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आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



हिमाचल व केंद्र की डबल इंजन सरकार ला रही सुस्पष्ट बदलाव

मुख्यमंत्री शगुन योजना

1 अप्रैल, 2021 से आरम्भ

निर्धन परिवारों की कन्याओं के विवाह के लिए
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योजना का लाभ लेने के लिए शादी से दो महीने पहले से लेकर शादी के 6 महीने बाद तक कर सकते हैं आवेदन। धनराशि सीधे आवेदक के बैंक खाते में करवाई जाती है जमा

योजना का लाभ लेने के लिए नज़दीकी आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्ता, बाल विकास परियोजना कार्यालय अथवा ज़िला कार्यक्रम अधिकारी कार्यालय में कर सकते हैं आवेदन

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Editorial

Figure it out

Afghanistan tops the list of unhappiest countries

The installation of Netaji's statue under the imperial canopy near India Gate nudged me into visiting the Central Vista for the first time in many years. I grew up in one of the sarkari colonies near the hexagonal park that encloses the canopy. Many hours of my childhood had been spent cycling past the canopy and down Rajpath, either to borrow books from the British Council library on Rafi Marg or to cycle up the great slope that led up to the Secretariat buildings for the extreme excitement of freewheeling down it again.

I had been reluctant to revisit this childhood place ever since the prime minister had announced its makeover because I didn't trust his aesthetic judgment and didn't want my earliest memories tampered with. Most parts of a modern city are transformed over half a century but the Central Vista hadn't been and there was a certain comfort in that. But in the end, it's absurd trying to unsee the heart of a city, so on Friday, I drove down to see Netaji newly installed.

Getting there wasn't easy. The hexagon is, in effect, a giant roundabout surrounded by a massively wide road where the cars never stop. I found a red light near Shahjahan Road that stopped traffic for just long enough to let me jog across. The nearest radial road that led to the canopy was blocked by police barriers; the only way in was via metal detector gates near Rajpath.

There were hundreds of men in fatigues sitting on the lawns and nearly as many civilians who, like me, had come to look at the statue and reclaim the lawns that had been cordoned off for so long. I can report that at this stage of Narendra Modi's pharaonic project, the vista looks relatively unchanged. The office buildings on either side of Rajpath aren't visible yet and the underground subways that connect pedestrians to the lawns beyond the hexagon use red sandstone that's consistent with the architecture of the concourse. The fountains work and the shallow rectangular pools that flank Rajpath are blue with clear water.

Squinting down Rajpath (it was just past noon and the sun was scorching), the India Gate lawns seemed renovated rather than transformed. It was as if a superior Residents Welfare Association had been given a free hand in fixing the place up and it had done what RWAs do: cordoned it off, expelled the vendors, stopped the maidan cricket and beautified the place by filtering the pools, filtering out the people, and tending the lawns.

Under the Taliban regime, Afghanistan ranked first among the list of unhappiest countries in terms of physical pain, mental stress, mental disorders triggered by poverty and unemployment, anxiety, and anger, as per a report by a global analytics firm.

Since Taliban took over authority in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of US forces, Afghans' emotional state reflected the instability and uncertainty as per the survey report.

According to Gallup's Negative Experience Index, a total of 80 pc Afghans are worried and disturbed, 74 pc in mental stresses induced by poverty and unemployment, while the condition of 61 pc of Afghans are defined as 'sad.'

In 2021, worry, tension, and sadness reached all-time highs in Afghanistan. Moreover, 53 pc of Afghans wished to leave the country in a survey conducted in August and September 2021, reported Khaama Press.

Right after the Taliban took over in August 2021, the first two months were particularly difficult for many Afghan civilians.

As Afghanistan continues to witness a debilitating rights situation, the UN body for human



itarian affairs expressed concerns over the grave condition pointing out that 25 million people in the country are living in poverty, media reports said.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Afghanistan and the World Food Program (WFP) has voiced concerns over the rising food insecurity and poverty that has gripped the country's people. Afghanistan's local media Tolo News reported. Taking to Twitter, UNOCHA in

Afghanistan said that 25 million people in Afghanistan are facing poverty. "19 million people are facing food insecurity, 25 million people are living in poverty, 5.8 million people are in protracted internal displacement, and thousands of houses are damaged by floods and earthquakes. To survive the winter, they require food, nutrition support, warm clothing & a roof over their heads," tweeted OCHA. Meanwhile, the World Food Program has voiced concerns about the economic crisis in Afghanistan. "The economic

crisis wiped out jobs, salaries & livelihoods across Afghanistan, helping families & communities support themselves is more important than ever," said WFP on Twitter.

"A nation cannot reach prosperity until the poverty and unemployment are eradicated, so the way that can end poverty and unemployment is strengthening the private sector, attracting investment and creating employment in the country," said Abdul Naseer, a political analyst. Moreover, Human rights groups called on the United Nations for

stronger accountability in Afghanistan. In an open letter to the UN, they called for the establishment of a dedicated accountability mechanism by the Human Rights Council (HRC), alongside the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, reported Tolo News.

"The signatory organizations call your attention to the deplorable state of human rights in Afghanistan and in particular the absolute lack of accountability for gross and systematic human rights violations and abuses, including crimes under international law, occurring in Afghanistan, especially against women and girls, ethnic and religious minorities, journalists, and human rights defenders," the letter read.

Richard Bennett is the current UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, and the renewal of his post was called for in the open letter, reported Tolo News.

"The Western countries will call for the renewal of Richard Bennett. China and Russia will also accept it but the report of Richard Bennett is made from outside Afghanistan. For better transparency, it is better than

Richard Bennett to stay in Kabul and write the report from Kabul," said Tarek Farhadi, a political analyst.

This comes as the Taliban has repeatedly denied the reports of the violations of human rights, and called them baseless, reported Tolo News. The Taliban stressed that it is committed to human rights and women's rights based on Islamic values.

Since the Taliban seized power in Kabul last year, the human rights situation has been exacerbated by a nationwide economic, financial and humanitarian crisis of unprecedented scale.

The Taliban dismantled the system to respond to gender-based violence, created new barriers to women accessing health care, blocked women's aid workers from doing their jobs, and attacked women's rights protesters.

With the US troops' withdrawal from the country, large-scale violence has been unleashed creating political uncertainty in different parts of the country.

At least 59 per cent of the population is now in need of humanitarian assistance - an increase of 6 million people compared with the beginning of 2021, according to UNAMA.

Health

Queen Elizabeth's funeral to take place on Sept 19

The state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II will take place at Westminster Abbey on September 19, a statement by the UK Royal Family said. "The State Funeral of Her Majesty The Queen will take place at Westminster Abbey on Monday 19th September at 11:00 hrs BST. Prior to the State Funeral, The Queen will Lie-in-State in Westminster Hall for four days, to allow the public to pay their respects," it read.

Prior to the funeral, The Queen will Lie-in-State in Westminster Hall for four days, to allow the public to pay their respects.

The Queen's Coffin currently rests in the Ballroom at Balmoral Castle. Her coffin will travel to Edinburgh on Sunday by road, to arrive at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, where it will rest in the Throne Room until the afternoon of Monday.

On the afternoon of Monday, a Procession will be formed on the forecourt of the Palace of Holyroodhouse to convey the Coffin to St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. The King and Members of the Royal Family will take part in the Procession and attend a Service in St Giles' Cathedral to receive the coffin.

Queen Elizabeth's coffin will then lie at rest in St Giles' Cathedral, guarded by Vigils from The Royal Company of Archers, to allow the people of Scotland to pay their respects.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Queen's Coffin will travel from Scotland by Royal Air Force aircraft from Edinburgh Airport, arriving at RAF Northolt later that



evening. The coffin will be accompanied on the journey by the Princess Royal.

The Queen's coffin will then be conveyed to Buckingham Palace by road, to rest in the Bow Room. On the afternoon of Wednesday, the Coffin will be borne in Procession on a Gun Carriage of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery from Buckingham Palace to the Palace of Westminster, where The Queen will Lie-in-State in Westminster Hall until the morning of the State Funeral.

The Procession will travel via Queen's Gardens, The Mall, Horse Guards and Horse Guards Arch, Whitehall, Parliament Street, Parliament Square and New Palace Yard. After the coffin arrives at Westminster Hall, The Archbishop of Canterbury will conduct a short service assisted by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster, and attended by The King and Members of the Royal Family, after which the Lying-in-State will begin.

India issues advisory for students planning to study in China

India has issued a detailed advisory related to studying at Chinese medical schools as thousands of enrolled students continue to remain stuck at home amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 23,000 Indian students enrolled in various Chinese universities have been affected by the Chinese visa ban.

"Embassy of India in Beijing has been receiving several queries from prospective Indian students and their parents with respect to seeking admission for undergraduate clinical medicine programme in China," the embassy said in a statement on September 8.

China in July said that the country has made progress on facilitating the return of Indian students and is working in tandem with relevant departments to see that the first batch of Indian students can come back to study in China at the earliest.

The Indian Embassy also shared the link to a study conducted by the National Board of Examination to highlight that only 6387 out of 40,417 students, who appeared in the FMG Examination from 2015 to 2021 have cleared it.



"The study shows that only 6387 out of 40,417 students, who appeared in FMG Examination from 2015 to 2021 have cleared it. Here, the pass percentage of Indian students who have studied clinical medicine programme in China in that period in these 45 universities was only 16 per cent," it statement further added. Indian students pursuing medicine from Chinese Universities are unable to return to China to attend classes due to COVID-19-induced restrictions. Earlier, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

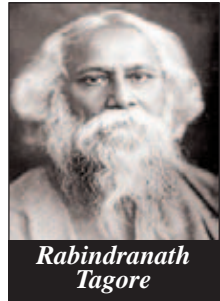
in his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting also stressed the need for expediting the process of return of Indian students to China to attend classes at an early date.

In order to facilitate the return of Indian students, Jaishankar met with Wang Yi on March 25. Earlier in April, the Chinese side had expressed its willingness to consider facilitating the return of Indian students to China on a need-assessed basis, said the Indian Embassy in China.

POEMS

My Polar Star

I have made You the polar star of my existence; never again can I lose my way in the voyage of life. Wherever I go, You are always there to shower your beneficence all around me. Your face is ever present before my mind's eyes. If I lose sight of You even for a moment, I almost lose my mind. Whenever my heart is about to go astray, just a glance of You makes it feel ashamed of itself..



Rabindranath Tagore

Rabindranath Tagore

Pakistan in severe liquidity crunch amid ravaging floods

Pakistan's macroeconomic vulnerabilities are not going anywhere as the country is reeling under a severe dollar liquidity crunch while the recent flash floods have aggravated.

This comes despite a resumption of the IMF programme after a pause of seven months, reported The News International. Top govt sources said that Pakistan's macroeconomic vulnerabilities are not going anywhere without improving dollar injections. Pakistan has not yet made any fresh request to the IMF for the provision of a Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) or Natural Calamity Response-related funding facility on the expectations of a lukewarm response from the Washington-based international lender. The IMF programme under USD 6.5 billion was restored in late Au-



gust after it was stalled in February 2022 under Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regime when it provided unfunded fuel and electricity subsidies, reported The News International.

Moreover, in the wake of severe floods, the initially estimated losses have accumulated in the range of USD 18 billion, Pakistan's agriculture sector

faces the worst blow as the agriculture growth might remain zero or slide into negative against the envisaged target of 3.9 per cent for the current financial year 2022-23. The worst performance of the agriculture sector will put pressure on increased demand for commodities imports and if Pakistan fails to generate desired levels of dollar inflows it might create food shortages in the current fiscal year, reported The News International. "The situation has aggravated as demand for imports has gone up manifold but the country does not have enough dollars. So in totality, the exchange rate has gone under immense pressure in recent days whereby the rupee nosedived 9 per cent against the US dollar," top official sources said while talking to The News here on Friday.

It is estimated that Pakistan will have to import additional cotton worth USD 2 billion during the current fiscal year because it witnessed severe damages in the wake of flash floods affecting those areas of Sindh where the cotton production was destroyed completely. Now the government will have to de-water the areas where sowing of wheat is done, otherwise, there is a potential threat of less production in the range of 3 to 5 million tonnes. The minor crops of onion and tomato were also damaged in KP and Sindh. The demand for the import of pulses might also go up for the current fiscal year.

Another problem may emerge on the trade front as the country's exports rely upon imports on accounts of raw material and inter-mediatory goods as

value was added for exporting finished products, reported The News International. In the wake of the increased economic losses and reduced GDP growth, the per capita income is projected to slow down. The government had envisaged a GDP growth rate of 5 per cent for the current fiscal year. Moreover, poverty and unemployment will go up manifold from 21.9 per cent to over 36 per cent. Some 37 per cent population was hit by poverty after floods in 118 districts, as estimated by the Pakistan government. A high-profile committee with representation from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, State Bank of Pakistan, FBR, PIDE and others evaluated that poverty and unemployment have gone up manifold, rising from 21.9 per cent to over 36 per cent.

CM expresses grief on Sharma death



UNA: Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who came to Una district on a two-day stay, today condoled the death of senior journalist Surendra Sharma at his home in Una. The Chief Minister asked his family members for their well being and expressed his deep condolences. He also prayed for the peace of the departed soul. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur along with Chairman of 6th State Finance Commission Satpal Singh, Vice Chairman of Himachal Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Prof. Ram Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Una Raghav Sharma and other dignitaries were present.

Rules soon for promotion to Panchayat watchmen: Kanwar



UNA: The notification of the policy announced on August 15, 2022 for Panchayat Chowkidars will be issued soon, which will directly benefit thousands of Panchayat Chowkidars across the state. Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Virendra Kanwar said this at the Panchayat Chowkidar State Level Gratitude Conference at Samur Kalan. Kanwar said that in the last five and a half years, there has been a cordial relationship with the employees of the State Government and all the demands of the employees have been fulfilled in a cordial atmosphere. While the regular employees have been given the benefit of the Sixth Pay Commission, there has also been an unprecedented increase in the honorarium of workers, Anganwadi workers and helpers, ASHA workers and public representatives associated with Panchayati Raj institutions.

CM inaugurates developmental projects worth about 20 cr

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA SEPT 11

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur inaugurated 8 developmental projects of Jal Shakti Vibhag worth about Rs. 20 crore for Haroli assembly constituency of Una district today. He inaugurated Rs. 4.50 crore functional tap water connection scheme to left out households in Haroli, Rs. 4.65 crore multi village piped water supply scheme in Ispur Zone, Rs. 4.40 crore multi village piped water supply schemes in Barthri Zone, Rs. 2.10 crore multi villages piped water supply schemes in Dharampur, Rs. 2.07 WSS to village Palakwah, Rs. 69 lakh tubewell No. 30 at khad, Rs. 75 lakh lift irrigation scheme at Panjuana and Rs. 68 lakh water quality and monitoring training centre at Palkwah in tehsil Haroli. While addressing a mammoth public meeting at Kangra ground at Haroli, the Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Government of India for in-principal approval of Bulk Drug Pharma Park to the State. He said that this Park would be spread over an area of 1,405 acres at Pollian in Haroli and would prove a game changer for the people of the area. With an expected investment of



around Rs. 50,000 crore, this project would provide direct employment to about 30,000 persons. He said that 90 percent of the project cost with the maximum limit of Rs. 1000 crore would be provided by the Government of India. He said that it was strange that some leaders of this constituency opposed this mega project as they feared that this would harm their political prospects. Jai Ram Thakur said that it was indeed a matter of honour for our people as the State was celebrating 75 years of its existence. He said that the State Government was celebrating this

event in a befitting manner by organizing 75 events throughout the State. Main objective of organizing these events was to showcase the developmental journey of the State during these 75 years, urging the people to actively participate in these events and be part of this glorious 75 years journey of the State. Chief Minister said that the contribution of the present State Government to bring investment in the State was far more as compared to the investment attracted during the

tenure of the former Industries Minister of the State. He said that it was for the first time that a mega Global Investors Meet was organized in Dharamshala in November, 2019 in which 703 MoUs with an investment of Rs. 96,721 crore were signed. He said that ground breaking of 240 projects amounting to Rs. 13,656 crore was held at Shimla and second such ground breaking ceremony was performed by the Prime Minister at Mandi on 27th December, 2021 on the occasion of completion of four years tenure of the state government in which 287 projects worth Rs. 28,197 crore were grounded. He said that all this was possible due to the investor friendly policies framed by the State Government to facilitate the investors. Jai Ram Thakur said that the people of the State had made up their mind to once again bring BJP in power so that the pace of development goes uninterrupted. He said that in a desperate bid to come in power, the opposition leaders were making tall promises to woo the voters of the State.

Sathapna Ke 75 Varsh programme held at Gondpur Banehra



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, SEPT 11

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur while presiding over Pragtisheel Himachal : Sathapna Ke 75 Varsh' programme at Gondpur Banehra in Gagret Vidhan Sabha area of Una district, thanked every citizen of Himachal Pradesh for their contribution in making the State strong and vibrant over these 75 years.

Chief Minister said that today when the whole nation was celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Himachal Pradesh was also celebrating 75 years of its existence. He said that the State Government was celebrating this event in a befitting manner to thank everyone who has contributed

towards making the State where it stands today. He said that this initiative of the State Government was not going well with the Congress leaders, which was unfortunate and uncalled for. He said that the Congress leaders were seeing political motive in celebration of this historic event, which shows the mindset of their leaders.

Jai Ram Thakur said that the State over these years has made unprecedented development and credit of this goes to every Himachali and vision of leadership provided by successive governments. He said that the literacy rate at the time of formation of the State was only 4.8 per cent, whereas today it has gone upto over 83 per cent.

Women completely unsafe under BJP rule: Netta D'Souza

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, SEP 11

National Mahila Congress President Netta D'Souza, during a press conference in Dharamshala, attacked the state BJP government fiercely and said that women are feeling completely insecure during the BJP rule. She said that the Chief Minister of the State Jai Ram Thakur talks about Gudiya Help Line, which has become a helpless today. D'Souza said that even today 8409 cases related to women are pending in the state. Targeting BJP MLA from Dharamshala Vishal Nehria, She said that the Chief Minister himself should tell the public why his wife was harassed by a BJP MLA even



though a case is also registered regarding this incident. Netta D'Souza said that today the situation is such that even a common woman, a woman IAS officer from a distant state is also fighting for her rights. Senior IS officer Nisha Singh was forced to say that women are being discriminated against here. Women are not heard. Good governance is being claimed, but the situation of good governance is that a woman IAS raises questions from the government and

administration. Write a complaint to the Chief Minister and the Chief Minister turns his back instead of taking action and reply. Netta D'Souza said that the people of Dharamshala have been misled by the BJP government in the name of development. D'Souza said that the BJP gave gas cylinders to women under the Ujjwala gas scheme, but the cylinders were made so expensive that today the cylinder has crossed Rs 1100.

AAP guarantees will change HP: Pankaj Pandit

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, SEP 11

During the press conference in Dharamshala, Aam Aadmi Party State Spokesperson Pankaj Pandit said that Himachal Pradesh will be strengthened by the ten guarantees of Aam Aadmi Party. Pankaj Pandit said that Kejriwal's ten guarantees to the people of Himachal, education, health, martyr honor guarantee, women's honor guarantee, panchayat guarantee, pilgrimage guarantee for the elderly, guarantee for gardeners and farmers,



guarantee for traders and tourists, Employment guarantee and corruption free Himachal guarantee have been announced. Giving good and free education to every child of Himachal, all government schools like Delhi will be made brilliant and like Delhi, private schools in

Himachal Pradesh will also not be allowed to increase fees unjustifiably. Free and good treatment will be arranged for every citizen and all medicines, tests and operations will be done free of cost on the lines of Delhi and Mohalla Clinic will be opened in every village and ward of Himachal like Delhi. All road accident patients will be given free treatment facilities all over Himachal. If soldiers of the Indian Army and Himachal Police die while in service, then their family will be given a martyr's honor amount of Rs 1 crore.

NUJ membership begins

S GAUTAM
BADDI, SEPT 11

The State Level Core Committee meeting of the National Union of Journalists (India) Himachal Pradesh unit was held at Parwanoo in Solan district. State President Rajesh Rana presided over meeting and said that from September 11, it was decided to conduct a fresh membership drive in the entire state for one month. Only after this the reorganization of districts and divisions will take place. All journalists who become members by paying



prescribed fee, same list will be sent to the New Delhi National Office he, added. He demanded that journalist demand must be included by parties in election manifesto. State Vice President Surendra Sharma and Spokesperson Shyam Lal Pundir expressed regret that

the present BJP government has not done a single work for interests of journalists. Neither did the Himachal government make provision for pension on the lines of Haryana-Punjab and Rajasthan nor did they take appropriate steps for their social security.

Punjab Government

led by
Chief Minister
Bhagwant Mann
pays glowing tributes to the

Brave Soldiers of The 36th Sikhs Battalion

for exemplary valour and unique sacrifice in the historic

BATTLE OF SARAGARHI

on its
125TH ANNIVERSARY

**Chief Minister
Bhagwant Mann**

Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab

