identified as Anil Madhukar Pawar. Preliminary findings suggest that Pawar was



killed by a friend following a heated argument. The accused allegedly attacked

him on the head with a gas cylinder and a sigdi (traditional coal stove), resulting in fatal injuries. Police suspect personal enmity as the motive, though further investigation is ongoing to

establish the exact cause. The accused fled the scene after the incident and remains at large.

Hudkeshwar police have registered a case of murder and launched a manhunt to track down the suspect. Efforts are being made to gather more evidence and statements from those close to the victim.

## Assam police ban procession, rallies in Guwahati city

**Guwahati, June 7 (UNI) :** There would be no more rallies, marathon or walkathon in Assam capital town Guwahati. The city police commissionerate through an order has prohibited holding and organizing rallies and procession in Guwahati in order to ensure smooth traffic flow in the city. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Administration) Guwahati Imdad Ali in an order issued stated: "To ensure smooth traffic flow in Guwahati, it is essential to manage road usage

efficiently. Processions/ rallies often leads to significant traffic congestion, affecting the free movement of vehicles and causing inconvenience to commuters and other citizens." Such events, Ali made it clear, create challenges for citizens and lead to crowding and congestion. They may also delay emergency services, thereby impacting public safety. "The order said to minimise inconvenience and prevent anticipated traffic congestion all types of procession, rally, run, marathon and



walkathon within Guwahati city shall be restricted," said the order. "The order has been issued under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita, 2023 and comes into effect immediately," he said, adding that violation of this order shall be punishable under Section 223 of BNS.

## Delhi Airport to Cancel Over 100 Flights Daily During Three-Month Runway Upgrade; DIAL Prepares for Smooth Operations

**Delhi, 7 June :** GMR group-led Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) expects minimal flight disruptions during the closure of Runway 10/28 for upgradation between June 15 and September 15. According to a media report, to prevent a repeat of April's delays and cancellations—caused by sudden wind pattern changes and limited runway availability—DIAL has worked closely with airlines and aviation authorities over the past few weeks to adjust flight slots and ensure smoother operations during the three-month period. According to DIAL CEO Videsh Kumar Jaipuriar, airlines will cancel a total of 114 flights per day—both arrivals and departures—during the runway closure, amounting to around 8% of the daily 1,450 flights. He noted that the usual cancellation rate is around 3–3.5%, so 8% is still manageable. In addition, 43 flights will be shifted from peak to non-peak hours to reduce congestion. Jaipuriar emphasized that, unlike in April, DIAL and the airlines are better prepared this time to handle the situation effectively. Runway 10/28—one of the four runways at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport—is set to be upgraded to CAT 3B standards, including enhancements to its



Instrument Landing System (ILS). Once completed, the runway will support low-visibility landings from both ends, unlike the current setup where only one end is equipped. With this upgrade, Delhi airport will have three runways capable of handling low-visibility operations, significantly improving its ability to manage flight movements during North India's dense winter fog—often a cause of major disruptions at the country's busiest airport. DIAL initially began upgrading the runway in April-May and closed it in April. However, poor coordination with airlines—who did not reduce flights sufficiently—combined with sudden changes in wind patterns, caused widespread

delays and cancellations for several days. As India's largest and busiest airport, disruptions at IGIA have a ripple effect on flights nationwide. Following public outcry, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) stepped in, directing DIAL to reopen the runway and postpone the upgrade to avoid impacting the peak summer travel season. Airlines were also instructed to adjust flight slots to match the reduced runway capacity and minimize passenger inconvenience. DIAL wants to finish the runway upgrade before the busy festival season from October to December, which is followed by winter when fog often disrupts flights at Delhi airport. The three-month

period ending on September 15 is a good time for the airport and airlines to do the work. According to Jaipuriar, when fog causes delays during westerly runway operations, it usually takes about three hours to get back to normal. But during easterly operations, it can take up to six hours. After the upgrade, Runway 10/28 will allow low-visibility landings from both ends, so the time needed to recover from fog delays will be the same for both directions. In simple terms, westerly and easterly runway operations mean the direction planes land and take off, which depends on the wind. Planes usually take off and land against the wind. During westerly operations, the wind blows from west to east, so planes land from the east and take off towards the west. During easterly operations, the wind blows from east to west, so planes land from the west and take off towards the east. According to data from DIAL, during low visibility at IGIA, the airport can handle 30 flight arrivals per hour when operating in the westerly direction. But during easterly operations, this capacity drops to just 15 flights per hour. After Runway 10/28 is upgraded, the arrival capacity during easterly low-visibility conditions will improve to match that of westerly operations.

## RBI Repo Rate Cut to 5.50%: How It Will Impact Your Home Loan EMIs and FD Returns

**Nagpur 7 June :** In an unexpected move on Friday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a 50 basis points reduction in the repo rate, bringing it down to 5.50 percent. Following the three-day Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra revealed a larger-than-anticipated rate cut. Experts say this decision will impact bank fixed deposit holders and new home loan borrowers.

### What Are Experts Saying?

Experts say that if banks pass on the benefits, the RBI's decision to reduce the repo rate is expected to help new home loan borrowers by lowering their monthly EMIs. For example, a borrower with a loan of ₹7.5 crore over 20 years could see their monthly EMI decrease by around ₹2,000, according to home loan EMI calculators. However, analysts also warn that fixed deposit (FD) investors may face lower returns across different tenors following the repo rate cut by the RBI.

### Cut RBI Repo Rate Impact on Home Loan

Annuj Goel, Managing Director at Goel Ganga Developments, explained how the RBI's repo rate cut would impact monthly home loan EMIs. According to a media report, he said, "Although the RBI's 50 bps repo rate cut has been bold and visually striking in terms of allowing savings for its lenders, the repo rate N/O is at 5.5%, so home loan borrowers can save from the increase."

Here's how the deal works: if you took a loan of ₹50 lakh for 20 years, you could save nearly ₹4.7 lakh over the entire loan tenure, which translates to roughly ₹1,960 less in your monthly EMI. Aman Gupta, Director of RPS Group, explained the relief for home loan borrowers with a ₹30 lakh loan over 20 years.

He said, "Home loan borrowers with a 30 lakh loan of 20 years will see decrease in their EMIS of about 1,176 per month, and the best part is borrowers then have the choice they can either reduce their EMIS or as being discussed here, retain their current EMI repayments to reduce the length of tenure and hence earn a greater interest saving," as per media report.

### New House Loan with New Interest Rate

"The RBI has cut the repo rate by 25 bps in February and April also," stated Pankaj Mathpal, MD & CEO of Optima Money Managers, regarding the total benefit that a new house loan borrower would receive following the RBI's repo rate cut in 2025. Since the RBI has reduced the repo rate by 100 basis points (25+25+50) in 2025, those who have put off purchasing a home in recent quarters now have a fantastic chance to do so because they will receive a monthly EMI reduction of approximately 3,800 to 74,000 on a home loan of 50 lakh for 20 years.

### Negative Impact on FD Returns

Pankaj Mathpal of Optima Money Managers highlighted the potential downside of the repo rate cut on bank FD returns. He noted that banks are likely to lower FD rates across all tenors after notifying their customers, as per media report. Therefore, senior citizens and other FD investors are advised to lock in their deposits now, as existing FDs will remain unaffected by the rate change. Those who miss this opportunity can also consider small savings schemes or time deposits offered by the post office.

## Monsoon's Return Expected to Lower Temperatures Across Central and Southern India Soon

**Nagpur 7 June :** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a possible revival of the southwest monsoon between June 12 and 18, after its progress stalled on May 29.

A weather system is expected to form over the Bay of Bengal around June 12–13, though its development is still uncertain due to conflicting signals from

various forecast models. The extended-range forecast indicates a likely revival of the southwest monsoon between June 12 and 18, even if a weather system does not develop over the Bay of Bengal. After this revival, widespread rainfall is expected over central India, parts of Maharashtra, and areas of the southern peninsula where the monsoon has already

arrived. According to a media report, the overall progress of the monsoon will mainly depend on how evenly the rainfall is distributed. Hope returns for dry regions as the southwest monsoon is expected to revive between June 12 and 18, advancing into central and eastern India. Widespread rainfall, including some heavy showers, is likely over the southern peninsula and

adjoining areas. This is due to stronger westerly winds and a possible off-shore trough along the west coast. The monsoon's progress will depend on rainfall distribution and the strength of monsoon winds.

Skymet Weather forecasts the formation of a precursor cyclonic circulation over the west-central Bay of Bengal by June 10, which is expected to strengthen over

the next 48 hours. This system is likely to bring weather activity to the eastern coast starting June 11 and may follow a slightly southern path through Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

Skymet also predicts the monsoon will revive between June 12 and 17, covering most of the southern peninsula





Amravati, Sunday 8 June 2025

## Bhagwat hails unity after Operation Sindoor, urges continued resolve

**Nagpur 6 June:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday addressed the concluding event of the Karyakarta Vikas Varg for Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh volunteers in Nagpur and said the political class showed mutual understanding and the society gave a message of unity after Operation Sindoor. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has praised the Indian political leadership and civil society for demonstrating rare unity and mutual understanding in the aftermath of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack and India's subsequent military response.

Operation Sindoor. Speaking on June 5, Bhagwat underscored the need to make such cohesive action a permanent fixture in India's approach to national security. Referring to the swift retaliation on May 7 under Operation Sindoor, which targeted terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Bhagwat said, "The political class showed maturity and mutual understanding, while society sent a message of unity. Such coordination strengthens our internal resolve." The Pahalgam attack on April 22 had left 26 civilians dead, triggering widespread outrage across the country. Operation Sindoor was carried out with precision by Indian armed forces, garnering praise



from across the political spectrum, including leaders from the BJP, Congress, AAP, and various regional parties.

"The government acted swiftly and decisively, and the armed forces delivered a powerful message to our enemies," said a joint statement from multiple political parties, which also extended unconditional support to the security forces. Bhagwat, however, used the moment to stress the importance of ongoing vigilance. "Unity during crisis must not be episodic. We must maintain this alignment going forward, not just for security but for social cohesion," he said. He also raised concerns about rising instances of forced religious conversions, emphasizing that freedom of belief must be protected and respected. "Faith should be a matter of individual conviction, not coercion," Bhagwat added.

This is not the first time Bhagwat has advocated for political and societal unity. However, his remarks following Operation Sindoor have added weight, given the strong bipartisan and public support the operation received. Operation Sindoor has since been widely regarded as a benchmark in India's counter-terror strategy, blending military precision with political consensus. Analysts say that such synergy is rare and must be institutionalized to effectively respond to future threats. Bhagwat's statement reflects a growing sentiment in the country — that national security is a collective responsibility, transcending political rivalries and societal divisions. As India continues to face complex security challenges, the unity showcased during Operation Sindoor may serve as a model for future responses.

## Navjayhind Krida Mandal team wins Vidarbha level Kho-Kho tournament



**YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST, 7 June:** In the recently held Vidarbha level Kho-Kho championship tournament in Akola, the Navjayhind Krida Mandal team of Yavatmal won the championship title in the girls' group. The team that was undefeated in the tournament was honored with a cash prize of Rs 21,000 and a trophy. This winning team is being praised everywhere.

Anant Krida Mandal Akola organized a Vidarbha level men's and women's Kho-Kho tournament from June 3 to 5 at Vasant Desai Stadium in Akola. A total of 28 teams from all over the state participated in the tournament.

**Man Injured in Hit-and-Run Incident by Speeding Vehicle**

**Pusad, 7 June:** A case (Crime No. 329/24) has been registered under IPC Sections 281, 125(A) after Avinash Ganesh Karil (33), resident of Ambekar Ward, Pusad, was hit from behind by a rashly driven vehicle (MH-29-BT-5861) at Jalatali near the bridge, while he was collecting animal hide.

participated in this tournament, in which the girls' and boys' teams of Navjayhind Krida Mandal of Yavatmal participated. The final match of the girls' group of this tournament was played between two teams, Maratha Krida Mandal Amravati and Navjayhind Krida Mandal Yavatmal. In this very close match, Navjayhind Krida Mandal from Yavatmal defeated the Maratha Krida Mandal team from Amravati by 3 wickets and won the championship title.

The players participating in this winning team, Kajal Donode, Shrutika Dhakre, Achal Kale, Komal Madavi,

Vedika Kale, Bhumika Dodpawar, Samiksha Khetri, Deepika Umre, Shravani Giri, Payal Tupsonde, Nandini Ujwale, Anshika Omkar, Yavati Madavi, all displayed excellent sportsmanship. Team coaches Avinash Joshi, Pankaj Rohankar, District Kho-Kho Association Secretary Vikas Tone, Principal Jayant Chatur, Navjayhind Sports Board's Pradeep Wankhade, Amol Bodade, Jumu Lalwale, Lalit Dagwar, Ashish Pyarlawar, Amol Dhone, Shailesh Munde, Kailas Shinde have praised the team for this excellent performance.

**Rs. 99,000 Worth Turmeric Bags Stolen from Field**

**Umarkhed, 7 June:** A theft case has been registered at Umarkhed Police Station (Crime No. 416/25, IPC 303(2)) after 150 bags of turmeric (67 quintals), valued at Rs. 99,000, were stolen from a farm in Ambavan Shiwar.

## Water woes in ward 8 highlighted as festivities loom large



**Nagpur 5 June:** Requirement of adequate water supply in ward 8 on the occasion of Bakra Eid (Eid ul Azha) has come to the fore. In this concern local Congress leader Zulfikar Ahmed Bhutto took initiative and apprised the concerned authorities about the prevailing situation. The former corporator highlighted that Eid ul Azha (Bakra Eid) is being celebrated on Saturday 7 June. This is an important festival celebrated by minority community brethren. A large number of minority community brethren live in areas like Mominpura, Diwanshahi Takiya, Masumshahi Takiya, School Campus, Masjid, Road, Chuna Masji, Nalsahab Road, Gulab Baba School

Campus, Kala Jhanda, Sheikh Bari Chowk, Kasabpura, Hafiz Bakery, Mohammad Ali Sarai, Kamal Baba Dargah, Salim Leader Road, Bakra Mandi, Boriapura, Saifnagar, Anarnagar, Dobinagar, Bhankheda, Graveyard Road, Risaldar Anwar, Timki Panaipeth, Nuri Press, Timki and other localities. Goats are sacrificed here in large numbers. As a result, water consumption rises by leaps and bounds during this festival. Keeping these aspects in mind, former corporator Zulfikar Ahmed Bhutto has requested authorities to ensure adequate water supply on 6 June, 7 June, 8 June, 9 June amid Eid festivities looming large.

## Violation of RTE norms in ZP school

**Nagpur 6 June:** The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has issued a notice and status quo order in response to a petition filed by Nalanda Meshram, alleging that a Zilla Parishad (ZP) school in Hingna is in violation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act norms. As per the RTE Act, one teacher is required for every 35 students in each subject category. However, this guideline has not been followed at the said school. Hearing the petition, Justice Abhay Mantri directed the Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad Nagpur, the Primary Education Officer, and the Headmistress of the ZP school to submit written responses. The petitioner was represented by Advocate Rigved Dhore, who informed the court that despite being notified, none of the respondents were present during the hearing. RTE

Act Violated, Says Counsel The petitioner's lawyer argued that the transfer order issued by the ZP CEO violates Sections 19 and 25 of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. As per Schedule 1(B) of the Act, for every class with more than 35 students, at least one teacher per subject is required — specifically for Science & Mathematics, Social Studies, and Language. The school had over 35 students enrolled by September 30, 2023, for the academic year 2023–24, justifying the need for three teachers.

**Petitioner's Transfer Contested** The petition also challenges an order passed based on Notification dated March 15, 2024 (Section 1.7, Table 3), which allegedly ignored the applicable provisions under the RTE Act.

## Amravati Rural Police Register 20 New Cases Including Molestation, Fraud, Theft, and Accidents

**Amravati (NP) 7 June:** The Amravati Rural Police have registered a total of 20 new cases across the district as of June 7, 2025. The reported offenses include serious crimes such as molestation, cheating, theft, housebreaking, assaults, and a number of road accidents.

**Molestation Case in Chikhaldara** A 50-year-old woman was allegedly molested and assaulted by three individuals while she was returning home in Chikhaldara. A case has been registered under Sections 74, 118(1), and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

**Online Job Fraud in Tivasa** In Tivasa, a 24-year-old woman was defrauded of Rs. 2.89 lakh under the pretext of an online job offer. The police have registered the case under Section 318(4) of the BNS 2023, along with Sections 66(c), 66(d) of the IT Act, and Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code.

**Theft Incidents Reported** Two separate theft cases were registered. At the Warud bus stand, 76.21 lakh was stolen from a purse while the complainant, Ravi Ganpatrao Darokar, was traveling by bus. In another incident at Shirkhed, a scooter worth Rs 70,000 was reported stolen from a cowshed.

**Housebreaking in Chandur Railway** In Chandur Railway, an unidentified person broke into a house and stole valuables worth Rs. 24,000 from a cupboard in the bedroom.

**Multiple Road Accidents Across the Region** A series of road accidents were reported in various locations:

■ In Rahimapur, an auto-rickshaw driver was booked for reckless driving, which led to a collision with a car, injuring the complainant.

■ In Sarmaspura, negligent driving resulted in a fatal accident, claiming the life of the complainant's wife.

■ A motorcyclist died in Asegaon after losing control and crashing into a tree.

■ In Morchi, a pedestrian was seriously injured after being hit by a vehicle.

■ A fatal accident in Chandur Bazar occurred when a motorcycle skidded due to a pig crossing the road, killing the rider.

■ In Chikhaldara, a truck collision between Semadon and Pillai Road left the cleaner and the complainant's son injured.

**Assault and Injury Cases**

Three assault cases were also registered:

■ In Tivasa, a woman was verbally abused and attacked with a stone near Devraodadi School.

■ In Morshi, a man allegedly assaulted his 46-year-old wife with a wooden stick, causing injuries to her head, right hand, and waist, following a domestic dispute.

■ In Devgaon, an intoxicated man entered a house, verbally abused a woman, and assaulted her son with slaps and a wooden stick.

**Illegal Sand Transportation Seized in Talegaon D.**

Police in Talegaon D. intercepted a John Deere 5045 D tractor found illegally transporting sand without a trolley. The tractor, trolley, and sand—collectively valued at ₹76.07 lakh—were seized.

**Police Appeal on Cyber Fraud**

The Amravati Rural Police have appealed to citizens who fall victim to financial fraud via social media, email, websites, or other digital platforms to immediately report incidents on the Cybercrime Reporting Portal (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>) or by calling 1930.

## Loan Recovery Agent Attacked with Stone Over Vehicle Dispute

**Darwaha, 7 June:** A case under IPC Sections 118(1), 352, 351(2), (3) has been registered at Darwaha Police Station (Crime No. 431/25) against accused Suraj Hanuman Sorte (36), a resident of Sane Guruji Nagar, Lohara. The complainant, a bank executive, was assaulted with a stone on the head while attempting to recover a financed vehicle (MH-29-BE-7572). The accused also issued life threats and used abusive language.

## Cash and Gold Ornaments Worth Rs 5.75 Lakh Stolen from Wedding Venue

**Yavatma, 7 June:** A theft case has been registered at Awadhtwad Police Station under Crime No. 874/25, IPC Section 305, based on a complaint filed by Chandan Kisanar Kharkar (34), resident of Vidarbha Housing Society, near Sai Mandir, Yavatmal. On the occasion of his daughter's wedding, Kharkar had booked Hariwal Lawns. During the period between June 4 at 7:00 am and June 6 at 2:00 am, an unidentified thief stole Rs. 5,00,000 in cash and gold ornaments worth Rs. 75,000 from a room at the venue. The total stolen property is valued at Rs. 5.75,000.

**Woman's Purse with Gold and Cash Worth Rs. 50,000 Stolen at Wedding Hall**

Yavatmal: A case has been registered at Lohara Police Station under Crime No. 228/25, IPC Section 303(2), following a complaint from Nita Sureshwar Bijwe (68), a resident of Bhagwan Nagar, Amravati. On June 5 at around 6:30 pm at Mauli Mangal Karyalaya, an unidentified thief stole a purse containing a Redmi Y1 mobile worth ₹5,000, gold earrings worth ₹15,000, a used gold necklace weighing 7 grams worth ₹25,000, and ₹5,000 in cash, totaling Rs. 50,000.

## Grand Procession Marks Conclusion of Mahesh Navami Celebrations in Dhamangaon

### Women's Wing Organizes Various Competitions

**NP Dhamangaon Railway, 7 June:** — The two-day Mahesh Navami festival organized by the Maheshwari Hitkarak Sangh concluded in a grand atmosphere of devotion and spirituality. A magnificent procession was taken out on this holy occasion, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of community members. The procession featured various captivating tableaux, traditional bands, and devotional groups (dindis) that attracted the crowd's attention. These tableaux beautifully depicted religious and cultural themes, filling the entire atmosphere with devotion.

Along the procession route, arrangements for refreshments were made: Santosh Rathi and Sachin Rathi offered ice cream at the Ram Mandir in Cotton Market Chowk, Maharudra Group served cold drinks at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk, and the family of Premchand Mundhada offered ice cream on Main Road. These thoughtful arrangements ensured that devotees faced no inconvenience. Community members contributed wholeheartedly through their efforts, time, and resources to make the event successful. Through this grand celebration, Mahesh Navami emerged as a symbol of social unity, culture, and devotion.

On Tuesday, June 3, a blood donation camp was held from 9 AM to 1 PM, collecting 48 units of blood. Additionally, a mammography (breast cancer screening) camp was organized in memory of the late Jhumbharlal Rathi and late Geetadevi Rathi, where 65 women were screened. On Wednesday, June 4, winners of various competitions organized by the community were felicitated with awards. The prize distribution ceremony was presided over by Ashokchandra Rathi, President of Amravati District Maheshwari Organization. Present on the dais were Anil Panpaliya, President of Maheshwari Hitkarak Sangh; Ashish Mundhada, Secretary of Maheshwari Bhavan Committee; Sarika Rathi, President of Maheshwari Women's Wing; Bhairavi Gandhi, Vice President of Maheshwari Bahu-Beti Mandal; and Ashok Bhandari. From May 23 to May 25, a grand Maheshwari Premier League Season 2 Box Cricket Tournament was organized by the Maheshwari Youth Wing at Khatri Ginning and Pressing.

Eight teams participated in this thrilling tournament, with each team including two young women. Balaji Challengers secured first place with exceptional performance. The team received a cash prize of ₹25,000 from Tulsi Rice Brand Cooking Oil and a shield from the organizing committee. The team was owned by Sujit Mundhada, and the players included captain Swaroop Rathi, Arjun Bhandari, Preetesh Panpaliya, Preetesh Mundhada, Daksh Rathi, Daksh Mundhada, Madhav Bhutada, Rishi Panpaliya, Ayush Rathi, Chahak Mundhada, and Sonali Rathi.

TP Challengers claimed the second position. Owned by Tushar Panpaliya, the team was captained by Vijay Lohia and included Sanskar Mundhada, Adesh Mundhada, Himanshu Rathi, Jayesh Panpaliya, Govind Rathi, Gaurav Kothari, Manish Bhattad, Ekta Gandhi, and Aastha Panpaliya. The team received a cash prize of ₹20,000 from KMC Groundnut Oil and a shield from the committee. Moonkhada Brothers secured third place with commendable performance. Owned by

### Two-Day Festival Organized by i Hitkarak Sangh



Vikas Mundhada and captained by Bharat Shubh, the team comprised Piyush Mundhada, Shubh Chandak, Gopal Gandhi, Keshav Mundhada, Chetan Panpaliya, Sarvesh Lahoti, Abhishek Mundhada, Prasanna Mundhada, Khushi Daga, and Roshni Mundhada. They received a cash prize of ₹15,000 from Annol Nagari Residential Park and a shield from the organizing committee.

Various competitions were organized by the Maheshwari Women's Wing. For the "Ethe Mi Ghar Khelale" competition, the project leads were Anuradha Rathi, Madhu Rathi, Poonam Lahoti, and Archana Mundhada. The winners were: First - Yogita Daga, Second - Vaishali Gandhi, and Third - Preeti Mundhada.

In the essay competition on "If I Were a Soldier," Nilay Boob won the first prize and Vaidehi Panpaliya received an encouragement award. In the Mahesh Vandana Group Singing Competition, the first prize went to Archana Gandhi, Chetna Mundhada, and Preeti Gandhi; the second prize to Archana Mundhada, Poonam Lahoti, and Priya Rathi; and the encouragement award to Vaishali Gandhi, Mamta Gandhi, and Priya Panpaliya.

The Badminton Tournament was led by project heads Nikhil Kela, Vansh Mundhada, Chetan Panpaliya, Mrunal Rathi, Sarika Rathi, and Jayashri Rathi. In the 8 to 12 years category, Nikunj Mandhane won first prize and Saachi Mundhada second. Among girls above 13 years, Ekta Gandhi and Mitali Bhattad emerged winners. Among boys above 13, Parth Rathi and Viraj Gangan were winners. In the women's group, Shreya Chandak and Anju Mandhane won. Advocate Ashish Rathi won in the men's group.

The Chess Competition was efficiently managed by project leads Sapna Mundhada and Toshika Rathi. The White Group won the first prize, with team members Shubham Indani, Vansh Mundhada, Sachin Rathi, Mrunal Rathi, Chetan Rathi, Gaurav Kothari, Ashish Rathi, Cheta Lahoti, Nita Mundhada, Archana Mundhada, Yogita Daga, Aishwarya Panpaliya, and Khushboo Rathi. They donated their ₹5,000 cash prize to support the treatment of one-month-old Layam Chandak, suffering from the rare and life-threatening disease Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type-2.

On Wednesday, June 4, at 6 AM, a cleanliness drive was conducted at the local Moksha Dham by the President of Dhamangaon Tehsil Maheshwari Sangh Mukesh Rathi, Vice President Satyanarayan Mundhada, member Sachin Rathi, President of the Youth Wing Pawan Rathi, former Panchayat Samiti member Rajkumar Kela, and Vishal



Gandhi, among others. Following this, at 8:30 AM, a collective Rudrabhishek was performed at Maheshwari Bhavan. A total of 21 couples participated in the sacred ritual. Chief hosts included Pawan-Kiran Bhandari, Gopal Praveena Mundhada, Jugal-Archana Mundhada, Jagdish-Babita Tiwari, Ganesh-Ujjwala Chandak, Jitendra-Archana Tapadia, Vishal-Preeti Gandhi, Anil-Jaya Lahoti, Pankaj-Pekal Chandak, Ashok-Suchita Indani, Pradeep-Rakha Mundhada, Lakshminarayan-Usha Gandhi, Pawan-Poonam Lahoti, Ghanshyam-Jyoti Panpaliya, Sachin-Priya Rathi, Rameshwar-Vidya Chandak, Rajesh-Chetna Mundhada, Lakshminarayan-Sunita Gandhi, Nishant-Meenal Rathi, Ankit-Divya Bhutada, and Sanjay-Vaishali Panpaliya.

The rituals were held at the Bhagwan Mahesh Mandir and performed by priests Pandit Gayaprasad Tripathi and young city priest Suraj Sharma, with Vedic chanting by Bharat Sharma, Kush Tripathi, and Shyam Pandya. Dholak accompaniment was by Arvind Paydhane and organ music by Mangesh Bari.

**Grand Procession Highlights**

On the occasion of Mahesh Navami Mahaparva, a grand procession was organized in the presence of Chimur constituency MLA Kirtikumar Bhangdiya. The procession featured tableaux, traditional bands, and devotional groups. It started from Maheshwari Bhavan and proceeded via KGTI Road, Cotton Market Chowk, Yavatmal Road, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk, Railway Gate, Gandhi Chowk, Main Road, Nutan Chowk, Cinema Chowk, Maldhakka Road, Mahavir Bhavan, and returned to Maheshwari Bhavan.

A Maha Aarti was performed at the conclusion, followed by a community meal. Notable tableaux included depictions of Shri Ram Darbar, where Shri Ram was portrayed by Ekta Panpaliya, Lakshman by Gunjan Mundhada, Sita by Palak Panpaliya, and Hanuman by Mehul Lohia.

Shiv was portrayed by Krishna Mundhada and Parvati by Mitali Bhattad. Seema Mundhada, Prema Rathi, and Jayashri Rathi played key roles in creating the tableaux. The success of the Mahesh Navami festival was the result of tireless efforts by the Maheshwari Hitkarak Sangh, Maheshwari Bhavan Committee, Maheshwari Women's Wing, Maheshwari Youth Wing, Maheshwari Bahu-Beti Mandal, Maheshwari Education Assistance Fund,

Dhamangaon Tehsil Maheshwari Organization, Tehsil Women's Organization, Tehsil Youth Wing, and Maheshwari Senior Citizens Association.



National Best Friends Day



Best friends, whether near or far away, help us to navigate life's ups and downs. They share our joys, help us cope with our tragedies, and, most importantly, they are present in both the good and bad periods of our lives. It is important that you recognise and appreciate the positive relationships in your life. While friendship celebrations occur throughout the year, June 8 is celebrated as Best Friends Day, mostly in the United States and Canada. Celebrating Best Friends Day is one of the ways we can say how much we love our chosen family. Whether it's about sharing secrets, going on a holiday or chatting late into the night, we can't think of a day without friends. Significance The day is marked to honour the friendships that bind us to our friends. National Best Friends Day celebrates the bonds that bind a person to their closest buddy or group of friends. Your parents, grandparents, siblings, spouse, coworkers, students, and even pets may all be considered your best friends.

The day is all about cherishing every minute spent, making new memories, and being thankful for the relationship you have. There are no specific customs associated with commemorating this unique day. You are free to observe the special occasion in your own manner. Eating a meal at your favourite restaurant, sharing heartfelt posts on social media, going out for a drink with your friends, exchanging thoughtful messages, and engaging in bonding activities like painting, dancing, and rock climbing are a few ways to celebrate National Best Friends Day. You can even plan that long-pending trip with your best friend/s to your favourite destination. Additionally, you can send gifts like scrapbooks and personalised jewellery or clothes with "best friend" written over it. Gifts typically have a higher sentimental and considerate value than monetary purchases. Wishes And Messages No matter where we go, or how old we grow, our bond will be unbreakable for life. Happy friendship day to my best friend. Happy National Friends Day! may our beautiful friendship always stay the same. You are the kindest, funniest and most helpful person I've ever met. Happy National Friends Day! Thank you for being my bestie! Happy Best Friends Day! We are across the miles, but our friendship knows no distance. I wish you a happy friendship day. You have lightened up my world with your contagious laugh, and I feel the happiness around you. You give me hope in the bad times and tell me to move on in life to grow as every bad day comes to an end. Happy National Friends Day to all the amazing people who touched our lives during difficult times. I count myself lucky

Skyborne Connectivity



Elon Musk's Starlink has finally secured a crucial licence from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to provide satellite-based internet services in India, marking a transformative moment in the country's digital journey. With this move, Starlink becomes the third company—after Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications—to gain official entry into the Indian satellite internet space. Amazon's Project Kuiper, a formidable competitor, remains in limbo as it awaits regulatory approvals. The approval for Starlink comes after prolonged delays and negotiations, but its timing—coinciding with a dramatic public spat between Musk and U.S. President Donald Trump—has added another layer of global intrigue to what is essentially a major domestic milestone. The licence allows Starlink to soon apply for trial spectrum, which, according to DoT sources, may be granted within the next 15 to 20 days. This is a necessary step before commercial deployment, as the trial spectrum will enable the company to test its systems, processes, and compliance with India's security requirements. Importantly, Starlink must now adhere to stringent Indian regulations, including provisions for lawful interception of communications, data localisation, and partial indigenisation of its network infrastructure.

These rules reflect India's evolving security and data protection posture, especially at a time when digital infrastructure has become as critical as physical infrastructure. Starlink's business model is built on a constellation of low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites—currently numbering around 7,000, with ambitions to scale up to over 40,000. Unlike traditional satellite internet that relies on geostationary satellites located far above the Earth, Starlink's LEO satellites orbit just 550 kilometres from the surface, allowing for low-latency, high-speed internet access. The system has already proven its worth in difficult terrains and conflict zones, such as in Ukraine, where Starlink kept communication channels alive amidst the fog of war. In the Indian context, this technology could be a game changer for rural, hilly, and border areas where laying fibre optics is prohibitively expensive or logistically infeasible. Starlink's entry into India has not occurred in isolation. Over the past few months, the company has been busy forging strategic partnerships with Indian telecom giants such as Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, which together control over 70% of the country's mobile market. These alliances will be essential for Starlink to navigate India's complex regulatory and market environment. While the technology and ambition are impressive, success will ultimately depend on ground-level execution, pricing models, and the ability to deliver consistent service across geographies. However, the broader satellite communication landscape in India is still in flux. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recently submitted its recommendations to the government regarding pricing and conditions for satellite spectrum allocation. Only after these recommendations are accepted and the radio waves officially allocated can companies like Starlink begin commercial operations. TRAI has suggested a 4% adjusted gross revenue (AGR) levy as spectrum charges for satcom providers—a rate much higher than what industry players had lobbied for. Moreover, for urban users, an additional charge of ₹500 per subscriber annually has been proposed, though no such surcharge would apply in rural areas, thereby creating a natural incentive for rural expansion.

Road to justice for the Bengaluru XI

They were just enough to form a cricket team. The youngest was 13 and not a single one of the Bengaluru XI—those who had their lives snatched from them outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday—was older than 40. They were of the city and beyond, some from other states. Girls, boys, students, dancers, software developers. Some were hardcore fans of the Royal Challengers Bangalore, who had, at long last, won their maiden Indian Premier League title. One did not even care about cricket, but was convinced by friends that a selfie at the venue would be worth the visit. All of them had one thing in common: they were drawn to a single location to be part of a celebration. It was to be an "I was there" moment. Not one of them could have imagined that the price to pay would be the ultimate one. When you enlist in the army, go bungee jumping, attempt to climb Mount Everest, or run with the bulls in Pamplona, you know that there is a real chance that death could come close. It's a risk you take knowing what you are getting into.

But when you go to a cricket stadium to feel like you are part of something bigger, to share in the celebration of an achievement that has been nearly two decades in the making, the biggest worry is not the chance you have of returning alive. To blame any of the victims would be perverse beyond belief, dealing the unkindest of cuts to the families of those who lost their lives. Yet, it is with deepest sadness that it must be recorded that what happened was not the city's 'defect' or a sporting negligence—it was an Indian tragedy. Repeatedly, when crowds gather, for one cause or another, tragedy unfolds; yet, as a collective, we learn nothing.

There is no doubt that the events of Wednesday afternoon have shaken Indian society's consciousness, but not so much that it will act as a deterrent. Not so much that there will be any changes of consequence when it comes to developing infrastructure that can safely handle large crowds, spontaneous surges of people or exuberant gatherings. Not thoroughly enough to force people in power to pause and get to the bottom of why something that should never have happened occurred. A probe has been ordered, arrests may be made, officials suspended and monetary compensation promised. This is a



templated response. You can transpose the name of the team or sport, the venue, or the occasion with a religious gathering, a clamour to board a train—and the story would remain depressingly the same. They dare not say it aloud, but there will be a few who will look at the episode and think that only 11 people died. In India, it's not a number of fatalities that triggers righteous outrage. In 2005, at least 258 died in Satara, Maharashtra during a pilgrimage. In 2013, more than 115 were killed in a bridge collapse in over the Godavari in Andhra Pradesh. In 2024, the official count in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh was 121; the trigger was a tent collapse. In sports, globally, the numbers are equally

terrifying: 300 in Peru at a football game in 1964, 93 in Nepal in 1988, and 126 in Ghana in 2001. In terms of numbers, the Hillsborough tragedy of 1989 where 97 people lost their lives at the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest in Sheffield is probably the most high-profile, not least because the victims' families banded together to mount a protracted campaign for justice. It took 27 years for the UK courts to charge those responsible. In India, with the judicial system so overburdened that even the simplest of disputes can take decades to resolve, who knows when, if ever, those responsible for the events of Bengaluru 2025 will be brought to book. "If we are not ready to hold a

roadshow, we should not have [it]. As simple as it can get. I know fans do get excited, everyone gets excited; but it's nothing compared to what happened yesterday," Gautam Gambhir, India's head coach, said. "I was never a believer that we need to have roadshows—never. We need to be responsible. We need to be responsible citizens and responsible in every aspect because every life matters," he said. He is right, of course, in saying that no single life is worth more than another, and that we the people should be more responsible. But the human mind is such that it rarely lingers long enough to persevere towards a transformation. As individuals and a collective, as a populace and as those who govern, we move on, because if we stopped to actually take stock of each horrific incident, we might lose the will to wake up the next day. We forget not because we are callous, but because the alternative is too painful. We forgive not because we want to, but because we would otherwise be consumed. The long road to justice for the Bengaluru XI has just begun. What shape it will take, what timeline it will follow, and what price it will extract is impossible to predict.

Only one thing is likely: before there is closure in this case, many more similarly avoidable tragedies may well unfold.

World Brain Tumor Day 2023

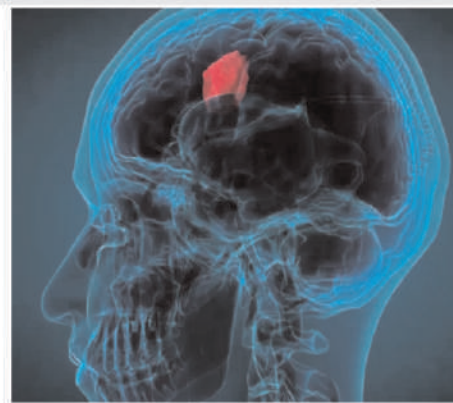
A brain tumor is a mass growth of abnormal cells in the brain. Various types of brain tumors exist. Some are noncancerous and some are cancerous. It can begin in the brain or cancer can begin in other parts of the body and then spread to the brain as secondary brain tumors.

World Brain Tumor Day is observed on June 8 to spread awareness and educate people about brain tumors. Various myths and misconceptions exist regarding brain tumors. Check below for some facts, history, and significance of the day.

The brain is the powerhouse of the body. This year's theme for the event is "Protect yourself—keep away from stress." This year's theme focuses on developing attention towards various types of stress and developing stress management habits to keep the brain safe from different types of tumors. The keys to the survival of brain tumors are awareness, early detection, timely treatment, and adequate follow-up treatment course. German Brain Tumour Association (Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe e.V.), a nonprofit organisation, first marked this day in the year 2000 to spread awareness about brain tumor among the general public. Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe was founded in 1998 and has more than 500 registered members from fourteen nations. It provides support to the patients and their family members besides scientists and health professionals.

**History of World Brain Tumor Day**  
Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe declared World Brain Tumor Day in 2000 as an international commemoration day. World Brain Tumor Day is now celebrated annually on 8 June as a tribute to all brain tumor patients and their families.

**Significance of World Brain Tumor Day**  
The significance of World Brain Tumor



Day is to shed light on the impact of brain tumors on individuals and society as a whole. Brain tumors can affect people of all ages, and they can have serious consequences on cognitive and physical functions, as well as emotional well-being. Through World Brain Tumor Day, individuals and organisations can unite and spread awareness and educate everyone about the life-taking disease. Further, this day provides the opportunity to offer support to those affected. On World Brain Tumor Day, various activities are organized to spread awareness, such as public lectures, seminars, fundraising events, and social media campaigns. These initiatives aim to improve understanding of brain tumors, highlight the challenges faced by patients and their families, and emphasize the importance of early detection, proper diagnosis, and effective treatment options.

**What is Brain Tumor?**  
Before understanding what is a brain tumor, first, we will learn about tumor. A tumor is basically an abnormal lump or growth of cells. In the body, there are mainly two main types of tumors named

Forging the Future

The recent signing of four Production Transfer Agreements between Dassault Aviation and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) marks a pivotal moment in India's aerospace ambitions. For the first time, complete Rafale fighter aircraft fuselages will be manufactured outside France—and that too, in Hyderabad. It is more than a business deal; it is a powerful affirmation of India's growing credibility in high-precision defence manufacturing and an important stride toward strategic autonomy. Under the agreement, TASL will manufacture key structural components of the Rafale fighter jet, including the front, central, and rear fuselage sections, in a new, state-of-the-art facility in Hyderabad. The facility is expected to begin delivering fuselage sections by FY2028, eventually ramping up to producing up to two complete fuselages per month. While India's acquisition of Rafale jets has long been a topic of political and strategic discourse, this manufacturing partnership shifts the narrative from procurement to production—from dependence to participation. For Dassault Aviation to transfer the production of the Rafale's core fuselage components—a critical part of any fighter aircraft's structure—to India speaks volumes about India's emergence as a reliable industrial partner in global defence supply chains. The Rafale is a fourth-generation multirole fighter, and its fuselage demands high levels of precision, quality assurance, and technological sophistication. The fact that this responsibility has been entrusted to TASL reflects the competence and credibility India's private aerospace players have earned over the last



decade. This move also underscores the gradual, but steady, realisation of the "Make in India" and Atma Nirbhar Bharat visions. For years, India's defence procurement has been plagued by import dependency. Over 60 per cent of India's defence needs are still met by foreign suppliers, which creates strategic vulnerabilities, especially in times of global disruption. Shifting from being a buyer to becoming a builder is not a semantic shift—it is a transformative one. Indigenous production of key aircraft components, such as the Rafale fuselage, helps India gain mastery over critical manufacturing processes, reduces long-term costs, and provides an impetus to the local aerospace ecosystem. The significance of this development is multifaceted. First, it demonstrates the success of India's private sector in carving a niche in a domain traditionally dominated by the public sector. TASL, in collaboration with global defence majors like Lockheed Martin and Boeing in the past, has consistently proven its capability to deliver aerospace components with world-class precision. With this new partnership, Tata moves a notch higher—from component manufacturer to structural integration—bringing India a step closer to full-spectrum aircraft manufacturing. avionics support, quality certification, .

When diseases cross borders, so must solidarity

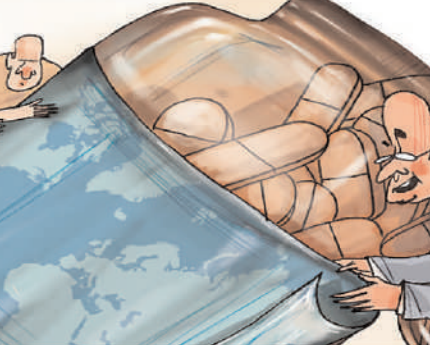
Even as the US, led by President Donald Trump, withdrew from global health engagements through a petulant exit from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the evisceration of its international aid agency, two events in Geneva on May 19 unfurled the flag of global solidarity. One, international negotiations on the Pandemic Treaty ended, with all participating WHO members agreeing on the final text. The treaty was cheered by an anxious world badly bruised by Covid's devastation and wary of more zoonotic pandemics on the horizon. It is the second-ever global health treaty to be concluded under auspices of the WHO, after the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control adopted in 2003. Thesecond was the convening of a forum—Digital Health Without Borders—to advance digital health applications across the world with impact, efficiency and equity. The event, organised by Dr Rajendra Gupta from India, was addressed by WHO's Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and leading digital technology experts as well as prominent representatives from the domains of medicine, nursing and public health. They advocated universal access to impactful digital health technologies to prevent pandemics and promote primary care-led universal health coverage.

These affirmations of a 'one world' approach are reassuring in a polarised political environment where the US and some other countries are retreating from adherence to principles of global solidarity. While the US and Argentina have quit the WHO, western European nations like the Netherlands and Germany have reduced their commitments to global aid. Trump and Musk have eviscerated USAID, which was a major contributor to global health programmes aimed at tackling infectious diseases like HIV-AIDS and tuberculosis, as well as maternal and child health protection. Scientific agencies like the National Institutes of Health have been disconnected from global research.

Global health, as a policy and practice domain, evolved through stages. Initially, colonial powers like Britain and Belgium invested in establishing institutes for 'tropical medicine' to protect their soldiers, traders, administrators and local labourers from infectious diseases like malaria and cholera. After decolonisation, western nations talked of 'international health' while engaging with developing countries. The HIV-AIDS pandemic triggered a scare and made western nations direct resources for its control across the globe. In this era, aid came with many strings attached. It enabled researchers from high-income countries to design and direct research in other countries, while gaining publications and patents. It provided an opportunity for western funders to mandate use of medical technologies supplied by their companies and impose their 'experts' and consultancy firms. UN agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP also shaped and supported global health initiatives, but high-income countries often influenced their agendas and millions.

After the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the UN in 2000, funding for international health came not only from government aid agencies but also from rich private foundations like Gates, Rockefeller and Bloomberg, as well as charities like the Wellcome Trust.

Recently, the Novo Foundation has emerged as a major global health funder. Multilateral lenders like the World Bank and



continental banks in Asia and Africa support countries with soft loans for strengthening national health programmes. These channels of global health financing continued after adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). High-income western countries have (SDGs), high-income western countries programmes, abiding by their commitments to global development assistance and as 'soft diplomacy' instruments to advance their geopolitical and trade interests. Later, China and rich west Asian countries also started supporting global health programmes for similar reasons. Apart from bilateral channels, donor countries have also channelled funds through UN agencies to advance their strategic interests. Amid this economic and political power play, moral motivation of the global health enterprise dimmed and global solidarity became a shibboleth. In the era of international health, donors posed the question "what can we do for you?" In the era of global health, the question should have been reframed as "what can we do together?"

The world faces many common threats, from pandemics and anti-microbial resistance to climate change and commercial forces propelling the global epidemics of non-communicable diseases and obesity. Global health votaries must utilise both multilateral forums and bilateral channels to address such common threats. Simultaneously, high and upper-middle-income countries must help in strengthening health systems of low and lower-middle-income countries as their frailty will endanger global health security and economic stability. This was taught by Covid pandemic. "No one is safe till everyone is safe" should not be a vacuous platitude. Access to essential drugs, vaccines and technologies must be universal, while co-investments in development of a multi-layered, multi-skilled health workforce will benefit the whole world.

Espousal of global health by high income countries drew impetus from their evangelical advocacy of economic globalisation as the mantra for global prosperity. While access to global financial and labour markets boosted economic growth around the world, dice were loaded in favour of rich countries. Even as Thomas Friedman exulted that the 'world is flat' due to globalisation, rich countries used restrictive patent protection practices to show that even a flat surface can be tilted in their favour.

But Western enthusiasm for globalisation vanished when non-western economies started growing fast. As countries like China, India, Brazil and South Africa gained economic muscle and unbundled capitalism triggered a financial crisis in the West, fear of becoming 'submerging economies' led western economies to pursue protectionist policies and abandon multilateralism.

e 'slash and burn' retreat of western capitalism from globalisation is typified by the Trump administration's assault on global trade and health through tariffs and trade wars. As the song on a Disney World ride goes, "It is a small world after all".



## Rising Number of Brain Tumour Patients Calls for Public Awareness - Dr. Kartik Multani

**Nagpur 7 June :** There is still a lack of sufficient awareness about brain tumours among the public, which often leads to delayed diagnosis and hampers timely treatment. Considering the growing number of brain tumour cases, large-scale awareness is urgently needed, says **Dr. Kartik Multani, Brain Tumour Surgery Specialist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Nagpur, and a Neuro-Oncology Fellowship holder from Tata Memorial Hospital.** Dr. Multani stated that symptoms like persistent headaches, vomiting, seizures, blurred vision, slurred speech, or weakness in the limbs are often misunderstood as common issues and therefore ignored. However, whether a tumour is benign or



malignant, early diagnosis followed by surgery using modern technology can result in a successful outcome. Since the symptoms of brain tumours often resemble those of common illnesses, patients tend to delay visiting a doctor. Wockhardt Hospitals, Nagpur, emphasized that if symptoms such as frequent headaches, unexplained vomiting, seizures, personality or speech changes, stammering, or imbalance appear, an MRI

and consultation with a neurosurgeon are essential. **At Wockhardt Hospitals, under the leadership of Dr. Kartik Multani,** advanced surgical tools are used for brain tumour procedures. These include **Intraoperative Ultrasound - for real-time guidance during surgery, Fluorescein-Guided Surgery - to distinguish tumour cells from normal ones, Intraoperative Neuromonitoring (IONM) - to protect critical areas of the brain and Endoscopic Tumour Resection for minimally invasive surgery and faster recovery.** **Vidarbha's Only Neuro-Oncology Fellowship-Trained Doctor** **Dr. Kartik Multani** is the only neurosurgeon in Vidarbha and Central India who has received specialized training

in Neuro-Oncology from Tata Memorial Hospital. This allows him to perform complex brain tumour surgeries with high precision and safety. Many patients fear undergoing treatment for brain tumours, and there are several myths in society regarding the condition. However, according to Dr. Multani, awareness and early diagnosis can save lives and lead to more effective treatment. **Acknowledging the seriousness of the tumours, Wockhardt Hospitals offers compassionate and advanced treatment through a team of specialists equipped with modern technology. All essential facilities are available 24x7 at Wockhardt Hospitals, Nagpur.**

## 3 more accused nabbed after encounter in Ferozepur shootout case

**Chandigarh, June 7 (UNI)** The Ferozepur district police have with counter intelligence teams have arrested 3 more accused in the Ferozepur shootout case after a brief encounter, police said on Saturday.

Sonu were nabbed near Ratta Khara village Friday night. Police have also recovered four firearms from them. The number of arrests in the Thursday crime has risen to five. One person was shot dead in broad daylight and the video of the incident went viral on social media.

The shootout, according to the police, was the result of enmity between two groups.



## UP family celebrates son's birthday on Chenab bridge in Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Exp

**Jammu, June 7 (UNI)** A family from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, travelling in the first Katra-Srinagar bound Vande Bharat Express on Saturday celebrated the birthday of their six-year-old son on the world's highest Chenab bridge to make the occasion memorable. A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Katra-Srinagar train from Katra and dedicated the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Rail Link (USBRL) to the nation, devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra boarded the first Vande Bharat train on Saturday morning to experience a journey to Kashmir. The family from Varanasi cut a cake on the world's highest railway bridge. "As soon as we got the

booking confirmation for this train, we planned to celebrate the birthday of our six-year-old son Rakesh Jaiswal, whose birthday falls on June 7, on the world's highest railway bridge," they said while travelling in the train. Having Chair car seats reserved in coach C7, the Jaiswal family, with cake and candles ready, started preparing for the birthday celebration in the train as soon as the train crossed the Anji Bridge.



And when it reached the world's highest bridge, the family began the cake cutting in the coach while other passengers also wished their son Moksh's mother, Neha Jaiswal, said, "This birthday is very special for him. We had never thought that we would celebrate his birthday in this way on the world's highest railway bridge." However, the enthusiasm of the passengers to travel in the first Katra-Srinagar train was very high, and as soon as train

26401 'Vande Bharat Express' left Katra for Srinagar, the excitement among the passengers was at a different level. Among the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims, who had come to Katra from all over the country, many of them booked tickets and decided to complete their journey to Srinagar. Amid the chants of 'Jai Mata Ki' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', the first train started its historic journey.

The passengers said that they were happy that they got this opportunity to travel in the first train operating between Katra and Srinagar.

"We have been to Srinagar many times before, but reaching Srinagar in just 3 hours was like a dream come true," a family from Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh said.

## Joyful Eid-ul-Adha celebrations across Kashmir shadowed by prayer ban at Jamia Masjid Srinagar

**Srinagar, June 7 (UNI)** Eid-ul-Adha, the festival of sacrifice, is being celebrated with religious fervor and traditional gaiety across Kashmir on Saturday. The largest congregation of worshippers gathered at the iconic Hazratbal Shrine on the banks of the Dal Lake, where thousands offered Eid prayers. However, the spirit of the festival was somewhat marred as authorities did not allow congregational prayers at the Eidgah and the historic Jamia Masjid in the old city. The move drew sharp criticism from J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti. Despite this, Eid spirit was visible across the Valley. Dressed in their festive best, worshippers thronged mosques and designated Eidgahs early in the morning to participate in the special prayers. The gatherings passed off peacefully, with no untoward incidents reported. Prominent political leaders, including CM Omar Abdullah, former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, were among those who offered prayers at Hazratbal, the holiest shrine in Kashmir, where the mood was both solemn and celebratory. Soon after the Eid prayers, many families across the region performed the symbolic sacrifice of goats and sheep to

commemorate the "sacrifice" of Prophet Ibrahim. Kashmir's homes bustled with the colors of festivity. Children, dressed in new clothes, visited relatives to seek blessings, while elders exchanged warm Eid hugs and heartfelt greetings. "Eid-ul-Adha is about attending congregational prayer, offering sacrifices, and spending time with family and visiting relatives," said Adil Ahmed, a Srinagar resident. The celebrations are set to continue till Monday, with families planning visits, feasts, and charitable acts over the next two days. Meanwhile, Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid on Saturday said that authorities disallowed Eid prayers at the historic Jama Masjid in the old city and also put Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house arrest. The managing committee of the Jama Masjid mosque affairs said the authorities once again disallowed Eid-ul-Adha prayers at Eidgah Srinagar, as well as at the historic Jama Masjid Srinagar, by closing the gates of the mosque and deploying police personnel outside. Traditionally, the congregational Eid prayers are offered at Eidgah. "Even the Fajr prayers this morning were not permitted at Jama Masjid as the gates remained locked," the statement said, adding "Mirwaiz has also been placed under house arrest." In a post on X, Mirwaiz, who is also the Hurriyat



chairman, said it is for the seventh year in a row that Eid prayers were disallowed at Jamia. The Eid prayers have been barred at the Jama Masjid and Eidgah by the authorities since 2019. "Eid Mubarak! Yet again, Kashmir wakes up to the sad reality: no Eid prayers at Eidgah, and Jama Masjid locked down — for the 7th straight year. I, too, have been detained at my home," Mirwaiz said. "In a Muslim-majority region, Muslims are deprived of their fundamental right to pray — even on their most important religious occasion celebrated across the world! What a shame on those who rule over us, and on those elected by the people who choose to remain silent as our rights are trampled over, again and again," he added. The Lt Governor administration, which is in charge of law and order in J&K, didn't respond to the claims made by the

Anjuman. J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said he was deeply concerned about the denial of Eid prayers at Jamia Masjid. He questioned the authority of those making this decision. "I have no information on what basis such a decision is taken. But one day we will have to trust our people. They are the same people who, after the April 22 (Pahalgam terror attack) came out and expressed their anger and said they are not with the attack and condemned the act.... But today, once again, the Eid prayers were not allowed at historic Jama Masjid... I feel that the government should think again at some point," Omar told reporters in Srinagar. PDP Chief Mehbooba said the locking of Jamia Masjid on Eid and house arrest of Mirwaiz is highly condemnable and is an "interference in our religious affairs."

## Congress attacks MP govt for 'not paying salary' to 50K employees

**Bhopal, June 7 (UNI)** The Madhya Pradesh government's reported instruction to all treasury officers concerning the non-payment of salaries to 50,000 state employees over the past few months has prompted the Congress to hit out at the government over the issue. Sources said a State Financial Intelligence Cell (SFIC) is operating under the Commissioner of Treasury and Accounts Office, which analyses the treasury data at regular intervals and also monitors the salary withdrawal of employees. This cell analysed the data of employee codes of approximately 50,000 individuals whose salaries have not been withdrawn from the treasury software for the past four months, sources



added. The cell, after testing data for December 2024, found that there are employees whose code has been allotted, yet their salary has not been withdrawn for four months. The Office of Commissioner of Treasury and Accounts has now reportedly directed all treasury officers to confirm withdrawal within 15 days as to why the salaries are not being withdrawn by employees. State Congress president Jeetu Patwari told media that 50 thousand employees have "gone

missing" in the state. Their salary of about Rs 250 crore has not been withdrawn. The government has formed an inquiry committee tasked with finding out such employees. Patwari alleged that in a state with four lakh 50 thousand employees, if 50 thousand of them have to be searched, "then what a big economic and administrative anomaly it should be". Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Umang Singh also raised the issue on the social media platform X. He asked whether these employees are on 'unpaid leave' or they have been suspended. "Are all these only on paper? If the salary of an employee has not been withdrawn for months, then this points to a big scam," he stated.

## Himachal CM felicitates Vice-President Dhankhar at Raj Bhavan

**Shimla, June 6 (UNI)** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today paid a courtesy visit to Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar at the Raj Bhavan in Shimla. During the meeting, the Chief Minister honoured the Vice-President with a traditional Himachali cap and shawl, along with a memento symbolising the State's cultural pride. He also presented locally crafted products made by women's self-help groups under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, reflecting Himachal Pradesh's commitment to preserving its heritage while promoting economic empowerment at the grassroots level. The interaction between the two leaders was cordial and focused on a range of development-related issues concerning Himachal



Pradesh. The Vice-President appreciated the efforts being made by the State Government in improving infrastructure and livelihood opportunities in rural and remote areas. Chief Minister Sukhu also briefed the Vice-President about ongoing initiatives in the fields of education, health, and sustainable development, with a special focus on green energy transition and tourism. Senior state officials, including Rajesh Sharma, Secretary of General Administration, and C.P. Verma, Secretary to the Governor, were also present at the meeting, alongside other dignitaries.

## BJP's Lalpura thanks PM and Khattar for approving two more units for Rupnagar plant

**Chandigarh, June 7 (UNI)** Bharatiya Janata Party's Rupnagar district president Ajayvir Singh Lalpura has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for approving the installation of two new 800 MW power units at the Rupnagar Thermal Plant.

He stated that this historic decision by the Modi government regarding the

Rupnagar Thermal Plant will cater to the energy needs of not only Punjab but the entire northern region of India. Lalpura said that Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has approved the installation of two new 800 MW power units at the Rupnagar Thermal Plant, adding a total new generation capacity of 1,600

megawatts. Additionally, a total of 2,400 MW of extra electricity generation projects

for Punjab have received the green light. He said "This project will provide affordable and uninterrupted power to millions and will strengthen Punjab's energy self-reliance, giving a new direction to industrial development." He also informed that the maximum limit for coal supply distance has been increased from 1,000 km to over 1,500 km, ensuring a smooth fuel supply."

## Punjab Minister Sindh alleges play by Congress leader Ashu to gain political sympathy

**Ludhiana, June 6 (UNI)** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sindh today alleged a conspiracy orchestrated by Congress leader Bharat Bhushan Ashu to gain political sympathy ahead of the Ludhiana West by-election. Addressing a press conference, accompanied by AAP Punjab Working President Amansher Singh Shery Kalsi, Minister Sindh highlighted that a vigilance notice purportedly issued against Ashu was "part of a deceitful play devised by Ashu himself". Upon investigation, it was uncovered that the vigilance SSP who issued the notice was a former classmate and close friend of Ashu. He revealed that Ashu manipulated his connections to fabricate the notice, aiming to portray himself as a victim and divert public attention from his alleged multi-crore corruption in a school land scam. "This is possibly the first time in India's political history that a politician has stooped so low and fabricated summons to play a victim card. Ashu's intent was clear—to garner sympathy by portraying himself as a target of the current government," said Sindh. He added that the fabricated notice aimed to shift focus away

from the multi-crore school land scam, in which Ashu and his associates, including his brother, have been accused of misappropriating prime land meant for a school. The scam has deeply impacted parents, students, and alumni of the school, who are now demanding justice and action against those responsible. The AAP leader that the Congress party is "resorting to desperate and unethical tactics out of fear of imminent defeat in Ludhiana West". "This level of dishonesty and manipulation reflects the crumbling moral fabric of Congress leadership," he stated. Sindh assured the public that strict action has been taken against the vigilance officer involved in this conspiracy. "The officer who misused his position to favour Ashu has been suspended. The AAP government is committed to ensuring a corruption-free administration and will take all necessary steps to expose and punish those who exploit public trust," he affirmed.



## Deprived Scheduled Castes community receiving rightful share, respect under BJP govt: Haryana CM

**Chandigarh, June 7 (UNI)** Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, addressing a delegation of the Deprived Scheduled Castes (DSC) community from across the state, today said the community is now receiving its rightful share and respect under the BJP government. He said that in the recent announcement of approximately 3,500 government recruitments, 605 posts have been reserved for the DSC community and 604 posts for other Scheduled Castes. This is a strong step toward social justice, he added. Saini also acknowledged the long struggle of the DSC community and stated that their efforts are now



while addressing a delegation of the DSC community at his residence, Sant Kabir Kutir. On the occasion, members of the DSC community honored the Chief Minister with a turban and expressed

yielding positive results. Future generations will be empowered and strong, he said,

gratitude for implementing categorisation within reservations for the DSC community. They also invited the Chief Minister to attend the Sant Kabir Jayanti celebration to be held in Sirsa on June 11. The Chief Minister, calling the members of the community "warriors", said the turban placed on his head is not just his honor but the honor of the entire community. In other remarks, the CM said the real strength of this country lies in its poor, labourers, and marginalised communities. These are the very people who, through their hard work, are making the biggest contribution to transforming India into a developed nation.



## Confusion Prevails Over Teachers' Online Transfers Despite Deadline Lapse

**Amravati 7 June:** Despite the 31st May deadline for teacher transfers as per government norms, the online transfer process continues to face disruptions, creating widespread confusion among teachers. Initiated three months ago, the process was scheduled in seven phases according to the Government Resolution issued by the Rural Development Department on June 18, 2024.

However, frequent changes in the transfer schedule, initially announced on November 7 for the period between April 28 and May 31, have led to significant delays and disorder.

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| <b>Reasons for Delay</b><br>Frequent technical glitches<br>Ongoing court cases and High Court orders<br>Confusion over approval of old and new staff structures<br>Due to these issues, the actual implementation of cadre-wise transfers has not yet commenced.  |
| <b>34-Day Timeline, Still Inadequate</b><br>Although the process required at least 34 days to complete, even if started now, it would extend into July. With schools reopening from June 16 in Maharashtra and from June 23 in Vidarbha, completing the transfers before schools resume seems unfeasible. Although a few transfer lists have been released, the lists for rationalization and vacancies are still pending, raising questions about the phased implementation. |
| <b>Apathy from Authorities Blamed – Teachers' Union</b><br>"Administrative and technical issues, legal challenges, inconsistent criteria, and inter-departmental miscommunication have prolonged the process. The apparent apathy of the administration has raised doubts about the government's intentions. The transfer process must be restarted and completed urgently," said Rajesh Sawarkar, State Publicity Head, Maharashtra State Primary Teachers' Committee.       |

## Electricity is the Force Behind Development: Sanjita Mahapatra

**NP Amravati 7 June:** "Electricity is not merely a service but the foundation of development. Agriculture, industry, education, healthcare, and daily life are incomplete without it," stated Sanjita Mahapatra, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad, Amravati, at the 20th anniversary celebration of Mahavitaran held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Cultural Auditorium.

The event featured dignitaries including Municipal Commissioner Sachin Kalantre, Chief Engineer Ashok Salunke, Superintending Engineer Deepak Devhate, Pravin Darole, Electrical Inspector Pradeep Chamat, Assistant

General Manager Rupesh Deshmukh, and Executive Engineer Pradeep Punse. Highlights included a rangoli competition, a collective safety pledge, a video message from CM Devendra Fadnis, street plays, and honors for meritorious employees' children. Dr. Chidanand Phalke delivered a motivational lecture titled "Stress-Free Living Through Laughter." The program was anchored by Adyashri Kambe and Vikas Bambal, with the vote of thanks delivered by Pradeep Andhare.

**Mahavitaran's Remarkable 20-Year Journey – Kalantre Municipal**

**Commissioner Sachin Kalantre praised Mahavitaran's customer-centric approach under the Electricity Act, 2003, and emphasized the importance of employee safety.**

**Discipline and Zero Mission – Ashok Salunke**  
**Chief Engineer Ashok Salunke urged staff to uphold values of discipline, honesty, and transparency. He announced the implementation of six key "Zero" initiatives: zero interruptions, zero complaints, zero accidents, zero transmission losses, zero pending work, and zero arrears.**

## Women's Marathon Held in Honor of Ahilyabai Holkar Tricentenary

**Anjangaon Surji 7 June:** A women's marathon was organized by BJP Mahila Morcha, Melghat (Amravati Rural) on May 31, 2025, at Lende Market, Anjangaon Surji, to commemorate the tricentenary of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar's birth.

In Group A, Sanskruti Palsapgar won first place, followed by Prakruti Palsapgar and Mansi Muratkar. In Group B, Bhavana Rokade, Poonam Gaygole, and Pooja Bhavne were the top three finishers. In Group C, Deepalita Kanherkar came first, followed by Harshatai Charhate and Vaishalita Pathak.

Winners received certificates, cash prizes,

mementos, shawls, and floral bouquets. Jaianti Dhote and Jayashree Neware received special encouragement awards.

The event was inaugurated by Prabhudas Bhilavekar (District President, Melghat) and attended by former municipal president Kamal Kant Ladole, Dr. Vilas Kavitar, Adv. Padmakar Sangole, Nitin Patel, Sudhir Gole, Manish Men, Santosh Kale, Vikram Pathak, and Rekha Kahane. Priyanka Malthane conducted the proceedings, with the introduction by Dr. Vilas Kavitar and the vote of thanks by Vidya Ghadekar. The event was successfully managed with significant local support.

## 351st Coronation Anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Celebrated with Enthusiasm in Pusad

**NP Pusad 7 June:** The 351st anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation was celebrated with great fervour and devotion in Pusad, under the initiative of Shri Gurudev Seva Mandal.

The event was presided over by the Mandal's Taluka President, Prof. Prakash Lamne. Notable guests included Haribhakta Parayan (H.B.P.) Dilip Maharaj Bhore, Working President Prof. Nandkumar Khaire, Vice Presidents Nandkumar Pandit and Manohar Banskar, and Pracharak Naresh Dhale.

The celebration took place at the Mandal's interfaith community prayer site located at Jijamata Chowk in Deshmukh Nagar. The program commenced with the traditional worship and floral tributes offered to portraits of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj.

A series of devotional and community-based activities followed, including multi-faith communal prayers, devotional hymns, peace recitations, collective salutations, recitation of the Gramgeeta, and the national pledge.

Addressing the gathering, H.B.P. Dilip Maharaj Bhore and Naresh Dhale highlighted the reformative contributions of Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj, emphasizing that societal upliftment is possible through the ideals of such revered saints. Prof. Nandkumar Khaire narrated various episodes from Shivaji Maharaj's life, underlining his valor and leadership.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Prakash Lamne noted that Shivaji Maharaj was a pillar of support for the common people and remains the only truly enlightened ruler in history.



Devotees of Gurudev presented traditional Khanjiri Bhajans with musical accompaniment, leaving the audience mesmerized.

Several key members of the Mandal were present, including Secretary Adv. Gajanan Sakhare, Treasurer Suresh Kadam, and members Pramod Jaiswal, Dnyaneshwar Takatode, Dnyaneshwar Suradkar, Kishan Garde, Madhav Jadhav, Anil Aswar, Babasaheb Waghmare, Vithalrao Yewale, Vasant Dhone, Yashwant Bhagat, Dnyaneshwar Ingole, Shivling Patwe, Raju Puri, Pandurang Shingare, Kailas Maske, Shivshankar Nagre, and women representatives Chhaya Prakash Lamne, Chanda Godse, Sandhya Pawar, and Vimal Waghmare.

A large number of Gurudev followers from Pusad city and nearby villages attended the event.

## World Environment Day Celebrated by Consumer Council in Pusad

**NP Pusad 7 June:** On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Pusad Taluka Consumer Council organised a special awareness programme at Chhatrapati Udyan, Patre Layout, to promote environmental protection.

District Secretary Prof. Keshav Chetule explained the significance of maintaining ecological balance and the importance of the week's initiatives. He urged attendees to begin these practices at home, including water harvesting, tree plantation, avoiding plastic bags and wrappers, conserving electricity and water, and managing solid waste responsibly.

Taluka President Anil Virkhede provided a historical overview of the origin and purpose behind the celebration of Environment Day.

The event saw the presence of several distinguished members including Dilip Gupta, organiser of the All India Consumer Council's Pusad branch; former president Pradeep Marudwar; treasurer Nilkanth Gutge; and members Gunvant Thenge, Ashokrao Deshmukh, Prof. Kailas Rathod, Namdev Gawhane, Sheikh Ansar, Devanand Dhabale, and Santosh Gawhane.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Taluka Secretary Uttam Jadhav.



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The vote of thanks was delivered by Taluka Secretary Uttam Jadhav.

## Tragic Accident at Dhamangaon Railway Station: Woman Loses Both Legs, Family Seeks Financial Assistance from Authorities



**NP Dhamangaon Railway 7 June:** A heart-wrenching incident at Dhamangaon Railway Station this afternoon has left the entire locality in deep shock. A woman, identified as Yashoda Dhole (aged 40, resident of Dattapur), met with a horrific accident while attempting to board the Maharashtra Express. She reportedly slipped while climbing onto the train and fell under it, resulting in both her legs being completely crushed

and rendered non-functional. Doctors have confirmed she will be disabled for life.

This unfortunate accident has once again raised serious concerns regarding passenger safety at railway stations. Notably, no guards or support staff were present to assist passengers at the time of the incident.

Following the accident, railway police, local staff, and some passengers immediately rushed to her aid and pulled her out from the railway tracks.

## 20 Cattle Rescued Under 'Operation Prahar'; Property Worth Rs7.38 Lakh Seized



**NP Akola 7 June:** Under the ongoing crackdown on illegal activities initiated by Superintendent of Police Archit Chandak, the Akola police successfully conducted two raids on June 6, 2025, as part of the proactive initiative "Operation Prahar." A total of 20 cattle were rescued, and property worth Rs7.38 lakh, including vehicles used in the crime, was seized.

In the first operation, the Local Crime Branch (LCB) of Akola, led by Police Inspector Shankar Shelke, conducted a raid in the Akot File area. The team discovered that accused Rasul Khan Gulab Khan, a resident of Sadiq Nagar, Imamwada, Akot File, Akola, had cruelly confined 16 cattle in extremely cramped conditions at his shed for the purpose of illegal slaughter. The total value of the rescued cattle was estimated at Rs2,33,000.

In addition, a Scorpio vehicle, valued at ₹4,00,000, used for the inhumane transportation of the cattle, was also seized.

The total seizure in this operation amounted to

Rs6,33,000.

In a separate but related incident, newly appointed Police Inspector Pravin Dhumal of Barshitakli Police Station intensified patrolling in the station limits under "Operation Prahar." Based on a confidential tip-off, a special team discovered four cattle—including a cow and three calves—cruelly tied with short ropes for slaughter at Dahendves, Barshitakli.

The team, acting swiftly at around 10:30 PM, reached the location with two official witnesses and rescued the animals. The estimated value of the rescued cattle in this case was Rs1,05,000.

In total, both operations resulted in the rescue of 20 cattle and the seizure of vehicles and other property collectively worth Rs7,38,000.

All rescued cattle have been transferred to the Gaurakshan Seva Kendra at Mhaipur for proper care. Cases have been registered at Akot File and Barshitakli Police Stations under the Maharashtra Animal Preservation Act, 1995, and the Prevention of Cruelty to

Animals Act, 1960.

The successful operations were carried out under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Archit Chandak, Additional SP Abhay Dongre, and Police Inspector Shankar Shelke (LCB). Officers and personnel involved in the operations included Sub-Inspectors Vijay Chavan, Gopal Jadhav, Majid Pathan, and constables Khushal Nemade, Abdul Majid, Ravi Khandare, Mahendra Maliye, Wasimoddin Shaikh, Avinash Pachpor, Liladhar Khandare, Abhishek Pathak, Ejaz Ahmed, Akash Mankar, Uday Shukla, Swapnil Chaudhary, Ashok Sonone, Akshay Bobade, and others.

At Barshitakli Police Station, the action was executed under the guidance of PI Pravin Dhumal with active involvement from constables Rajesh Jidarkar, Pankaj Pawar, Ravindra Deshmukh, Nagsen Wankhade, Sachin Takore, Ishwar Patond, Manish Ghuge, Amol Hake, Gaurav Sapkal, Manoj Sawdekar, and Home Guard Shankar Jadhav.

## Neglect by Pathrot Gram Panchayat Leads to Health Hazards

**Pathrot 7 June:** Despite government campaigns promoting "Clean Village, Beautiful Village," the Pathrot Gram Panchayat in Achalpur Taluka has turned a blind eye to sanitation.

Widespread filth, blocked drains spilling foul water onto roads, and garbage piles have turned the village into a breeding ground for diseases.

The Vitthal Temple area is surrounded by waste, making even basic movement difficult for locals. The public toilet near the bus stand has remained unusable for five

**Wading Through Filth**  
Repeated requests by residents for road repairs have been ignored. Many are forced to walk through sewage to reach their homes. Behind Gujri Line, shopkeepers have dumped garbage which remains uncleared. Residents have demanded spraying of disinfectants and action by the panchayat.

years. The increasing mosquito population is heightening the risk of vector-borne diseases, leading to widespread public outrage.

## 14 Seriously Injured in Cruiser-Auto Collision at Nimbhari Phata

**Anjangaon Surji 7 June:** A serious road accident occurred around noon on Friday at Nimbhari Phata on the Anjangaon-Daryapur highway. A Cruiser carrying a wedding party collided head-on with a passenger auto, resulting in 14 people sustaining serious injuries and 12 others with minor injuries.

The Cruiser (MH 22 VY 3154), en route from Daryapur to Anjangaon, tried to avoid an oncoming auto (MH 27 AF 3076), leading to the collision and the Cruiser overturning three times. Seriously injured persons include Nayana Shirsat, Akanksha Shirsat, Gautam Sadanshiv (Rajura), Santosh Wankhade (Varkhed), Dadarav Wankhade (Kavsa), Ranjana Shirsat, Shruti Bhojne, Padma Wankhade, Sameeksha Ingle, Riya Rakshaskar, Ashok Shirsat, Kailas Khade (all from Daryapur), and Prakash Paratmole (Eklara), Sanjay Wankhade (Nimbhari) from the auto. All victims were rushed to Anjangaon Rural Hospital, with some transferred to Achalpur and Amravati due to severe injuries. Police from Rahimapur Station, along with local residents and medical staff, promptly responded. Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Gajanan Verma and Constables Sanjay Gaikwad and Bharti Bhuskat.

## BJP Holds Preparatory Meeting in Darwha for Upcoming Municipal Elections



**NP Darwha 7 June:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Darwha unit, convened a preparatory meeting in anticipation of the upcoming 2025 Municipal Council elections. The meeting was organized to strategize and mobilize party workers ahead of the civic polls.

The session took place at the Darwha Rest House and witnessed the presence of former MLA and party observer Vijay Khadse, along with senior leaders Mahesh Kaleshwarkar and Dattatray Rahane.

The meeting brought together city mandal office-bearers, former municipal councillors, and a large number of BJP workers from across Darwha.

During the meeting, party members held

initial discussions with a determined resolve to contest the forthcoming municipal elections vigorously.

A number of prominent BJP leaders and office-bearers were present, including former Municipal Council Vice President Preeti Balkhande, Councillor Ramdas Bodde, Prof. Ajay Dubey, Ambadas Jadhav, Rahul Mate, former councillor Bandu Mungilwar, Pandurang Mapare, Sumit Rathod, Vishal Yewale, Nitin Shendurkar, Aniket Shelke, Ravi Gohel, Rahul Burade, Papu Fender, Sharad Garud, Raut, and Engineer Rajesh Khivisara, among others.

The meeting concluded with a unified pledge to strengthen the party's presence and ensure a robust campaign for the upcoming elections.

## Major Mishap Averted at Akola Railway Station; Raises Serious Questions Over Safety

**NP, Akola 7 June:** A major accident was narrowly averted at Akola Railway Station on Wednesday night, raising serious concerns over the effectiveness and preparedness of railway safety measures. In a shocking incident, several passengers risked their lives by crawling underneath a stationary freight train to get to the other side of the platform.

At around 10 PM on Wednesday, a freight train halted for some time on Platform No. 1 near the post office side, obstructing the route of many passengers. Instead of waiting, some chose the extremely dangerous option of passing under the train. This went on for approximately five minutes. Alarmingly, the freight train suddenly began to move during this time, but fortunately, no one was injured.

violation of railway safety rules. However, no security personnel were present at the spot, which has become a matter of serious concern.

**Who Is Responsible for Passenger Safety?**  
Thousands of passengers travel daily through Akola Railway Station. In such a busy and important location, the lack of adequate safety planning exposes serious negligence and flaws within the railway administration, according to many observers.

**"Only Luck Prevented a Tragedy" – Public Outrage**  
The incident has sparked outrage among citizens. "What if someone had lost their life? Who would have taken responsibility?" questioned many. Passenger associations have demanded that the railway authorities treat this incident with seriousness and not dismiss it as an isolated event.



**Urgent Need for Safety Measures**  
To improve safety at railway stations, the following immediate measures are being suggested: Deployment of security personnel during peak hours and at key stations. Continuous public awareness campaigns about railway rules and safety guidelines. Legal action against those engaging in dangerous behavior. Rapid development of safe alternatives such as pedestrian bridges and subways.

**The System Has Failed" – Experts Weigh In**  
Experts believe this incident highlights the need to re-evaluate the Indian Railways' safety protocols. They argue that such lapses are not limited to Akola but are common across many stations in the country, where safety remains more of a formality than a reality.

## Child Labour Rampant at Bharat Petrol Pump in Dharni

**Poor Facilities at the Pump**  
Customers also face several issues: no air-filling service, and toilets remain locked, inconveniencing travelers. As per rules, all petrol pumps must provide free air and clean toilets.

**Alleged Fuel Fraud**  
Customers allege receiving less fuel than paid for. "100 rupees of petrol barely lasts 15-20 km," said a motorcyclist, questioning the accuracy of the meters. There have been repeated disputes over this, with reports of staff behaving rudely when questioned. Locals are demanding immediate administrative action.

**Dharni 7 June:** The Bharat Petrol Pump in Dharni is under fire for employing child labourers aged 12 to 15, in blatant violation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act. These minors are seen filling fuel, cleaning, and handling risky tasks.

Despite laws against such practices, the pump continues to employ children, endangering their physical and mental health. Locals are shocked at the administration's inaction and are calling for urgent intervention, including cancellation of the pump's license and ensuring protection for the children.

## Kharif Season Planning Meeting Held at Yawali Shaheed

**N P Amravati 7 June:** To provide timely guidance for the upcoming Kharif season, a pre-sowing planning meeting was held at Yawali Shaheed under the guidance of Taluka Agriculture Officer Prashant Gulhane and Mandal Agriculture Officer Nita Kawane. Assistant Agriculture Officer Jyoti Tashkar interacted with farmers and discussed key preparation aspects. The session included guidance on seed selection and treatment,

fertilizer management based on soil testing, zero tillage, broad bed furrow technique for soybean, innovative raised bed cultivation for pigeon pea, improved planting methods for cotton, and orchard advice for oranges. Farmers were also briefed on applying for subsidized and demonstration seeds via the Mahadbt portal, 100% seed subsidy schemes, AgriStack farmer ID, and the PM-Kisan Yojana.



BUSINESS

Adani Group contributes Rs.74,945 crore tax in FY25

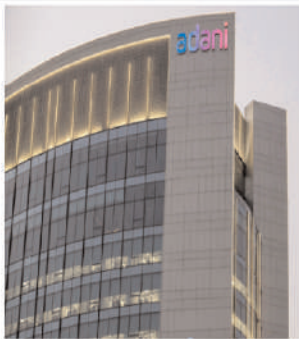
**Ahmedabad, June 07:**For fiscal year 2025, the Adani Group's total contribution to the exchequer increased by 29 percent to Rs.74,945 crore, from Rs.58,104 crore in FY 2023-24, through its portfolio of listed entities.

Of the total contribution of Rs.74,945 crore, direct contributions stood at Rs.28,720 crore, indirect contributions stood at Rs.45,407 crore, while other contributions added at ₹818 crore. To put it in perspective, Rs.74,945 crore is roughly the cost of building the entire Mumbai Metro network-an infrastructure lifeline for millions of people. It's also nearly enough to host a modern-day Olympics.Among its publicly listed entities, the leading contributors include Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), Adani Cement Limited (ACL), Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), and Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL).

The details are covered in the independent annual reports published by seven of the group's listed entities-Adani Enterprises Limited, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited, Adani Green Energy Limited, Adani Energy Solutions Limited, Adani Power Limited, Adani Total Gas Limited, and Ambuja Cements Limited. The figure also includes the tax paid by three other listed companies-NDTV, ACC and Sanghi Industries-that are held by the seven companies.The group has also published a document titled 'Basis of Preparation and Approach to Tax' on the websites of its seven entities, which provides a complete breakdown of Adani Group's global tax and other contributions. It includes:

- Direct Contributions like global taxes, duties and other charges borne by Adani portfolio of companies
- Indirect Contributions like global taxes and duties collected and paid on behalf of other stakeholders
- Other Contributions like social security etc contributed for the benefit of the employees

Adani Group considers tax transparency as an integral part of its broader ESG framework. Through its voluntary initiative, the Group aims to demonstrate its commitment to transparency, foster stakeholder trust and contribute to a more accountable global tax environment. The group strives to harmonize growth with social responsibility, aiming to transform India's infrastructure landscape while promoting innovation and creating long-term value for stakeholders.



SPORTS

Closing this chapter with gratitude: Piyush Chawla announces retirement from all forms of cricket

**NEW DELHI 7 June:** Veteran leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, who was part of India's two World Cup-winning campaigns, on Friday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after a career spanning more than two decades to undertake a "new journey" that he did not specify. The 36-year-old made the announcement via an Instagram post."After more than two decades on the field, the time has come to bid adieu to the beautiful game," Chawla wrote.

"Though I step away from the crease, cricket will always live within me. I now look forward to embarking on a new journey, carrying with me the spirit and lessons of this beautiful game," he said. Chawla was a member of India's T20 and ODI World Cup-winning squads in 2007 and 2011 respectively. He represented India in three Tests, 25 ODIs, and seven T20Is, taking 43 wickets across the three formats of the game.

"From representing India at the highest level to being part of the victorious 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup squads, every moment in this incredible journey has been nothing short of abetting. These memories will forever remain etched in my heart," Chawla said in the post. "A heart felt thank you to the IPL franchises who placed their trust in me - Punjab Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders, Chennai Super Kings, and Mumbai Indians.

The Indian Premier League has been a truly special chapter in my career, and I have cherished every moment playing in it. I owe my deepest gratitude to my coaches, Shri KK Gautam and Late Shri Pankaj Saraswat for nurturing and shaping me into the cricketer I became," he said. "Today is a deeply emotional day for me as I officially announce my retirement from all forms of international and domestic cricket," he added.

The leg-spinner was a part of KKR's 2014 IPL-winning team and hit the winning runs for the Gautam Gambhir-led side in the summit clash against the Punjab Kings in Bengaluru. "A special mention to my late father, whose belief in me lit the path I walked. Without him, this journey would never have been possible," he stated.

Chawla made his competitive cricket debut at 15, and also represented India Under-19 and Uttar Pradesh Under-22 sides. He burst onto the scene when he bowled Sachin Tendulkar with a googly in the Challenger Series 2005-06, and made his first-class debut at 17. Chawla has over 1000 wickets across formats in domestic cricket.



Junior wrestlers handed ban in fake birth-certificate scam; MCD admits lapse

**NEW DELHI 7, June:** In a major age-fraud case, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) announced a ban on nearly 30 junior wrestlers after they were found to have procured and submitted fake birth certificates, predominantly obtained from areas under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) Narela and Rohini jurisdictions among its 12 administrative zones. Fake birth certificates of the junior athletes procured from identical addresses came to light after an investigation revealed a network involving wrestlers, coaches and officials from the MCD, all working in collusion within the Capital's municipal zones that border neighbouring Haryana. Additionally, Yash Kumar, a reigning Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) gold medallist in men's 80kg freestyle, has been directed to undergo a 'bone test' to determine his actual age following revelations of repeated tampering with his date of birth (DOB) on his Aadhar card. Until the medical verification process is concluded, Yash will not receive any Khelo India incentives. Yash, who according to the federation is physically over 20 years of age was recently disqualified from representing Delhi in an under-17 national wrestling competition on the grounds of being overage. The governing body is now scrutinising around 400 cases from Haryana alone in which young athletes are suspected of using fake certificates from Delhi to become eligible for younger age-group events.

The main objective appears to be securing college admissions and potential government jobs. Passports given to the WFI revealed residential addresses in Rohtak, Haryana, and Sonapat. The WFI made queries to several zones of the Municipal Corporation of Haryana (MCH), as well as the North Delhi



Municipal Corporation (NDMC) and Delhi Cantonment Board (DCB), exposing the extensive scale of the age-fraud case. It was revealed that nearly all wrestlers under review had secured fake birth certificates from identical place of registration - in Begumpur under the Narela jurisdiction and Mangolpuri in the Rohini zone. A detailed scrutiny of original birth certificates from Haryana municipal authorities, as well as passports, revealed actual birthplaces and addresses in Rohtak, Hajaraj, and Sonapat, in addition to differing DOBs. Most of the wrestlers were born between 2006-2009 but had birth certificates registered in 2021-2022, indicating a disparity of nearly 14-15 years. In one instance, Dipanshu cited his DOB as 26/10/2009, with a birth certificate registration date of 06/01/2021, obtained from one of the same addresses - Rajeev Nagar, Begumpur, North West Delhi 110086. The federation checks with the department of health services, Municipal Corporation Rohtak, revealed his true DOB as 16/10/2006, with his home in Rainak Pura village, Rohtak. Similarly, national-level wrestler Rohit Gulia was found to have manipulated

personal data repeatedly, including DOB changes and unauthorised Aadhar updates (seven times from 2013 to 2021). His official birth certificate from the Municipal Corporation of Rohtak documented his DOB as 17/10/1999, while he declared it as 17/10/2001 in national competitions. Both Dipanshu and Rohit have now been banned by WFI from all future tournaments. WFI president Sanjay Singh has written to Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta to act against MCD officials. "What is particularly alarming is the frequency of such (false) certificates being issued after a considerable lapse of time.

This is contrary to the normal practice, wherein birth certificates are typically issued within one- or two-months following birth. The Narela zone, situated close to the Haryana border, has seen a disproportionately high number of such delayed issuances. I urge your office to kindly direct the concerned authorities in all MCD zones to exercise strict scrutiny and restraint in issuing birth certificates where the application is made after an unusually long delay," he added. MCD has admitted to the lapse and said it will probe this issue.

ENTERTAINMENT

Mithoon, Palak, and 60 Musicians Create a Cinematic Moment at the Maruti Suzuki presents 23rd Zee Cine Awards 2025



**Mumbai, 6th June:** ZEE lit up the stage once more with Maruti Suzuki Presents 23rd Zee Cine Awards 2025 - a dazzling tribute to the films, faces, and unforgettable moments that defined the year in cinema. But this year, it wasn't just about the stars - it was about the fans too. In the biggest FANtertainment extravaganza of the year, the night brought together the magic of stardom and the passion of fandom, creating an unforgettable celebration of Indian cinema's beating heart.

One of the most soul-stirring moments of the night was a grand musical tribute to the legendary icons of Indian cinema - the late Raj Kapoor and Manoj Kumar - marking 100 years of their unparalleled legacy. The power couple - renowned composer Mithoon and the soulful Palak Muchhal, a celebrated playback singer, took centre stage with a breathtaking medley that transcended generations. Supported by a majestic ensemble of 60 musicians and a live choir, the tribute paid homage to the golden era of cinema through timeless melodies and heartfelt renditions that left the audience mesmerised. It was not just a performance - it was a poignant celebration of cinematic heritage, expressed through the universal language of music.

Mithoon said, "This performance wasn't just a tribute - it was a deeply personal journey. Raj Kapoor and Manoj Kumar Sir have been legendary inspirations, not just to our industry but to me personally. As a composer, I grew up immersed in their films and the unforgettable music that defined their cinematic storytelling. I remember listening to those melodies with my father. To honour their legacy through a medley with crafted with so much heart, alongside Palak, was incredibly special. And the fact that this was our first time performing together as a husband and wife made the night even more unforgettable. There was a special kind of magic in the air - it felt like we were truly connecting with the golden era of Indian cinema. It has been a joy for me to reimagine these timeless classics in my own style."

Palak said, "I've sung on many stages before, but this one felt different. There was something profoundly moving about performing a tribute to legends like Raj Kapoor and Manoj Kumar Sir - icons whose films and songs were a constant presence in my home, playing in the background of quiet Sunday afternoons.

To share this stage with Mithoon, as partners in life and music, surrounded by 60 brilliant musicians, was nothing short of surreal. This act wasn't just a performance - it felt like we were part of something much bigger: a shared love for cinema and its timeless melodies that continue to unite generations. I'll hold this moment close to my heart forever."

Sony SAB's Pushpa Impossible: Celebrating 3 Years of Inspiring Storytelling and Relatable Characters That Resonate with Families Nationwide!

**Mumbai, 6th June:** Sony SAB's Pushpa Impossible has become much more than just a television show-it's a journey that millions of viewers have taken alongside Pushpa and her family. With its heartfelt storytelling and grounded characters, the show has beautifully captured the dreams, struggles, and small victories of everyday people. As Pushpa Impossible completes a remarkable three-year journey, it continues to strike an emotional chord with audiences, inspiring them with stories that are as real as they are uplifting.

At the center of this beloved narrative is Karuna Pandey, who brings unmatched honesty and depth to the role of Pushpa-a single mother with resilience, wit, and an unbreakable spirit. The show's charm is further elevated by a phenomenal ensemble cast including Anshul Trivedi (Jugal), Jayesh More (Dilip), Garima Parihar (Dipti), Darshan Gurjar (Chirag), Deshna Dugad (Rashi), and Naveen Pandita (Ashwin). Together, they portray a family that feels familiar- loving, imperfect, supportive, and ever-evolving. Their performances have built a strong emotional connection with viewers, making Pushpa Impossible a daily part of countless households.

What makes Pushpa Impossible stand out is its fearless approach to storytelling. From advocating for women's education and second chances to shining a light on mental health, the show consistently raises relevant questions while keeping the drama engaging and deeply personal. As it celebrates this milestone, Pushpa Impossible invites viewers to continue this inspiring journey-one where courage meets compassion, and ordinary lives turn into extraordinary stories.

Comments

**Karuna Pandey, playing the role of Pushpa:**

"Even after three years, I'm constantly amazed at how deeply Pushpa continues to connect with people from all walks of life. Whether it's a young student, a working mom, or a retired



teacher-someone always comes up and says, 'Pushpa feels like one of us.' That relatability is the soul of this show. We've evolved with the audience, and I think that's why the bond has only grown stronger. Pushpa's journey still feels fresh, relevant, and incredibly personal-not just to me, but to every viewer who's walked alongside her all these years."

**Janmnadas Majethia, producer of Hats Off Production:**

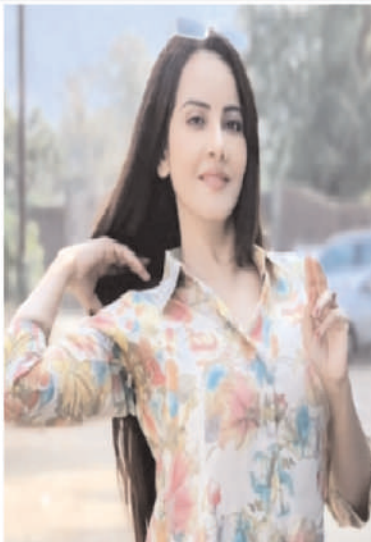
"Pushpa Impossible has always been more than a show-it's a reflection of real people and real lives. When we first created Pushpa's character, we wanted to tell a story that was rooted in truth but filled with hope. Three years later, the love and connection from our audience continues to overwhelm us. It's rare for a show to spark both emotion and empowerment in such equal measure, and I credit our incredible cast, writers, and the team at Sony SAB for keeping the soul of the story intact. Pushpa is every woman's voice, and we're proud to continue walking this journey with her."

**Tune in to watch Pushpa Impossible, every Monday to Saturday at 9 PM, only on Sony SAB**

Uncover the Monsoon Skincare Secrets of TV Actors!

**Mumbai, 6th June:** Monsoon is the favourite season of many; however, it also brings with it a fair share of skincare challenges. The increase in humidity and dampness can lead to various skin issues, from acne to dehydrated skin. To keep the skin happy, plump, and glowing, &TV artists share their best-kept secret for monsoon skincare regimes. These include Geetanjali Mishra (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan) and Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Geetanjali Mishra, aka Rajesh from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "Humidity makes my dry skin behave unpredictably, it feels sticky on the surface yet dehydrated underneath. To balance this, I rely on nourishing yet lightweight ingredients that keep my skin moisturised without feeling greasy.

My day starts with a simple cleansing mix of honey and curd. Honey acts as a natural humectant, and curd provides lactic acid, which gently exfoliates and hydrates. This combination helps cleanse, soften, and refresh my skin, prepping it for the day ahead. After cleansing, I apply a toner made with fresh cucumber juice and a drop of glycerin. It soothes inflammation, tightens pores, and



adds a light layer of moisture, perfect for combating the monsoon stickiness. Twice a week, I indulge in a banana and honey face mask. Bananas are rich in potassium and vitamins that nourish the skin deeply, while honey locks in moisture. This mask helps revive my skin's glow and combats dryness from long hours under makeup and studio lights. And no matter where I am, I carry a small

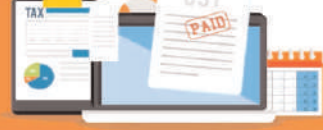
spray bottle of rose water in my bag. A quick spritz instantly refreshes and hydrates my face, especially during outdoor shoots in humid weather."

Vidisha Srivastava, aka Anita Bhabi from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, shares, "Monsoon season can be quite challenging for the skin, with the constant moisture and humidity often leading to clogged pores, excess oil, and breakouts. That's why I make it a point to keep my skincare routine simple yet effective during this time. One of my favourite remedies is a natural facial scrub made with two teaspoons of sea salt, one tablespoon of fresh lemon juice, and a few drops of olive oil. The sea salt acts as a gentle exfoliant, removing dead skin cells and unclogging pores, while the lemon juice brightens the complexion and helps control oiliness. Olive oil adds a nourishing touch, keeping the skin hydrated and soft after exfoliation. I use this scrub once or twice a week to deep clean my skin, leaving it feeling fresh, smooth, and invigorated, just what my skin needs to combat the monsoon's effects."

**Watch Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00pm and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!**

Monthly GST payment form 3B to become non-editable from July tax period

GSTR-3B



**New Delhi, 8 June:** GST Network (GSTN) on Saturday said the monthly GST payment form GSTR-3B will become non-editable from the July 2025 tax period. In an advisory, GSTN said taxpayers can make changes in declared outward supplies in GSTR-1A before filing their GSTR-3B in the same return period. Such changes will be auto-populated in tax payment form GSTR-3B. "From the July 2025 tax period for which form GSTR 3B will be furnished in August 2025, such auto populated liability will become non-editable. "Thus, taxpayers will be allowed to amend their auto-populated liability by making amendments through form GSTR 1A, which can be filed for the same tax period before filing of GSTR 3B," GSTN said.

GSTR-3B, a summary statement and monthly GST payment form, is filed in a staggered manner between the 20th, 22nd and 24th of every month for different categories of taxpayers. Currently, the GST portal provides a pre-filled GSTR-3B, where the tax liability gets auto-populated based on the outward supplies declared in GSTR-1/ GSTR-1A IFF. As of now, taxpayers can edit such auto-populated values in form GSTR 3B itself. AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the move to make GSTR-3B non-editable aims to tighten data consistency between GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B and curb revenue leakages. However, the availability of GSTR-1A for corrections before filing GSTR-3B is a welcome safeguard. "Taxpayers must now ensure real-time reconciliation and error correction before the return is filed. This places greater responsibility on businesses to enhance internal controls and avoid last-minute adjustments," Mohan added.



## Top Smart Cities in India and Their Impact on State Development (2025)

Over the past few decades, India has witnessed transformational growth, especially in the realms of technology, infrastructure, and urban governance. In 2025, smart cities are no longer confined to just artificial intelligence and IoT but have expanded their focus to include sustainability, smart healthcare, citizen safety, energy management, and efficient public services.

Today, India is home to 100 smart cities, each offering a suite of tech-driven services, from smart transportation to integrated healthcare and digital governance.

These cities serve as urban innovation labs, setting benchmarks in planning, design, and service delivery.

**What is the Smart Cities Mission?**

Launched on June 25, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Smart Cities Mission is a flagship initiative by the Government of India that aims to:

Enhance the quality of urban life, Promote economic growth and sustainability, Implement technology-driven solutions, Strengthen urban governance.

These cities incorporate AI, IoT, and big data to ensure efficient city planning and redefine urban development. The objective is to reengineer urban development by integrating smart technologies with sustainability and inclusiveness.

**How Many Smart Cities Are There in India?**

As of 2025, there are 100 designated smart cities in India.

These cities were selected based on a set of parameters including:

Urban population and growth potential

Infrastructure readiness

Governance and digital penetration

Economic and environmental sustainability

Maharashtra leads the list with 10 smart cities, followed by other major states like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh.

**Top 10 Smart Cities in India (2025)**

Here is a detailed look at the top 10 smart cities in India (not in rank order), based on innovation, infrastructure, implementation of smart solutions, and

citizen impact.

**1. Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

Bhubaneswar leads by example through projects like:

**Smart Janpath**

**BMC-ICOMC Tower**

**Integrated Public Service Center**

**Smart Roads**

This city combines design excellence, digital services, and sustainable planning. It is known

for high-quality urban development and partnerships with international tech firms.

**2. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Under initiatives like Swachh Lucknow and Sugam Lucknow, the city focuses on:

Smart waste management

Smart grids and water reuse

Digital governanceThe city promotes

livability, sustainability, and inclusive growth.

**3. Indore, Madhya Pradesh**

Famous for cleanliness, Indore is also a leader in:

Smart healthcare centers

Real-time waste tracking

IoT-driven classroom monitoring

Traffic and transport reforms

It's among India's most digitally advanced cities in urban infrastructure management.

**4. Surat, Gujarat**

Surat emphasizes area-based and parity development, including:

ICT-enabled transport

City-wide IT-MAC

Common City Payment System

It excels in real-time monitoring, efficient mobility, and public safety.

**5. Pune, Maharashtra**

Pune's Smart City Proposal includes:

**Affordable housing**

**Sustainable transit systems**

**Tech-integrated water supply and sewage**

The city is a front-runner in urban innovation and citizen feedback systems.

**6. Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**



TOP SMART CITIES IN INDIA AND THEIR IMPACT ON STATE DEVELOPMENT (2025)

Coimbatore stands out for:

**Eco-friendly infrastructure**

**Traffic mobility systems**

**Real-time CCTV surveillance**

It supports high growth in IT, real estate, and energy efficiency sectors.

**7. Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

With a focus on heritage and modernization, Ahmedabad has introduced:

**Intelligent Transit Management**

**Integrated Command Centres**

**Smart policing systems**

The city blends tradition with technological innovation.

**8. Kochi,**

**Kerala Kochi's masterplan includes:**

**Smart mixed-use zones**

**Sustainable housing and business hubs**

**Efficient waste and mobility systems**

Known for its clean environment and strong urban policies.

**9. Hyderabad, Telangana**

**Hyderabad focuses on:**

**Integrated surveillance**

**Smart transport and water systems**

It's a hub for tech startups and intelligent governance models.

**10. Jaipur, Rajasthan**

Jaipur combines tourism with technology by implementing:

**Public Bicycle Sharing**

**Tulip Internship Programs**

**Digital heritage management**

**It is promoting public health, reduced emissions, and youth empowerment.**

## For 17 years, she moved mountains: Chenab bridge expert recalls challenges to 'century-old dream'

Gali Madhavi Latha has lost count of how often the mountain slopes flanking the Chenab river sprang hidden surprises, forcing her team into real-time redesigns as they wrestled to build the world's highest railway arch bridge. Through their 17 years on the project, Latha and her colleagues embraced a "design-as-you-go" philosophy to build the 1,315-metre steel bridge, 359 metres above the Chenab, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to inaugurate on Friday. The bridge — 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower — is part of the 272km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link that features 36 tunnels and 943 bridges and will fulfil a century-old idea to connect Jammu and Srinagar through a railway line. A Vande Bharat train will run between Jammu and Srinagar along this route. "We knew from the start this would be an intensely challenging project," said Latha, a rock mechanics specialist and professor of civil engineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and a consultant for the project.

"What we didn't know were the



secrets the Mountain would throw at us," she told The Telegraph on Thursday.

The challenge was clear from the terrain, the geology and the sheer difficulty of just reaching the site, Latha said. She had first surveyed the site in 2005 after a boat ride along the Chenab and a gruelling climb up the steep mountain slopes on foot. That was 17 years before the construction was completed in 2022, with the last few years spent on exercises such as trial runs. The bridge required some 28,660 tonnes of steel — equivalent to nearly four Eiffel Towers — plus 66,000 cubic metres of

concrete and 26km of motorable roads to bring in cranes, other equipment and workers. Designed to last 120 years and handle train speeds up to 100kmph, the bridge can remain operational at 30kmph even if one of its eight piers fails.

The bridge has been built to withstand the forces of the earthquakes typically expected in the Himalayan region. When engineers from Northern Railway and Afcons

Infrastructure, the private entity engaged in the construction, began cutting into the slopes, they encountered several unexpected features in the rocks that required the engineers to revise the slope stability calculations. They discovered fragmented rocks held together by joints and hidden cavities — features that were not evident during the early ground surveillance ahead of construction but heightened the risk of rockslides. "Our objective was to design for worst-case scenarios to minimise the risk of rockslides," Latha said.

## Which Country is the Largest Producer of Apples in the World?

**Top Apple Producer:** China is the world's largest apple producer.

Apples are cultivated across many provinces, with Shandong, Shaanxi, and Henan leading in production. Read on to explore why apples are among the most consumed fruits worldwide, full of crunch, colour, and nutrition.

**Which Country is the Largest Producer of Apples in the World?**

China is the largest producer of apples in the world. It grows over 47.5 million metric tonnes of apples annually, accounting for more than 50% of global apple output. Chinese apples are mainly grown in the temperate northern and central regions of the country. Popular varieties include Fuji,



Gala, Qinguan, and Golden Delicious. China's apples are not only eaten domestically but also exported widely to Southeast Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

**How Many Apples Does China Produce?**

China grows an impressive 47,573 kilotonnes (kt) of apples every year. It is by far the largest apple-producing country, with over tentimes more output than the

next biggest producer. China's apples are known for their sweetness, crisp texture, and long shelf life. The apple industry in China plays a significant role in the rural economy, offering jobs to millions of farmers.

**China**

China produces more apples than the rest of the top four countries combined. The Fuji apple is the most popular variety and is known for its

sweetness and crunchy texture. China also leads in technological farming methods to improve quality and increase exports.

**Turkey**

Turkey ranks second in global apple production, producing 4,818 kt of apples annually. Apples are mostly grown in the Isparta, Nigde, and Karaman regions. Turkish apple varieties like Amasya are popular both for fresh eating and juice production. **United States**

The U.S. grows 4,429 kt of apples each year, mainly in Washington State, which contributes over 60% of the national supply. Top American apple varieties include Red Delicious, Gala, Honeycrisp, and Granny Smith. U.S. apples are exported to over 60 countries.

## Tactical Drones: India vs Israel vs Turkey

The modern battlefield has evolved significantly in the 21st century, with tactical drones emerging as game-changing assets. These unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) offer real-time surveillance, target acquisition, precision strikes, and electronic warfare capabilities. Among the global leaders in this field are India, Israel, and Turkey—each with unique technological trajectories, indigenous capabilities, and strategic doctrines.

This article presents a comprehensive comparison of the tactical drone ecosystems of these three nations, focusing on their development strategies, key platforms, operational effectiveness, and future trajectories.

**I. Understanding Tactical Drones**

What are Tactical Drones? Tactical drones are typically medium-range UAVs designed for use in battlefield reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting, and in some cases, direct attack missions. They are distinct from strategic or MALE (Medium Altitude Long Endurance) drones in terms of range, payload, and mission duration, offering more agility and adaptability in localized combat



scenarios.

**II. Israel: Pioneer and Export Giant**

Technological Superiority and Indigenous R&D

Israel is a world leader in UAV technology.

With a robust defense-industrial base and combat-tested platforms, Israeli drones are widely exported and have influenced drone warfare globally.

**Key Players:**

**Aerospace Industries (IAI)**

**Elbit Systems**

**Aeronautics Defense Systems**

**Notable Tactical Drones**

IAI Searcher & Heron (Mk I and II) — Used for tactical ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance).

Elbit Hermes 450 & 900 — Multi-role drones with electronic warfare and precision targeting capabilities.

SkyStriker — A loitering munition with autonomous strike

capabilities. Operational Experience

Israel's drones have seen extensive action in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Iranian theaters, demonstrating a mature operational doctrine. The IDF's drone corps is highly integrated into ground and air operations.

**Global Influence**

Israel is among the top drone exporters, supplying countries like India, Azerbaijan, Germany, and Singapore. Its technologies often serve as benchmark standards.

**III. Turkey: The Disruptor in Drone Warfare**

Rise of a New Drone Power

Turkey has emerged as a drone powerhouse, largely through Baykar Defense and Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI).

Driven by political will, defense self-sufficiency, and regional security concerns, Turkey's tactical drone industry has gained international prominence.

**Meet IIT JEE Advanced topper who got 334 marks out of 360, went to IIT Bombay but left after only a year due to..., he is now..**

Whenever one talks about the toughest competitive exam in India, the IIT JEE exam is the one that grabs the most attention. To pass the exam and get into a good college, many candidates begin to prepare after the results of Class 10 are released. The candidates who pass the IIT JEE exam with flying colours also manage to get admission into the prestigious IIT and are thus hired by multinational companies at a high-paying salary. It takes many sacrifices, dedication, hard work, and discipline to become an IIT graduate, which is why it is difficult to comprehend when someone decides to leave IIT to follow their passion. Let us tell you about one such candidate today, who passed the IIT JEE exam, and got admission into his dream institute but despite this, he decided to leave it all behind to follow his heart. We are talking about none other than Chitraang Murdia who secured AIR 1 in JEE Advanced 2014. After securing AIR 1 in JEE Advanced, Chitraang Murdia got to join IIT Bombay for further studies. However, he left the reputed institute after only a year to study Physics at the Massachusetts Institute



of Technology (MIT). Chitraang Murdia completed his Graduation in Physics from MIT in 2018 and then did his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in 2023. According to his LinkedIn, Chitraang Murdia is currently working as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Pennsylvania. In an earlier interview with Humans of Bombay, speaking about his decision to leave IIT Bombay, Chitraang Murdia said, "Everybody was shocked by this decision, and that included even my friends. People used to say that you are a kid and don't know how to take important decisions in your life and you will be earning in lakhs after receiving the Engineering degree from IIT." However, Chitraang Murdia always knew that his decision to follow his passion would surely inspire hundreds of others to follow suit.

**"Graduated With A Degree In Maths But...": This "Postwoman" Is Winning Hearts Online With Her Inspiring Story**

In a society that is not that sympathetic towards the hurdles a woman has to face even now, it is hard to make a mark. But there are many inspiring stories that can always be motivating enough for people, regardless of age or gender. The story of Akanksha Gaikwad is one of such kind. Shared on the Humans of Bombay LinkedIn page, a post about Akanksha and her journey of becoming a female postman is winning thousands of hearts. "You see the coat, khaki bag! This is chitthi? - I'm a postman! Yes, we still exist! And yes, I'm a female postman!" she said in the post. Akanksha, who graduated with a degree in Mathematics, revealed that she became a "postwoman" three years ago. "But it wasn't something I planned on becoming," she shared. She revealed that it was her father who pushed her to get a government job, following which she applied at the India Post. "I thought it would be a desk job...but I was told, 'You're to deliver letters!' I was taken aback," she said in the post. Akanksha said that out of 26 delivery 'guys', she was the only girl. Initially, her parents were hesitant about the job. "They thought, 'Ab beti ghum ghum ke chitthi

lejaygi?" she said, adding that she was hesitant to do about the job. "I also thought, 'Do people even write letters anymore?'" However,

within a month, she realised she was wrong. "During my 1st month, I'd walk for hours, going from house to house, delivering these letters & through that process, I met the sweetest people. Once, an old aunty opened the door & was shocked when she saw me. She said, 'I never knew women deliver letters too!' She called me inside & gave me a glass of cold water! She even offered me food but I politely refused," she said. Further, Akanksha shared "one of the best moments of her life". "Once when I was coming back home after a tiring day at work, a young girl who lived close by came to me & said, 'Didi, I want to be a postwoman too!' I was so touched!" she wrote.

Akanksha revealed that in the past 3 years, she has delivered more than 1 lakh letters to people. She said that her parents are proud of her too.

"Delivering letters gives



me so much peace...it makes me happy because in a way, I get to connect people. The anticipation with which they open the door & the smile that covers their face when they take their letter...no feeling is better!" she shared. Akanksha's story has gone viral on social media, with many calling it "inspiring". "There's something so pure, so grounding about stories like these, reminding us that connection doesn't need to be digital or loud to be real. Thank you for doing what you do Akanksha. You're not just delivering letters, you're delivering warmth people didn't know they needed. Truly touched," wrote one user. "Your story is truly inspiring, Akanksha. It reminds me of the power of stepping outside our comfort zones and embracing unexpected opportunities," commented another. "Your smile says it all. Keep up the good work," expressed a third user.

## Meet Colonel Sapna Rana: From Milking Cattles To Himachal's First Woman Army Commanding Officer- Awarded With The Prestigious Sena Medal

As part of its "Women of Impact" series, @thebetterindia recently shared Colonel Sapna Rana's incredible journey on their official Instagram page. This post not only resonated with celebrities but also with online communities, sparking a wave of admiration. Indian Army officer Colonel Sapna Rana has garnered media attention for her incredible rise from a small Himachal Pradesh village to the highest echelons of the armed forces. Sapna was born and raised in the Solan district's Bhawanipur.

Her life story is an inspiration to the strength of tenacity, hard effort, and a strong desire to help others. Colonel Sapna Rana's story, which began with him tending cattle and walking halfway to college to save money, strikes a deep chord. Her career path appeared to be far removed from the disciplined world of the military. Her father Rajender Thakur is a teacher and her mother Krishna Thakur is a housemaker. She finished her education and graduated from Solan. She served as the Senior Under Officer at 1 HP Girls NCC Battalion in



Solan during her college years, which marked the beginning of her path to military excellence. She was an extremely disciplined and committed cadet. She was notably the only NCC cadet from Himachal Pradesh to be chosen for the esteemed Kargil Vijay Camp in the Kargil district.

**A Career Marked By Excellence**

Colonel Rana enrolled in the Officers Training Academy in Chennai in 2003 after passing the Service Selection Board, and she was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Indian Army in 2004.

Commissioned into the Army Ordnance Corps in 2004, Sapna has held various prestigious appointments, including Commandant of the Army Ordnance Corps Centre and School.

She showed exceptional athleticism from her training, winning gold in obstacle course, cross-country, and Academy endurance training.

She currently commands an Army Service Corps battalion in the Northeast, a feat that makes her the first woman officer from Himachal Pradesh to achieve this distinction.

Throughout her career, Sapna has been recognized for her exceptional leadership skills, strategic thinking, and operational expertise. She has been awarded the prestigious Sena Medal and the Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card, and has also been recognized for her excellence in sports and shooting.

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## Meet The World's Youngest Taekwondo Instructor: 7-Year-Old Black Belt Girl Trained By Her Champion Parents. She Is Not From Korea, China, Or Japan; She Is...

World's Youngest Taekwondo Instructor: Have you ever imagined a girl, just seven years old, setting a Guinness World Record as the world's youngest Taekwondo instructor? Your answer is probably no. At an age when most children are busy playing games in parks, this young girl isn't from the US, Europe, China, Japan, or Korea. Infact, she hails from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, in India—and she is scripting history. With a powerful kick and an even stronger spirit, she is rewriting the rules of what children can achieve—and proving that age is just a number. At just seven years old, Samyuktha Narayanan isn't merely practicing Taekwondo—she's teaching it. Her journey from a toddler in a dobok (the traditional uniform worn by Taekwondo practitioners during training and



competitions) to becoming the world's youngest Taekwondo instructor is a tale of grit, passion, and a family legacy deeply rooted in martial arts. But Samyuktha's story isn't just about breaking records—it's about inspiring an entire generation to believe that no dream is too big, and no age too early, to start chasing it. At just seven years and 270 days old, Samyuktha Narayanan from Tamil Nadu's Madurai etched her name in history as the

world's youngest Taekwondo instructor, according to Guinness World Records. Samyuktha Narayanan achieved this remarkable feat on August 14, 2024. Samyuktha was practically raised on a dojo mat. Her parents, Shruthy and Narayanan, run the Madurai Taekwondo Academy, and their passion for martial arts naturally flowed into their daughter's life. She took her first martial arts steps at age

three. Inspiration runs deep in her family.

Her mother, Shruthy, once held a Guinness World Record for most elbow strikes in one minute, while her father, Narayanan, boasts records like breaking 29 flaming concrete blocks in 30 seconds. No surprise that Samyuktha aimed for greatness too. With Narayanan as her coach, Samyuktha began a disciplined journey—gradually advancing from a white belt to earning her black belt from the prestigious World Taekwondo Headquarters in Korea.

Her daily routine was nothing short of heroic. She trained like a pro—running 5 km, enduring intense workouts, and mastering complex Taekwondo techniques. Every drop of sweat pushed her closer to the black belt and her eventual world record.