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NEWS BRIEFS

Muslim man booked for forcibly converting Hindu woman to Islam

BAREILLY: Police have booked a Muslim man for allegedly luring a Hindu woman through social media by posing as a Hindu, forcibly converting her to Islam, feeding her beef and pushing her into prostitution, officials said on Wednesday. Circle Officer (CO) Arun Kumar Singh said, "The victim, a woman from Kolkata with no family, has alleged that she had come to Rudrapur in Uttarakhand for work. A year ago, she connected with a man on a social media platform who identified himself as 'Rajveer' and claimed to be Hindu. "She alleged that he established a relationship under the pretext of marriage, and even put 'sindoor' on her forehead, declaring her his wife."

Sensex jumps 540 points on value buying

MUMBAI: The Indian stock market settled in positive territory on Wednesday following buying in banking, financial services, automobiles and health-care sectors amid positive global cues surrounding the US-Japan trade pact. Sensex closed at 82,726.64, up 539.83 or 0.66 per cent. The 30-share index opened with a decent gap-up at 82,451.87 against last session's closing value of 82,186.81. The index soared further to hit an intraday high of 82,786.43, following buying interest in heavyweights like Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel and ICICI Bank. Nifty 50 closed at 25,219.90, up 159 points or 0.63 per cent. "The day was characterised by robust performance across key sectors such as Banking, Financial Services, Automobiles, Healthcare, and Information Technology. In contrast, pockets of weakness persisted in Realty, Media, Consumer Goods, and Metals, reflecting a sectorally bifurcated landscape," said Ashika Institutional Equities in its note.

Heavy rains lash Delhi-NCR, IMD issues red alert

UNI NEW DELHI: Heavy rains battered parts of Delhi-NCR today morning, causing waterlogging and traffic disruptions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for the region, warning of moderate to heavy showers, thunderstorms, and gusty winds reaching speeds up to 30-40 kmph. Localities falling under the red alert include Preet Vihar, Shahdara, Seelampur, Vivek Vihar, Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad, Palwal, Hodal, Aligarh, Bulandshahr, and Mathura. An orange alert has also been issued for north-west and southwest Delhi, along with neighbouring regions in Haryana and Rajasthan, where light to moderate rain is expected. In related developments, the Public Works Department (PWD) is planning major infrastructure upgrades at three key intersections, including routes leading to Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS), and ITO.

India-UK FTA to be signed today, exports to benefit from zero duty

AGENCY NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday departed for the United Kingdom on the first leg of his two-nation visit. The visit to the UK from July 23-24 is aimed at boosting bilateral ties, with the signing of the much-awaited India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as a key highlight. The India-UK FTA, has been under negotiation for three years.

This agreement is expected to eliminate tariffs on 99% of Indian exports to the UK and reduce tariffs on 90% of British products. The FTA is projected to double bilateral trade by 2030, from the current USD 60 billion mark. It will also make it easier for British firms to export products like whisky and cars to India. According to the MEA, PM Modi will hold wide-ranging discussions with his UK counterpart, Keir Starmer, on the entire gamut of India-UK bilateral relations. They will also exchange views on issues of regional and global importance. Over the years, the India-UK historical ties, have transformed into a robust, multi-faceted, mutually beneficial relationship. The relationship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2021. New Delhi and London have seen sustained and frequent high-level political engagements. Prime Minister Modi has met UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer twice over the past year. They met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Brazil in November 2024 and again during the G7 Summit in June 2025. Both leaders also had mul-



ti-ple telephonic conversations over the period. A significant marker of the strength of ties is the five Ministerial level Institutional Mechanisms in strategic, economy & finance, trade, energy, science and technology, between the two countries. Other recently held dialogues include Foreign Office Consultation, Defence Consultation Group, 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue. On the economic front, bilateral trade has surpassed a record USD 55 billion in 2024, marking an increase of approximately 10 per cent over 2023. The conclusion of India-UK FTA announced on May 6, 2025 by both Prime Ministers, has been a major milestone in bilateral ties. The two countries have seen sustained and high-level cooperation across several fronts. PM Modi will hold wide-ranging talks with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, covering

trade, defense, climate, innovation, and education. He will also meet King Charles III. India and the UK will discuss strengthening their defense and security ties, including regular military exchanges and collaboration on critical technologies like artificial intelligence and semiconductors. PM Modi is likely to raise the issue of Khalistani extremists in the UK, who have been a concern for India. The UK government has assured India that it will take necessary actions to address this issue. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misra said that the issue of Khalistani extremists and related groups is a matter of concern for India, and it has been brought to the attention of partners in the United Kingdom. Discussions have also taken place between India and the UK regarding the extradition of fugitives to India, Misra said.

Parliament disrupted for third straight day amid Oppn ruckus

UNI NEW DELHI, JULY 23

For the third consecutive day today, both Houses of Parliament were adjourned after Opposition members created a ruckus in support of their demands, including demanding withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar.

As soon as the Lok Sabha resumed at 2 PM, presiding officer Krishna Prasad Tenneti began the proceedings, but the Opposition members stormed into the well of the House shouting slogans.

Appealing to the protesting members, Tenneti asked them to allow the House to consider the important bill



related to the reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribe members in the Goa Legislative Assembly.

He emphasised that since this is a matter concerning tribal communities, all members should cooperate. He also pointed out that two days had already been wasted due to the ongoing disruptions.

He told the protesting Opposition members, "You have come with placards — this is not appropriate. You don't want to discuss the bill related to the tribes of Goa." Despite repeated appeals from Tenneti, the commotion continued, prompting him to adjourn the House for the day.

Wild elephants trample three persons to death in Chhattisgarh

AGENCY RAIGARH, JULY 23

Two elephants went on the rampage and trampled three individuals, including a three-year-old boy, to death at two places in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh, officials said on Wednesday. A female elephant and her calf destroyed a few houses in Gosaidih village in Anglikala area on Tuesday night and trampled three-year-old Satyam Rawat to death. The two jumbos then strode to Mohanpur village and attacked Santara Bai Rathi-



ya (46) and Purushottam Khadia (48), leading to their death, said Jitendra Upadhyay, Divisional Forest Officer of Dharamjaigarh. Both incidents occurred in the Lailunga forest range under the Dharamjaigarh forest division.

4 Kanwariyas killed after hit by car in Gwalior



AGENCY GWALIOR: Four Kanwar pilgrims were killed and others injured when a speeding car hit them on the Gwalior-Shivpuri link road in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district. The accident occurred near Sheeta Mata Mandir Tihara under the jurisdiction of Jhansi Road Police station, a police officer said. The incident took place on the Gwalior-Shivpuri link road, where the Kanwariyas were walking on the roadside. A car traveling at high speed had a burst tire, causing the driver to lose control and collide with the pilgrims. Four Kanwariyas died in the accident, while six others sustained injuries. Three of the deceased died on the spot, and one succumbed to injuries during treatment, the officer added. The police rushed to the scene, admitted the injured to the hospital, and are investigating the matter.

Speaking to a news agency, City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Hina Khan said, "We received information that an incident has happened on the Sheeta Mata Highway (Gwalior-Shivpuri link road) in which some Kanwar pilgrims were hit by a speeding car. Acting on it, the police reached the spot and found three persons had died on the spot while three other persons who were seriously injured were admitted to JAH (Jaya Arogya Hospital). Among the injured, one more person died during treatment."

EC starts preparations for Vice President's election

UNI NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Two days after Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned citing health reasons, the Election Commission of India has started preparations to conduct an election for the second highest constitutional post in the country.

The central government on Tuesday notified the resignation of Dhankhar, an official communique issued here on Wednesday said.

"The election to the office of the Vice President of India is governed by The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the rules made thereunder, namely the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules,



1974. Accordingly, the Election Commission of India has already started the preparations relating to the Vice-Presidential Elections, 2025," it said. The election schedule, it said, would be declared once the required preparations are made by the Election Commission the official document added. According to the constitution, to fill the vacant post of Vice President, in case the vacancy arises due to death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, the election is organised as early as possible. The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has a majority in both the houses of the parliament, which clearly gives it an upper hand in the election as votes from members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha decide it.

Heavy rainfall in Rajouri district for 3 consecutive days triggers landslides, damages houses

AGENCY RAJOURI, JULY 23

Heavy rainfall in the Kalakote division of the Rajouri district for three consecutive days has triggered landslides, damaging houses and leading to road blockades. The Assistant Development Commissioner (ADC) of Kalakote, Tanveer Hussain Khan, reported that teams are working around the clock to address the situation. All schools, government and private, are closed for the second day due to heavy rainfall. Rajouri district has experienced flash floods and landslides due to heavy rainfall. Authorities have responded by setting up control rooms for emergency assis-



tance and advising residents to stay indoors and avoid travelling through landslide-prone areas. "Today it is raining for the third consecutive day.

SC to form Bench to hear Justice Varma's plea against in-house inquiry report



UNI NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today said it will constitute a bench to hear the petition filed by Justice Yashwant Varma challenging the in-house inquiry committee's report that indicted him in the cash-at-residence case. The matter was mentioned before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and Joyymalya Bagchi. Senior Advocates Kapil Sibal, Mukul Rohatgi, Rakesh Dwivedi, Sidharth Luthra, Siddharth Aggarwal, along with Advocates George Pothan Poothicote and Manisha Singh, appeared for Justice Varma. "We have filed the petition on behalf of the Allahabad High Court judge. Some constitutional issues are involved. I request you to constitute a bench as soon as possible," submitted the counsel team. CJI Gavai responded, "It may not be proper for me to take up this matter. We will just take a call and constitute a bench." Justice Varma has also challenged the recommendation made by former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna to the President and Prime Minister to initiate impeachment proceedings against him. In his petition, he alleged that the in-house inquiry committee made findings without giving him a fair opportunity to respond. The petition states that the committee proceeded in a "pre-determined fashion" and, even without finding any concrete evidence, merely drew adverse inferences after reversing the burden of proof.

Hry CM inaugurates renovated Nature Camp Thapali in Morni

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

Haryana Government is consistently working to promote tourism and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. As part of these efforts, Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini today inaugurated the renovated Nature Camp Thapali in the Morni region of Panchkula district. On this occasion, he also inaugurated the newly renovated Eco-Kutir and reviewed the facilities at the Ayurvedic Panchkarma Centre, taking stock of the available ayush services.

Environment, Forest and Wildlife Minister Rao Narbir Singh and Kalka MLA Smt. Shakti Rani Sharma were also present on the occasion. The Chief Minister also flagged off the first group of trekkers on the natu-



ral trekking trail from Kalka to Kalsar. This trail will attract the youth of Haryana towards adventure tourism and contribute to the state's emerging identity as a hub for nature and adventure tourism. He stated that adventure tourism resonates with the interests of today's young generation and would not only expand tourism but also gen-

erate new employment opportunities for local youth. The Chief Minister also promoted environmental conservation by planting saplings at Triphala Vatika in the Morni area. Emphasizing the state's commitment to preserving and sustainably developing natural resources, he said, we are making continuous efforts to link tourism not only with entertainment but also with nature, culture, and health.

During the visit, he visited the Climate Change Learning Lab at the Nature Camp. Designed especially for children, this lab helps them understand the causes and solutions to environmental issues through interactive

games. The lab aims to foster scientific awareness and instill a sense of environmental responsibility among young minds.

Highlighting the region's natural charm, the Chief Minister said that Morni's scenic beauty, biodiversity, and serene environment make it ideal for eco-tourism. The government envisions developing the area as a model of holistic eco-tourism, integrating local community participation and cultural heritage.

He added that while improved infrastructure in these hilly areas would attract more tourists, it would also provide new livelihood opportunities for the local population. By promoting health tourism, yoga, Ayurveda, and adventure-based activities, the state aims to drive sustainable tourism development.

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its drive against corruption in the state has arrested Varinder Goyal, posted as Reader to President, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Tarn Taran, while he was receiving a bribe of Rs 50000. Disclosing this here today an official spokesperson of the state VB said the said accused has been apprehended based on a complaint filed by a resident of village Deo, in Tarn Taran district. He further added that the complaint has approached the VB alleging that her husband was an ASI who had expired in an accident in the year 2022. A case for compensation amounting to Rs 30,00,000 was approved by Punjab Police Department and sent to HDFC Bank for payment. Afterwards, the bank refused to pay the said compensation on flimsy grounds and she lodged a case in District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Tarn Taran. The spokesperson informed that the aforementioned accused has demanded 10 percent of the compensation amounting to Rs 300,000 as a bribe to help in getting the judgement in her favour. After preliminary verification of this complaint, the VB team laid a trap during which the accused was caught red handed while accepting first instalment of bribe of Rs 50,000 in presence of two official witnesses.

NEWS BRIEF

Gold, cash recovered in Raikot theft case



SUKH NAHAR JAGRAON: Under its campaign against anti-social elements being carried out under the guidance of SSP Dr. Ankur Gupta, District Ludhiana Rural Police successfully recovered jewellery stolen a few months ago and arrested two individuals. Sharing details with the press, SHO Amarjit Singh of Raikot City Police Station stated that on the night of March 5, 2025, an elderly widow, Sanah Lata, wife of late Lalpat Rai, residing in Professor Colony, was targeted by unidentified individuals who broke into her house while she was away. "Being alone, the elderly woman would often spend the nights at a relative's home, which gave the culprits an opportunity to commit the theft. Investigations revealed that Gurpreet Singh alias Roda, a neighbor and close friend of the deceased son Vishal Sabharwal, who was well aware of the household, masterminded the crime," he added. SHO further said that he conspired with two accomplices - Chamkaur Singh alias Doctor and Amritpal Singh alias Amrit, son of Harnet Singh, resident of Sekha (Barnala) - to carry out the theft. Raikot City Police registered a case.

Punjab Raj Bhavan organises Shabad Kirtan to commemorate 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

In a deeply spiritual gesture to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of the 9th Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the Punjab Raj Bhavan organised a solemn and soul-enriching Shabad Kirtan yesterday evening.

This sacred event was held at Guru Nanak Dev Auditorium, drawing Sangat and dignitaries alike into a holy atmosphere of reverence, devotion, and spirituality. The divine Shabad Kirtan was performed by Padma Shri Hazuri Ragi Bhai Harjinder Singh Ji Srinagar Wale, a globally respected exponent of Gurbani Kirtan.

His emotionally charged renditions, filled with spiritual resonance and devotion, brought to life the teachings and spirit of selfless service to society and sacrifice as exemplified by Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The atmosphere



gravitated towards spiritual bliss and gratitude towards the Akalpurkh. Each note echoed the pain of sacrifice, the glory of martyrdom, the light of eternal truth, and the moral values that Guru Sahib stood for. The Punjab Governor and Administrator of Union Territory Chandigarh, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, said, "I consider myself the luckiest person who got the chance to perform Sewa on this pious occa-

sion." Reflecting the humility and inclusive spirit of Sikh philosophy, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, along with his wife Smt. Anita Kataria and other family members, listened to the Shabad Kirtan with rapt attention and great devotion. Visibly moved by the spiritual ambience and the historic relevance of the occasion, he added, "I consider myself the most fortunate person to have been bestowed by God the op-

portunity to render Sewa (service) on this sacred day. It is a moment of spiritual fulfillment in the best traditions of Sarbat Da Bhala (Good of All)." Spiritual Ambiance at Raj Bhavan as Governor Joins Gurbani Recitation and Participates in Sewa. The Raj Bhavan premises were transformed into a sacred space, resonating with the divine vibrations of Waheguru Simran and the recitation of Gurbani.

Special meeting by Deputy Speaker to organize Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh National Marathon as part of ongoing war against drugs campaign

CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

Continuing the ongoing war against drugs, a special meeting was convened today by Shri Jai Krishan Singh Rouri, Deputy Speaker, Punjab Vidhan Sabha, to organize the Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh National Marathon as part of the anti-drug campaign.

The Deputy Speaker stated that under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann, a statewide campaign against drugs is being run to save Punjab's youth, secure their future, and restore Punjab's glory as a vibrant, joyful, and sports-loving state.

Today's special meeting was convened in this context, and he expressed confidence that every Punjabi would wholeheartedly support this initiative of the government. He informed that as part of the ongoing anti-drug cam-



paign, a state-level Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh National Marathon will be organized on September 27, 2025, at Mahilpur (Garhshankar), District Hoshiarpur, also known as the nursery of football in Punjab. This meeting was specifically called to plan for this state-level event, and he added that the preparations would only be successful with the cooperation of the concerned departments.

He also shared that SRSF NGO is extending its support for this marathon. The Deputy

Speaker highlighted that the Hon'ble Chief Minister had taken his oath at Khatkar Kalan, the birthplace of Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh, and every year, a state-level event is held there on the birth anniversary of Shaheed-e-Azam. This year as well, a state-level program will be held on September 28, 2025, and in connection with this, the marathon dedicated to Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh is being organized a day earlier on September 27, 2025.

All cases under payment of gratuity act 1972 pending for 2 years have been disposed off

DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: It is settled law that gratuity is not a bounty but a right of an employee to be granted by the employer. Therefore, in order to ensure swift

disposal of cases under the Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 pending in the court of ALC for more than 2 years, concerted efforts were made and cases were

heard in fast track mode. Accordingly, all cases under the Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 pending for more than 2 years have been disposed off. Assistant Labour Commissioner Hoshiarpur Mr. Jashandeep Singh Kang said that a total of 158 gratuity cases, some as old as 2009, have been disposed of in the last 5 months. Apart from this, 64 cases under the Minimum Wages Act 1948, 40 cases under the Payment of Wages Act 1936, and 14 cases under the Employee Compensation Act 1923 have been disposed off in the last 5 months. In the interest of justice, now cases pending for more than 2 years under the Employee Compensation Act 1923 shall be dealt with in fast track mode.

Guru Kashi University releases book on sustainable energy by Dr. PiushVerma



ANANTDEEP KAUR
BATHINDA, JULY 23

Guru Kashi University marked a proud academic milestone as Chancellor S. Gurbal Singh Sidhu officially released the book "Sustainable Energy and Fuels - Materials, Processing Methods, and Development", authored by Dr. PiushVerma, Registrar, in collaboration with international editors. Published by the globally reputed Taylor & Francis Group, the book delves into cutting-edge research and innovations in renewable ener-

gy and sustainable fuel technologies.

The event was graced by Managing Director S. Sukhraj Singh Sidhu, who highlighted the book's relevance in addressing global energy challenges, and Vice Chancellor Dr. Rameshwar Singh, who lauded Dr. Verma's contribution to strengthening the university's research and academic standing. Dr. Yogesh Kumar Sharma, Higher Education Accreditation Expert, also commended the interdisciplinary and practical significance of the work.

Chandigarh police conduct mock drill at ISBT-17 ahead of Independence Day

CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

In preparation for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations and to assess emergency preparedness, the Chandigarh Police conducted a mock drill at ISBT Sector 17 today. The exercise was carried out under the direction of SP (Operations) Geetanjali Khandelwal and the supervision of DySP (Operations) Vikas Sheokand.

The drill aimed to test the coordination between Chandigarh Police and various emergency services of the Chandigarh Administration. It simulated a bomb threat scenario at counters 7 and 8 of ISBT-17.

During the operation, the area was swiftly cordoned off and evacuated by commandos of the Operations Cell. A joint search was then conducted by the HIT teams, Bomb Detection Squad, and Dog Squad of



the police, resulting in the successful location of a dummy explosive device near the targeted counters. Quick Response Teams (QRTs), PCR vehicles, ambulances from GMSH-16 and Police Hospital Sector 26, Dial-112 teams, the fire brigade, Civil Defense personnel, a mobile forensic unit, Crime Branch, and the local police from PS-17 responded rapidly to the site. A thorough search of the entire bus stand was carried out, but no addi-

tional suspicious items were found. The dummy bomb was safely transported to the Police Lines ground in Sector 26 using a sandbag truck, accompanied by escort vehicles and a Kavach vehicle from the Operations Cell, where it was defused. Officials said the drill was successful in testing response time, inter-agency coordination, and overall readiness to handle potential threats in high-footfall public spaces.

3-day faculty dev programme on inculcating universal human values in collaboration with AICTE begins at Government College of Education, Chandigarh



CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

A Three-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Inculcating Universal Human Values in Higher Education" commenced today at the Government College of Education, Sector 20-D, Chandigarh. Organised in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) the programme runs from July 23rd to 25th and aims to integrate value-based education into the teaching-learning process and foster holistic develop-

ment in the higher education system. The event commenced with Principal and Patron Dr. Sapna Nanda formally welcoming the Chief Guest, Sh. Vivek Atrey. This was followed by the ceremonial lamp lighting and a soulful chanting of mantras, invoking wisdom and clarity. The college anthem was sung with pride, setting a dignified tone for the day. A green welcome was extended to Sh. Vivek Atrey by Dr. Nanda, who presented him with a sapling as a symbol of sustainable growth.

Vibrant Teej celebration at World One luxury living society



TILAK RAJ MOHALI: The festival of Teej was celebrated with great enthusiasm and traditional fervour on Sunday at World One Luxury Living Society. Women

looked elegant in beautiful traditional Punjabi attire, while men donned Punjabi kurtas and colourful turbans. The celebration came alive with energetic performances on Punjabi folk bolyan, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of the dhol. The festivities also included lively DJ Punjabi tracks and a graceful performance of Himachali Natti, adding to the cultural flavour of the event. Teej, a festival celebrated across India—especially in Punjab—was honored with true spirit and community participation. Mrs. Ruby Popli was crowned Miss Teej, while Ms. Preet Chawla was awarded Runner-up for Best Punjabi Dress. For her excellent efforts in organizing the event, Mrs. Jolij Bajaj was specially honoured. The event was graced by Society President Mr. Supinder Singh, Senior Vice President Mr. Mintu Popli, Mr. J.P. Singh.

Orientation programme held at PG Government college for girls, Sector 42



CHANDIGARH : The Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector 42, Chandigarh, successfully hosted a comprehensive orientation programme for first-year undergraduate students (B.A., B.Sc., B.Com, and BCA) on 23rd July 2025, at 11:00 am in the Sabras Auditorium. The orientation programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial deepshikha by the Principal Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal, Dean Ms. Anju Tirkha and Vice Principal Dr. Abha Sudarshan symbolizing the dispelling of ignorance and the beginning of a new academic journey.

This was followed by a soulful rendition of the Saraswati Vandana, invoking the blessings of the goddess of wisdom and learning. The Principal Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal, welcomed the students and encouraged them to become beacons of value-driven education, nurturing creativity, empathy, and personal growth under faculty mentorship. They were urged to embrace skill-based learning, stay engaged, build resilience, and think critically and creatively to carry forward the legacy of the college. She wished them a rewarding and enriching journey ahead. The orientation aimed to familiarize students with institutional rules.

Students of Shiv Sena School honored Pahlra Family for announcing Rs. 20 Lakh shed in Gaushala



VERMA
GURDASPUR, JULY 23

Continuing their annual tradition during the holy month of Sawan, students of Shiv Sena School have commenced the chanting of "Om Namah Shivaya", a spiritual practice they observe throughout the entire month. On this occasion, Harvinder Soni, appointed as GauSansad (Cow Parliament Representative) by Shri Adi Shankaracharya Jagadguru Avimuktেশ्वaranand Ji, the State Deputy Chief of Shiv Sena Balasaheb Thackeray, shared insights about the nationwide campaign initiated by cow

devotees to declare Gaumata as Rashtra Mata (Mother of the Nation). According to Sanatan Dharma, the cow is revered as a mother figure, with scriptures stating that 33 crore deities reside in her. Just like a mother nurtures her child, Gaumata sustains humanity. Soni mentioned that following the Guru's direction, the GauSansad passed a resolution stating that those dedicated to serving Gaumata will be equally honored and supported. As a result, when the Pahlra Family announced their intention to build a shed worth Rs 20 lakh for the welfare of cows in the Batala Road Gaushala.

Welcome parade in honour of new DGP held



CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

Today, a warm welcome parade in respect of newly joined Director General of Police, UT, Chandigarh, Dr. Sagar Preet Hooda, IPS, (AG-MUT-1997 batch officer) was organized at Parade Ground of RTC, Police Lines, Sector 26, Chandigarh.

The parade contingents of Chandigarh Police headed by the Parade Commander Sh. Dheeraj Kumar, DSP/Crime, Chandigarh Police, marched down along with pipe band & brass band and gave general

salute to the DGP/UT Dr. Sagar Preet Hooda, Sh. Pushpender Kumar, IPS, IGP/UT, Sh. Sumer Partap Singh, IPS, SSP/Traffic & Security, Ms. Kanwardeep Kaur, IPS, SSP/UT, Manjit Sheoran, IPS, SP/Headquarters, Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, IPS, SP/Cyber Crime, Chandigarh, Ms. K.M. Priyanka SP/City, all DSPs, Inspectors and about 350 police officials of NGO/ORs rank attended the function all the units of the Chandigarh Police force. Dr. Sagar Preet Hooda, IPS is officer of 1997 Batch from AG-

MUT Cadre. He pursued PhD in sociology from Panjab University (1991-97), where he had earlier completed his MA in Sociology (1989-1991). He is an Edward S Mason Fellow from Harvard University, where he earned a master's degree in Public Policy Analysis (2014-2015). He also holds a certificate in public finance from Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy (2012) and completed a leadership and globalization programme at the London School of Economics in 2006.

Initiative against drugs launched at village Jangliana



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, JULY 23

A historic initiative against drugs was launched in village Jangliana, where Member of Parliament Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal ignited a wave of awareness. In a massive public gathering, villagers, including youth, women, and elders showed overwhelming support and pledged to make their village drug-free.

Addressing the gathering, Member of Lok Sabha Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal said that drugs are stealing the smiles from our villages and destroying the harmony of homes. This is not the time to remain silent—this is the

time to fight. "We don't need tears in our eyes, but the shine of hope," he said. He assured that all possible help, rehabilitation, and respect will be provided by the government to youth coming out of the trap of addiction. He also informed that a special anti-drug campaign has been launched in the region, where schools, panchayats, social organizations, and administration will work together. M.L.A. Dr. Ishank sent a strong message, saying that if every youngster firmly decides not to engage in this menace, no force can push them into it. Drugs are an attack on our very roots, and we will eradicate them completely.

Hardeep Singh inaugurates 2 water supply schemes worth Rs. 1.17 cr in Jalandhar



BUNNY SODHI
JALANDHAR, JULY 23

In a major boost to rural infrastructure, Punjab Revenue, Rehabilitation, Water Supply & Sanitation Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian on Wednesday inaugurated two water supply schemes in Jalandhar, constructed at a total outlay of Rs.1.17 crore, benefiting 432 rural households with potable drinking water. The Minister inaugurated the project at village Gaddowli (Jalandhar West Block), dedicating a water supply scheme worth Rs. 64.72 lakh, completed within ten months.

This scheme will benefit 225 households with clean drinking water. Similarly, the second water supply scheme was inaugurated in village Jalbhe (Adampur Block), constructed at Rs. 52.26 lakh, completed within six months and will provide potable water to 207 households. Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Mundian stated that under these schemes, the department completed the installation of new tubewells, reservoirs, pipelines, solar panels, chlorination units, and water connections, ensuring a comprehensive water supply system for these villages.

Gunfire outside house: Six nabbed by Ludhiana rural police



SUKH NAHAR
JAGRAON, JULY 23

Under its campaign against bootleggers being carried out as per the instructions of SSP Dr. Ankur Gupta, police team led by DSP Varinder Singh Khosa arrested 6 individuals for firing rounds outside a person's house with an intention of killing him.

Giving detailed information about this, DSP Varinder Singh Khosa said that police had received a complaint in which the complainant had alleged that on 10 July, late at night 1-1:30 am, 4 youngsters fired rounds outside his house with an intuition of killing him and threw inflammable object as well. "Not only did

they fired bullets but also videographed the entire scene and taking the matter seriously, police formed several teams to arrest the accused. After carrying out investigation, police nominated 12 persons in the case and arrested six of them, namely, Harshpreet Singh Bhullar alias Harsh son of Sahib Singh, Ekjot Singh son of Jaswinder Singh, Dhruv Thakur son of Satwinder Kumar, Gurinder Singh alias Guri son of Gurpreet Singh, Baljinder Singh son of Resham Singh and Amreek Singh son of Jasveer Singh," he stated.

DSP further added that police has recovered petrol bomb from the accused, car used in the crime.

Sippy Bhakar attends procession taken out in Balianwali



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, JULY 23

Like every year, this year too, Shri Jagdeva Kirtan Mandal Balianwali took out the 32nd grand procession in the processions of Sawan in village Balianwali of Rampura block of Maur assembly constituency with the support of the residents. In this procession, senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Sippy Bhakar of Maur constituency reached and was present and took the blessings of Maa Bhagwati. On this occasion, Sippy Bhakar said that the month of Sawan is considered important for the devotees of Mother. In this month, a large number of devotees of Mother take out a

flag procession through various organizations. After this, flags are offered in the court of Mahamai. Sippy Bhakar said that this is a commendable initiative of Jagdeva Kirtan Mandal Balianwali under the wise leadership of President Krishan Lal Sharma. With this, where the devotees of the mother worship Maa Bhagwati, the bonds of mutual brotherhood are also strengthened. On this occasion, Sippy Bhakar was honored by the entire committee of Jagdeva Kirtan Mandal. On this occasion, apart from Bhakar's personal assistant Jagbir Singh Jiand, Balwinder Bindri, Kulwinder Babbi, Hardev Singh of the committee were present.

RUPNAGAR (BAHADURJEET SINGH): Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy (An Autonomous College) Bela, started weeklong orientation programme 2025-26 for the new batch 2025-29 of Bachelor of Pharmacy and science (B. Pharmacy and B.Sc MLS) students on 21st July to 25th July. The programme included around 150+ students enrolled in B.Pharmacy programme. The college is conducting orientation programme every year for new batches of students. The Orientation programme is envisaged to help students transition into their new academic environment & role and align expectations to the values that COP, Bela upholds as an Institute. The event started with lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Dr. (Prof.) Shailesh Sharma, Director College of Paharmacy, and Bela. Co-ordinator Dr. (Prof.) Satnam Singh, HOD (Department of Pharmacognosy) organized the orientation programme highlighted the aim and objectives of the programme.



Punjab witnesses 11.86% rise in area under DSR: Khudian

SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

In a significant advancement of Punjab Government's efforts to conserve groundwater through sustainable agricultural practices, the Punjab has seen 11.86% increase in area dedicated to Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) as compared to the previous year, revealed S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Punjab.

Divulging details, S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian informed that paddy has been sown using water-conserving DSR technique at over 2.83 lakh acres so far this year, up from 2.53 lakh acres in last year. He expressed hope that the area under DSR will rise further as paddy sowing is still going on. The Agriculture Minister said that the Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Manned Punjab Government has been offering Rs. 1,500 per acre to farmers adopting the water-saving Direct Seeding of Rice method. He further informed that the financial assistance was transferred into the bank accounts of 24,032 farmers who adopted the DSR technique



during the Kharif season 2024. S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian reaffirmed the CM Mann-led Punjab Government's commitment of encouraging farmers to adopt water-conserving and sustainable agricultural practices in the state. He also congratulated the Agriculture department officials for promoting the water saving method. The Administrative Secretary Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Dr. Basant Garg stated that the Agriculture department has taken various proactive steps to promote the Direct Seeding of Rice. The department has been organising awareness campaigns and farmer training camps to provide hands-on knowledge, besides conducting field demonstrations to showcase the technique's effectiveness.

State doubled excise revenue in just three years: Cheema

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

Punjab Finance Minister S. Harpal Singh Cheema today stated that the Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab Government has successfully stabilized the state's declining economy during its three-year tenure. He emphasized that consistent efforts are underway to further enhance Punjab's performance in GDP growth and other key economic indicators.

Addressing management students on the 19th Foundation Day of LM Thapar School of Management (LMTSM), the Finance Minister said that students pursuing management education at such a reputed institution are fortunate, as LMTSM is renowned not only for its excellence in management but also engineering education. He added that management graduates



hold the key responsibility to contribute meaningfully to the state and the nation, as they bring with them fresh

ideas and dynamic energy. Inaugurating the newly established LMTSM-NSE Cognetics Finance Lab, the Fi

nance Minister noted that the facility would serve as a valuable resource hub for financial and economic insights,

greatly benefiting the students. Sharing his personal journey and experience as Punjab's Finance Minister, S. Cheema said that though managing the state's finances was initially challenging for him as an advocate-turned-politician, dedication and hard work helped him overcome hurdles. He proudly noted that Punjab now ranks among the top three states in India for tax compliance. The state is registering remarkable progress in GDP growth, GST collections, overall revenue and expenditure.

Highlighting the government's fiscal achievements, the Minister said that Punjab has surpassed the total GST compensation cess collected during the previous regime (2017-2022). Over the last three years, the state has received a total of Rs 63,000 crore in GST compensation

Install railings along Bist Doab canal to prevent accidents: Sohan Singh Thandal



BUREAU
HOSHIARPUR, JULY 23

Former Cabinet Minister Sohan Singh Thandal has expressed concern over the frequent accidents occurring along the Bist Doab Canal and demanded that railings be installed along the edges of the canal to prevent vehicles from falling in.

He pointed out that during his tenure as a cabinet minister, significant improvements were made, but now the road along the canal has been elevated while the canal banks have remained low. As a result, many small and large vehicles fall into the canal, especially while crossing, leading to frequent loss of lives and property. In several cases, people

were rescued in time by eyewitnesses, but unfortunately, many have lost their lives. Thandal said that to prevent such accidents, installing strong railings is the need of the hour. He also urged the Forest Department to take immediate action to address the problem of overgrown trees leaning onto the road near the canal due to heavy rains and storms, which has led to multiple road mishaps. He further highlighted the issue of tippers carrying sand and gravel from Mahilpur to Kot Fatuhi and Mehtiana via Phuglana, which often cause accidents along this road. He suggested that if their route is diverted through Hoshiarpur, the distance would increase only by 2 kilometers (from 33 to 35 km).

Rs 22.97 crore released for 4503 beneficiaries under Ashirwad Scheme: Dr. Baljit Kaur

CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

Dr. Baljit Kaur, Punjab Cabinet Minister for Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities, today informed that the Punjab Government has released an amount of Rs 22.97 crore under the Ashirwad Scheme during the current financial year 2025-26 to benefit 4503 girls belonging to Scheduled Castes.

Providing further details, Dr. Baljit Kaur said that the applications of 4503 Scheduled Caste beneficiaries from districts Amritsar, Barnala, Ferozpur, Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Mansa, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Patiala, Pathankot, Rupnagar, SAS Nagar, Sangrur, Malerkotla, and Tarn Taran were received on the Ashirwad Portal during the current year. To support these applicants, Rs 22.97 crore has been disbursed. Giving a breakdown of the financial assistance, the Minister said that 1268 beneficiaries from Amritsar, 107 from Barnala, 343 from Ferozpur, 193 from Fatehgarh Sahib, 57 from



Gurdaspur, and 668 from Hoshiarpur have received aid. Similarly, 286 beneficiaries from Mansa, 255 from Sri Muktsar Sahib, 349 from Patiala, 55 from Pathankot, 196 from Rupnagar, 266 from SAS Nagar, 155 from Sangrur, 37 from Malerkotla, and 268 from Tarn Taran have been covered under the scheme.

Dr. Baljit Kaur stated that under the Ashirwad Scheme, the Punjab Government provides a financial assistance of Rs 51,000 for the marriage of girls belonging to low-income families.

She further said that to avail benefits under the

scheme, the applicant must be a permanent resident of Punjab, belong to a family living below the poverty line, and must be from Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, or other economically weaker sections. The annual family income from all sources must not exceed Rs 32,790. Up to two daughters from an eligible family can avail benefits under the scheme.

The Cabinet Minister added that the financial assistance is directly transferred to the beneficiaries' bank accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer). She emphasized that the Punjab Government is working diligently to uplift the living standards of all sections of society and to strengthen them economically.

Dr. Baljit Kaur concluded by stating that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government is committed to the welfare of all sections, especially Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, and economically weaker groups.

Seminar on Legal Literacy at JMK International School



SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, JULY 23

As per the directions of CJM cum Secretary Rupinder Singh, District Legal Services Authority Pathankot organized a seminar on the subject of Legal Literacy at JMK International School Pathankot under the leadership of Principal Niti Kochhar. In which Panel Advocate Mamata Samkhadia and PLV Vinod Kumar were specially present. On this occasion, the

speakers informed the students about what the PCO Act is and gave information about bad touch and good touch. The speakers also provided information about the support available in Sakhi Van staff. He said that if someone commits a wrong act against a child, then information about it can be obtained from the principal, parents or on the toll free number 15100. Vice Principal Anju and other officials were present on this occasion.

State level function marks beginning of month long Shiv Kumar Batalvi memorial poetry contests

VERMA
BATALA, JULY 23

The Shiv Kumar Batalvi Sahyacharak Kendra in Batala today came alive with the commencement of the month long poetry and declamation contests during a State level function dedicated to the 89th Birth Anniversary of the late poet.

Gracing the occasion was the Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Minister Mr. Lal Chand Kataruchak who announced Rs. 10 Lakh for the refurbishment and development of the Shiv Kumar Batalvi auditorium. The Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Gurdaspur Dalvinderjit Singh, SSP Batala Suhail Qasim Mir, Additional Deputy Com-



missioner (General) Dr. Harjinder Singh Bedi, Brother of Batala MLA and State Executive President AAP Punjab Amansher Singh Sherry Kalsi - Amrit Kalsi and Rajiv Batalvi.

Calling Shiv Kumar Batalvi the pride of Batala who became a force to reckon with by the dint of his endless artistic prowess, Mr. Lal Chand Kataruchak said that the late poet enriched Mother Tongue Punjabi with such stirring and immensely beautiful literary creations

which would echo in the minds of the people till eternity. On the occasion, Poetry, declamation and Singing competitions were held.

In Sufi Singing category Rajinder Singh (Class Xth) Government High School Gillanwali got the First position while Surinder Singh of Class XIIth Government Senior Secondary School Jaitosarja attained Second and Bhaman, a student of Class XIth at Government Senior Secondary School Rangar Nangal came Third.

Mental health seminar held at Angels World School in collaboration with Fortis Hospital



RADHE SHYAM SHARMA
MORINDA, JULY 23

Recognising the importance of mental health in students' confidence, growth, and overall well-being, Angels World School, Morinda, organised a special seminar on mental health in collaboration with Fortis Hospital, Mohali. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students and was held under the guidance of School Director U.S. Dhillon, Principal

Deepika Sharma, and Senior Coordinator Himanshu Chawla. The keynote speaker for the session was Aanchal Sharma, a counselling psychologist from Fortis Hospital, Mohali. She addressed the students on key topics such as life skills, anger management, stress-reduction techniques, self-reflection, and building mental resilience. She also emphasised the importance of prioritising mental health in daily life.

St. Xavier's School, Rampura Phul shines at Inter-School Quiz competition 2025



RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA): We are delighted to announce that our students have brought great pride to St. Xavier's School, Rampura Phul by securing Second Position in all three categories of the prestigious Rev. Fr. Tiburcio Ferrao Memorial Inter-School Quiz Competition 2025, held at St. Xavier's School, Sirsa on 19th July, 2025. The results are as follows, Taurus Category (Class 5) Second Position, Orion Category (Class 8) - Second Position, Hydra Category (Class 10) Second Position In a crowning achievement, our school was also honored with the Overall Trophy, awarded to the institution with the highest cumulative performance.

This victory reflects the consistency, excellence, and dedication of our students across all categories. The competition featured multiple challenging rounds covering, General Knowledge, Current Affairs, Science & Technology, History, Rapid FireOur students showcased exceptional knowledge, teamwork.

Kanwariyas offer Ganga water at ancient Shiva temple in Ropar on Sawan Shivratri



DEVENDRA SHARMA
RUPNAGAR, JULY 23

On the occasion of Sawan Shivratri, devotees from Ropar carried out a sacred ritual at the ancient Shiva temple in Mill Nagar by offering holy Ganga water brought from Haridwar. The ceremony was conducted

with full Vedic rituals by temple priest Pandit Chandrashekhar Ji.

Among the devotees was former Ward No. 11 Municipal Councillor and current Secretary of Punjab Kisan Morcha (BJP), Harinder Pal Singh Ahluwalia, who participated in the worship. A group of

kanwariyas, including Jindri, Sonu Baba, Karan Kumar, Aasu, and Sanju, brought the Ganga water on motorcycles and joined in offering it to the Shivaling. The devotees prayed to Lord Shiva for the well-being of all and wished for the prosperity and continued rise of the nation.

NETA meets Assam BJP VP to discuss transport sector issues

BEAS (GURDARSHAN PRINCE): Harpreet Singh, the National President of the North East Transport Association (NETA), held a meeting with Dr. Jyoti Sharma Bordoloi, Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Assam, to discuss a range of issues concerning the transport sector.

After the meeting, Harpreet Singh informed the media that the discussion focused on challenges faced by transporters and the broader development of Assam and the country. He expressed optimism that the interaction with Dr. Bordoloi would prove instrumental in addressing the concerns of the transport industry. He said, "We had a detailed conversation about the pressing issues in the transport sector and explored potential solutions. We believe this dialogue marks a significant step toward improving the sector."

Singh added that the Association remains committed to representing the concerns of transporters and will continue engaging with governments and administrations across states to seek constructive resolutions.

Health Minister leads anti-drug campaign in Patiala



RAKESH JINDAL
PATIALA, JULY 23

Reiterating the Punjab Government's firm resolve to eradicate drug abuse, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Balbir Singh today addressed residents during the Nasha Mukti Yatra conducted across Wards 7 to 13 in Patiala. Dr. Singh emphasized that drug addiction is not a personal issue alone, but a social ill that impacts entire families—economically, emotionally, and socially. He cautioned that when even one family member falls prey to

addiction, the burden is borne by the entire household.

"It is our collective duty to extend a helping hand to those trapped in addiction and bring them back to the mainstream. If we fail to act now, the consequences will be far more dangerous for the generations to come," Dr. Balbir Singh said.

Calling for united action, Dr. Singh appealed to citizens to lend wholehearted support to the campaign and contribute to making Punjab a leading and progressive state.

CHANDIGARH
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025
NEWS BRIEF

MLA of constituency hands over cheque of Rs 5 lakh to unanimously formed panchayat of Kothe Hari Singh Malla



JAITU: During the Panchayat elections, the Bhagwant Mann government of Punjab's Aam Aadmi Party had promised the people of Punjab that if any village unanimously elects its Panchayat, then the Punjab government would give that Panchayat a square of five lakh rupees as a reward for the development works of the village. In view of this promise, today, under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Jaito MLA Amolak Singh handed over five lakh rupees for the development works of the village to the unanimously elected Panchayat of Kothe Hari Singh Malla of the constituency in the presence of District General Secretary Faridkot and Kisan Wing leader Ravinder Singh Malla. On this occasion, apart from the entire village panchayat, Parvinder Singh Malla, Social Media Incharge District Faridkot, Jaskaran Singh Malla, Vice President Cooperative Society Malla Chamkaur Singh Malla, Sarpanch Amarjit Kaur, Sarpanch Jaspal Singh Malla, Khurd Sarpanch, Jaswinder Kaur Gurdeep Singh Malla, Balraj Singh Malla, Dr. Jagdev Singh Malla, CIP Sarpanch, Amarjit Singh, Kulwinder Singh Member etc.

35 services of Transport and Revenue dept now available through service centers and door step delivery: DC SURINDER DAMDAMI KOTKAPURA: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab government has

implemented a total of 35 new services of the Transport and Revenue Department through Sewa Kendras and doorstep delivery to provide easy, fast and transparent services to the citizens. Giving information in this regard, Deputy Commissioner Poonamdeep Kaur said that now the public can easily avail these services from their homes by calling 1076. He said that 5 tasks related to the Revenue Department such as deed registration, preparation of draft deed, submission of deed for pre-examination, payment of stamp duty.

Mahakal Seva Samiti Pilgrimage group returns joyfully after completing Shri Amarnath Yatra



AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: A group of 25 Shiva devotees from Mahakal Seva Samiti, Jalandhar Bypass, led by renowned social worker and devotee Shri Varinder Kumar Koffi, has returned joyfully after successfully completing the sacred Shri Amarnath Yatra. The group, which embarked on the pilgrimage in a family-like atmosphere to have the divine darshan of Shri Him Shiving, returned with spiritual satisfaction and gratitude. Speaking on this significant occasion, it was shared that with the completion of this Yatra, the Samiti has created history by continuously providing pilgrimage services for the first time in the region, including across Ludhiana district. Marking this historic milestone, the group of volunteers and pilgrims in and all offered prayers outside the holy cave of Shri Amarnath, chanting loudly in devotion and seeking the blessings of Baba Barfani to continue undertaking the Yatra every year with the same spirit. Pilgrims from various districts of Punjab also joined in the spiritual journey and appreciated the arrangements made by the administration.

Dev works in Fatehabad should not be hindered by party politics: Prabhsher Singh

SARBJOT SINGH SANDHA KHADOUR SAHIB: Fatehabad, a historically significant town in the Majha region and a key player in the political landscape of the Khadour Sahib constituency, has recently fallen victim to administrative apathy and political bias. This concern was voiced by Prabhsher Singh of Fatehabad, a prominent youth leader from the area, during an interaction with selected

members of the press. Prabhsher Singh alleged that development works in Fatehabad have come to a standstill due to the Panchayat being led by the opposition party.

"The town's ponds are overflowing, and water is inundating the streets, yet no action is being taken due to government neglect," he said. He urged the government to allocate necessary funds to the current Panchayat, which has been elected with the people's mandate, so that pending development projects can be resumed. Singh emphasized that development should not be stalled based on the political affiliations of local bodies. "It has become evident that Panchayats aligned with the ruling party are receiving prompt support, while those run by opposition parties are facing roadblocks," he said. "Governments elected by the people should ensure the smooth functioning of village-level development, irrespective of political considerations," he added.

ANIL KUMAR BHORANJ: The Bhoranj BJP Mandal has dispatched its seventh truckload of relief materials for the disaster-affected people of Thunag in the Siraj region. The latest consignment, comprising essential food items, was sent off from the town of Jahu



under the leadership of noted social worker and first-class contractor Sandeep Chauhan. It is noteworthy that the

Bhoranj BJP Mandal has already sent six relief trucks earlier to assist those impacted by the severe calamity in Siraj and Thunag. These previous consignments included shoes, slippers, blankets, quilts, mattresses, household essentials, and food supplies.

NEWS BRIEF

Dy CM inquires well being of former MLA Milkhi Ram Goma

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA: Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today visited IGMC Hospital, Shimla to inquire about the health of former MLA Milkhi Ram Goma. He wished him a speedy recovery. Mukesh Agnihotri said that Milkhi Ram Goma's social and political journey has been inspiring and his contribution to the service of the state was commendable. Ayush & Sports Minister Yadvinder Goma was also present during the visit.

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation drive held at GSSS Shakrah under Mission LIFE

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA: A tree plantation drive under the banner of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' was organised at Government Senior Secondary School, Shakrah, Ghanahatti, by the EIACP PC Hub of Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE), Shimla, as part of the nationwide Mission LIFE initiative. Apart from planting saplings, the event included art and debate competitions, awareness lectures, and a student-led rally aimed at sensitising the public towards the importance of tree plantation and environmental conservation. The chief guest, Mrs Nisha Bhaluni, Deputy Director (Primary), Shimla, expressed her gratitude for being invited and highlighted the crucial role forests play in our lives. She lauded the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and encouraged students to actively contribute to environmental preservation. School Principal Mrs Indu Gupta welcomed all participants and elaborated on the goals of the campaign and the broader objectives of Mission LIFE, encouraging everyone to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles and to take personal responsibility for plant care.

CM demands special central assistance for expansion of Kangra Airport

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JULY 23

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has requested Union Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu to expedite the various issues relating to the Civil Aviation sector in Himachal Pradesh as discussed with him during his recent visit to New Delhi.

In a letter written to him, the Chief Minister said that the State has to acquire approximately 150 hectare of land for the proposed expansion of Kangra airport and the State Government has started the process and awards for more than Rs. 1900 crore are ready and Rs. 410 crore have been disbursed. He said that the statutory stipulated period of one year is ending in August this year. He asked the Ministry of Civil Aviation to recommend this project to the Ministry of Finance and the PMO for Special Central



Assistance. Sukhu also wrote that the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report of Kangra Airport prepared by M/s WAPCOS Ltd. should also be reviewed for arriving at a realistic assessment of cost by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) as it was on a higher side. He also urged for exploring one of the options, the possibility of entering into a tripartite agreement with AAI, State of Himachal Pradesh and private partner for the expansion Kangra airport. He said that Kangra Airport currently operates under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) requiring a minimum visibility of 5 kilometers for flight operations and urged to make a provision for introduction of Special VFR operations to reduce the minimum visibility criteria from existing 5 kilometers to 2.5 kilometers to ensure operation of

flights during reduced visibility conditions. The Chief Minister said that Kangra Airport is the biggest and busiest airport in Himachal Pradesh, therefore, it shall be equipped with night landing facilities. He asked for deployment of Himachal Pradesh State Police instead of CISF for airport security at Kullu and Shimla airports on the analogy of Kangra airport. He also urged for extending watch hours for the flight's operations at Shimla airport from 1.00 PM to 4.00 PM providing a larger window for the operation of flights.

Sukhu requested to provide second apron at Shimla airport suitable for operations of ATR 42/600 type of aircraft which will go a long way in increasing the flight operations and support multiple flight operations from Shimla Airport. He also asked for resuming daily flight operations on Shimla-Dharamshala-Shimla sector by Alliance Air Ltd.

Procurement of CT scan, ultrasound, X-ray, phaco machines and other equipment to be completed by August 2025: Health Minister



DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JULY 23

Health and Family Affairs Minister Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram Shandil said that the medical colleges, adarsh swasthya sansthan and other medical institutions would soon be equipped with modern-day health care machines. He said that state-of-the-art equipment and related infrastructure, including CT scan, X-ray, ultrasound, phaco and diagnostic machines would be procured within a month and would be made functional by August, 2025 which would ensure quality health care services across the state. While chairing a Special High Power Purchase Committee

(HPPC) meeting here today, he said that the government had decided that quality items would be added in the baby care kits and a total number of 18 items would be provided to the new born babies born in government and private institutions in the state. The process for procurement of these kits was in final stage and would be available in hospitals in August this year. Dr. Shandil said that the government had ensured adequate budget for purchase of healthcare machinery. He directed the purchase committee to fast track the procurement process to ensure that in future all the purchases were completed as early as possible to benefit people of the state.

In disaster's aftermath, Gurnal Mahila Mandal emerges as lifeline for affected villagers

ANIL KUMAR MANDI, JULY 23

In the wake of last month's devastating rains and landslides in the Seraj block of Thunag, where normal life is yet to return, a beacon of hope has emerged in the form of Gurnal Mahila Mandal. The women of this self-help group have stepped forward as a lifeline for the disaster-struck residents, tirelessly offering relief, support, and care amidst the crisis. Led by Mahila Mandal President Pavna Kumari Sharma, the women have not only extended humanitarian aid but have also taken a bold environmental step. In collaboration with the Forest Department, they undertook a plantation drive in Ward No. 2 of Boong Railchowk Panchayat—specifically in



areas severely affected by landslides and cloudbursts where soil and vegetation had been completely washed away. The women planted saplings of Celinks species in these vulnerable zones, aiming to promote ecological restoration and prevent future erosion. The initiative, praised widely across Himachal Pradesh, reflects both community spirit and environmental stewardship

during a time of hardship. Those who took part in the plantation drive included Van Mitra Vidya Bharti from the Forest Department, Vice President Deepa, Secretary Dolma, and active members Padma Devi, Babli Devi, and Meera Devi. President Pavna Devi remarked, "Even amid disaster, we're committed to restoring life and nature. This effort is not just about planting trees—it's about planting hope."

Himachal government attempting to override constitutional institution: Suresh Kashyap

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JULY 23

Former Himachal Pradesh BJP President and Member of Parliament, Suresh Kashyap, has accused the Congress-led state government of attempting to override a constitutional body by interfering in the autonomous functioning of the State Election Commission. He alleged that the government is trying to suppress decisions made by this independent institution, fearing a humiliating defeat in the upcoming panchayat and urban body elections. Kashyap claimed that the Cabinet's actions suggest it has realised that its policies have alienated the public, which could lead to a severe electoral backlash. "Instead



of facing the elections, the government seems to have decided to delay them altogether," he said, adding that the Cabinet is now pressuring the Election Commission under the pretext of administrative hurdles. He revealed that there has been a prolonged exchange of correspondence between the State Election

Commission, the Urban Development Department, and the Chief Secretary, wherein the Election Commission has consistently demanded the reservation roster necessary to conduct elections. However, the state government has been insisting on deferring the roster. Referring to a letter dated July 10, 2025, the State Election Commission reportedly informed the Chief Secretary that the Urban Development Ministry does not possess any authority to interfere in the preparation of rosters or decision-making regarding elections to local bodies. The Commission invoked Article 243P of the Constitution and Sections 2(31) and 2(38) of the Himachal Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act,

1994 to assert its jurisdiction. It further directed the Urban Development Department to immediately withdraw any communication that attempts to interfere with the electoral process. "What's astonishing," Kashyap added, "is that after the Commission's clear directives on July 11 and the deadline of July 15 to release the roster, the Urban Development Department wrote back on July 22 stating that the matter would be placed before the Cabinet on July 24. This clearly implies that the government considers election-related decisions to be within the Cabinet's purview, which is a direct challenge to the authority of a constitutional body."

Hamirpur youth submit memorandum demanding permanent jobs instead of trainee policy

RAJNEESH SHARMA HAMIRPUR, JULY 23

Rajan Sharma, President of the award-winning Youth Club Badhani (Nodal Club), along with several young people from Hamirpur district, submitted a memorandum addressed to the Governor and Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh through Deputy Commissioner Amarjeet Singh. The youth demanded the immediate withdrawal of the government's "job trainee" policy and called for permanent employment opportunities as promised. Rajan Sharma stated that the government's imposition of the job trainee scheme is crushing the dreams of youth and playing with their future.



He criticized the policy as regressive and reminded the state government of its pre-election promise to provide one lakh government jobs annually. He asserted, "We don't want a trainee policy—we want permanent jobs. The government is already failing to release regular job vacancies, and this decision is nothing short of a mockery of students who have been

preparing in libraries for months. This autocratic move must be rolled back immediately." Calling the decision anti-youth, Sharma urged the government to provide dignified and secure employment to Himachal's young population. He was joined at the submission by Neeraj, Priyanshu Rathore, Abhishek, and Bhanu Uday Singh.

Make public details of five lakh jobs promised to youth: Purushottam Lal Sharma

ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR, JULY 23

Senior BJP leader and former Block Committee Chairman Purushottam Lal Sharma has launched a sharp attack on the Himachal Pradesh Congress government, accusing it of betraying the public with false promises and neglecting key issues concerning the people. Speaking at a press conference in Bhoranj, Sharma alleged that the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led government has failed to live up to its election promises and that people from all sections of society are disillusioned and disappointed. Sharma demanded that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh



Sukhu publicly release the details of the five lakh government jobs that were promised to unemployed youth during the elections. "Unemployed youths are wandering from pillar to post in search of work, while the government remains unaccountable for its promises," he said. He challenged the government to reveal how many

unemployed youth have been actually provided with government jobs since it assumed office.

Accusing the Congress government of being anti-women, Sharma said the promise of Rs. 1,500 monthly financial support to women has remained unfulfilled. "Not a single woman has received the promised amount to date. This has caused widespread resentment, especially among women in rural areas," he added. Sharma also criticised the deteriorating condition of roads in the Bhoranj constituency, saying the pothole-ridden roads are leading to frequent accidents while the Public Works Department remains inactive.

Rs 9 lakh siphoned through fake workers' registration in Hamirpur

AGENCY

HAMIRPUR: In a major corruption scam, Rs nine lakh designated for the welfare of poor workers has been siphoned off through fake registrations by 38 individuals from affluent families, Nardev Kumar, chairman of the State Labour Welfare Board, revealed during a press conference at the State Secretariat.

Kanwar informed that the fraud were uncovered in Barsar, Bhoranj, Hamirpur and Sujunpur areas of Hamirpur district. Of the 38 fake registrations, 12 people had illegally availed benefits such as maternity leave and house construction assistance. FIRs have been lodged across various police stations in the district, and recovery proceedings have been initiated. He further stated that officials who facilitated these registrations would also be held accountable. The fraud, according to Kanwar, dates back to 2021-22 during the BJP government, when over 70,000 workers were registered with the board. A state level probe has been ordered, alongwith a e-KYC verification of all registrations. Under the current Congress government, 5,247 workers have been registered in 2025-26, and e-KYC verification of 70,863 workers have been completed. The total number of registered workers now stands at 4,70,126.

Kanwar also mentioned that some recent applications under welfare schemes were found to be illegal. The board, which runs 14 welfare schemes for workers, currently has pending dues of Rs 500 crore, which it aims to clear soon.

PNB conducts financial literacy camp in Jhannikkar, urges citizens to benefit from loan and security schemes

RAJNEESH SHARMA HAMIRPUR, JULY 23

Punjab National Bank (PNB), through its Tauni Devi branch, organised a one-day financial literacy camp in Jhannikkar village under Barin Panchayat. The camp aimed to educate villagers about various loan and social security schemes offered by the bank.

PNB Financial Advisor Gurbachan Bhatti, Branch Manager Chandrakant Chanchal, Marketing Head Uday Kumar, and Barin Panchayat President Ravindra Thakur were present on the occasion. Bhatti provided detailed information about home loans, vehicle loans, education loans, property loans, and several other lending schemes. He also explained the benefits of PNB's social security



initiatives and encouraged citizens to take full advantage of these services. Bhatti emphasised that PNB remains committed to serving consumers not just as a banking institution but also as a financial advisor to the common people. Branch Manager Chandrakant Chanchal appealed to villagers to utilise various loan schemes and assured them of the bank's continued support and guidance. He also spoke about the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana for girls and urged people to

make use of life insurance plans like Jeevan Jyoti, along with other available services including the Kisan Credit Card. Marketing Officer Uday Kumar elaborated on PNB's wide range of schemes and said the bank is determined to offer superior facilities compared to other financial institutions. He also provided insights on digital banking and other essential services. Barin Panchayat head Ravindra Thakur expressed gratitude to the PNB team and participants for attending the camp.

MSP benefits for natural farming of maize, wheat, and turmeric announced in Nurpur



SANJEEV MAHAJAN NURPUR:

Under the Himachal Pradesh Government's "Prakritik Kheti - Khushhal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y)," farmers practicing natural farming of maize, wheat, and turmeric will now be eligible for Minimum Support Price (MSP) benefits. The government has set the MSP at Rs. 60 per kg for wheat, Rs. 40 per kg for maize, and Rs. 90 per kg for turmeric—rates considered the highest in the country for natural farming. An awareness drive about the scheme was conducted today across four panchayats of Nurpur block—Baruhi, Khanni Jhinkli, Ritt Upparli, and Pakka Tiala. On this occasion, ATMA's sub-project director Dr. Nandini Kapoor, agricultural expert Dr. Shailesh Sood, Block Technology Manager Harjeet Singh, and Assistant Technology Manager Manish Kumar were present. They informed farmers in detail about the benefits available under the scheme, including assured MSP, technical and financial assistance, chemical-free crop production, reduced input costs, water conservation, market support, and promotion of self-reliance.

MLA Sudarshan Babloo reviews preparations for Shrawan Ashtami fair in Chintpurni

KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA, JULY 23

Ahead of the Shrawan Ashtami fair scheduled from July 25 to August 3 at the revered Mata Shri Chintpurni temple, local MLA Sudarshan Babloo held a review meeting with concerned officials at Maidas Sadan. During the meeting, the MLA issued necessary directions to ensure the successful, safe, and well-organised conduct of the fair. MLA Babloo emphasised that the fair is a significant religious event that draws lakhs of devotees and stressed that no lapses in management will be tolerated. He called upon all departments to work in coordination to ensure a clean, secure, and seamless experience for the pilgrims. To maintain order and



cleanliness, specific timings have been allotted for setting up langars (community kitchens) from Bharwain to the temple. Langars will be permitted during three time slots: 6-9 a.m., 12-3 p.m., and 6-9 p.m. Babloo urged langar organisers to strictly adhere to cleanliness, waste management, and public health regulations. Following the meeting, the MLA also listened to public grievances from local

residents and resolved several issues on the spot. He reaffirmed the state government's commitment to addressing citizens' concerns at their doorstep and praised the administration for its responsive approach. Congress Mandal President Ravindra Kumar, SDM Amb Sachin Sharma, temple officer Ajay Kumar, and other officials were also present during the meeting.

NEWS BRIEF

Crop insurance for maize and paddy now available until July 31 in Una

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Farmers in Una district can now insure their maize and paddy crops under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) until July 31. The crop insurance scheme, aimed at compensating losses due to natural calamities such as drought, floods, waterlogging, and hailstorms, is available for the current Kharif season. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Una, Dr. Kulbhushan Dhiman informed that the insurance deadline has been extended from the earlier date of July 15 to July 31 for the convenience of farmers. He said that cultivators, including tenants and sharecroppers, across all notified tehsils and sub-tehsils of Una district are eligible to avail the scheme. Details of the scheme are also available on the Agriculture Department's website: agriculture.hp.gov.in. To enrol, farmers must submit their photograph, identity proof, Aadhaar card, and land ownership documents either to the insurance company, nearby Lok Mitra Kendras, banks, or through online channels. Premium and insured amount: Dr. Dhiman stated that the premium amount is Rs. 48 per kanal, while the insured amount is Rs. 2,400 per kanal.

Sewer blockage at Tehsil Complex causes discomfort, advocate urges immediate action



KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: Due to non-drainage of sewerage water at the local Tehsil Complex, SDM, Passers-by are facing huge difficulties in the Tehsil Office due to rainwater and sewerage water in front of the office. Gulshan Kumar Advocate, a senior lawyer of the Bar Association, informed the press that when the in-charge of the Sewerage Board was spoken to and told that due to blockage of sewer pipes, there is a foul smell and mosquitoes for a few days due to non-drainage of rainwater and sewerage water. He said that due to the rainy season, many types of diseases can attack.

Massive crowd gathers in Haridwar city to take a dip in Holy Ganga for 'Shravan' Shivratri

AGENCY
HARIDWAR, JULY 23

A large number of devotees gathered in Haridwar city to take a dip in the Holy Ganga river in the early hours of Wednesday on the occasion of 'Shravan' Shivratri and the last day of Kanwar Yatra 2025. Chandausi Circle Officer in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district, Anuj Chaudhary, said that the administration has set up a camp in the area to provide basic amenities for the devotees (Kanwariyas) coming back from Haridwar during their yatra. Speaking to ANI, Anuj Chaudhary emphasised that the camp has all the basic facilities, including food and medical care. "The camp has been running for 3-4 days for all the devotees who are bringing the sacred water from Haridwar. Those who require medical attention have been provided with facilities. Arrangements for refreshments, drinking water, and medicines have



been made for all of them here. This deployment has been made for all of them here. This deployment has been there for the last 10 to 12 days. There is a separate deployment both inside and outside the temple premises, with cameras also installed. The route has also been diverted from the side from which Kanwariyas are

coming," CO Chaudhary said. Meanwhile, the administration in Bulandshahr has mounted a multi-layered security operation to ensure a peaceful and seamless passage for the pilgrims. Additionally, the sacred festival of Sawan Shivratri is being celebrated within Uttar Pradesh, as thousands of devotees and Kanwar

pilgrims gather at prominent Shiva temples to offer prayers and perform rituals. In Varanasi, special prayers are being conducted at the Shiva Temple of the Kailash Math. The city also witnessed massive footfall at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga Temple, one of the most revered Jyotirlingas in India.

MLA Neena Mittal offers prayers at Nalas Temple, inaugurates new access route

BHUPINDER KAPOOR
RAJPURA, JULY 23

Rajpura constituency MLA Madam Neena Mittal, on the auspicious day of the holy Shivratri of the month of Sawan, paid obeisance at the historic and ancient Nalash Temple along with her family and performed Shiva puja. On this occasion, her son Advocate Lavish Mittal, daughter-in-law Heena Mittal, daughter Rishika Mittal and members of the coordinator team were also present. During this, Madam Neena Mittal worshipped Lord Shiva and offered water and milk on the Shivaling. She prayed at the feet of Lord Bholenath for the prosperity of her family as well as for the progress, brotherhood and happy life of the people of Rajpura constituency. The MLA said that worshipping Lord Shiva in the month of Sawan brings peace, happiness and progress in a person's life. On this occasion, MLA Madam Neena Mittal along with her family received blessings from Shri



Mahant Lal Giri Ji Maharaj and said that it is our good fortune that we are present at this historical place today with devotion because the ancient Nalas Temple is not only a religious center, but also the center of faith of the people of Rajpura constituency. She said that she had a long-standing dream that an easy route should be made from GT Road to Nalas Temple, so that the congregation coming from far away does not face any difficulty. She said that today, with the infinite grace of Lord Bholenath, that dream has been fulfilled. Now the congregation is reaching the temple without any hindrance and paying obeisance.

Block level sports competition organised in Ladwa

VIJAY KAUSHIK
LADWA, JULY 23

The Konark Academy Ladwa organized a block level sports competition today on Wednesday. School Principal Mrs. Anjani Singh said that this was a four-day program. On this occasion, Chief Minister representative Kailash Saini arrived as the chief guest. District Education Officer Vinod Kaushik attended as the special guest. SS Sharma on the post of Director of the school, Assistant District Education Officer Harish Kumar, District Elementary Education Officer Jasbir Singh, Zonal Secretary Satish Kumar, Discipline Committee Chief Vikas Malik, Maya Rani and teachers, PTI, DP and



students of various schools were present. First of all, the program started with Saraswati Vandana. Chief guest Kailash Saini in his speech encouraged the students by awakening their interest in sports. Children were informed about various schemes related to sports. Thereafter, the students sang the sports song. The chief guests were honored by putting badges. Mr Vikas Malik said that in this

competition more than 100 schools showed their talent in about 30 games. The enthusiasm of the participants was at its peak. The children displayed their talent without caring about the heat. The principal in his message welcomed the chief guest and thanked him for considering the school worthy enough to host a block level competition. He also encouraged the students to participate in the games.

RR Bawa DAV Girls excel in Fashion Designing; Baljit & Harmanpreet Secure 3rd Position



VERMA
BATALA: The students of Post Graduate Diploma in Garment Construction and Fashion Designing Sem. II of RR Bawa DAV College for Girls, Batala got the excellent result and came out in flying colours in May 2025 University Examinations. Principal Dr. Ekta Khosla informed with utmost satisfaction that Ms. Baljit Kaur and Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur jointly bagged third position in the University. Principal Dr. Ekta Khosla congratulated Mrs. Harpreet Aneja (Head, PG Department of Fashion Designing), the faculty members, the students along with their parents for this excellent achievement and wished them a bright future ahead.

YS School, Barnala scholars learn smart shopping during D-Mart visit



KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA: YS School Barnala organized an educational visit for its scholars to D-Mart, providing them a hands-on learning experience beyond the classroom. Students from Grades 4 participated in this practical activity aimed at developing life skills, financial literacy, and consumer awareness. During the visit, the scholars explored different sections of D-Mart, where they learned how to check price tags, compare products, and read expiry dates on various items. Teachers guided them on how to identify quality products, understand packaging details, and make budget-friendly choices while shopping. The visit became even more engaging as students prepared a small checklist of essential grocery and stationery items, noted their prices, and calculated the total to understand money management practically. It was heartening to see the young scholars taking keen interest in checking expiry dates before adding products to their baskets, reflecting their sense of responsibility and awareness.

Havan and worship of Lord Shiva performed in devotional atmosphere in hostel premises



HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA: On auspicious occasion of Shivratri in holy month of Shravan, havan and worship of Lord Shiva was performed in a devotional atmosphere in hostel premises. Acharyas, staff and students participated with devotion and enthusiasm. Havan was started with chanting of Vedic mantras, which filled entire atmosphere with spiritual energy. Host of havan was chief supervisor of hostel, Bhaskaranand and in form of Brahma. Amit Dhiman performed havan as per rituals. Program became more sacred with chanting of Lord Shiva's Aarti and mantras. Atmosphere became devotional with sweet and melodious Bhajan-filled voice of Amit Dhiman. Chief Supervisor Bhaskaranand said on this festival of Shivratri that we should pledge that we all should become Shivatvamay, charity and welfare should be our aim.

MLA Ghanshyam Das Arora meets villagers and discusses about bridge to be built in Ghodon Pipli village

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 23

MLA from Yamunanagar Assembly constituency Ghanshyam Das Arora while giving information said that dozens of villagers including the Sarpanch of the village Ghodon Pipli of his constituency met him on Wednesday and discussed the development work being done in the village Ghodon Pipli. MLA Ghanshyam Das Arora told the villagers that he was continuously getting development work done in his constituency through the Haryana government and all the people of the village should unanimously submit a proposal resolution to him as soon as possible regarding the bridge to be built in



Ghodon Pipli village. He will hand over the unanimous resolution of the proposal given by the villagers to the Chief Minister and then the bridge will be constructed as per the wishes of the villagers. MLA Mr Arora said that the long-standing demand of the people of the village for a bridge would soon be fulfilled. MLA Ghanshyam Das Arora said

that Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini was engaged in making Haryana the leading state of the country with hard work and simplicity, many states of our country were also implementing the schemes of the present Haryana state in their respective states. This was the biggest success of the BJP government under Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini.

District admin starts preparations for stubble management



KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA, JULY 23

District administration Barnala has started upcoming preparations for stubble management in the district. Deputy Commissioner Barnala T. Benith IAS today called an important meeting of various departments including Agriculture Department, Panchayati Raj, Revenue Department and a strategy was drawn up for stubble management. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that there are about 25 hot spot villages in the district which should be given special attention. He said that apart from this, every farmer should be reached through village panchayats, mohatbars and departmental staff so that they can be made aware about proper stubble management. On this occasion, he asked the Revenue Department and the Agriculture

Department to prepare lists of farmers and further encourage progressive farmers. He directed the Panchayati Raj Department to liaise with the Panchayats and the Cooperation Department to liaise with the farmers and motivate them. He said that apart from deputing officers and nodal officers at the village level and cluster level, senior officers will be deployed for monitoring so that the stubble management campaign can be made successful. On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner (G) Anupriya Johal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) Satwant Singh, SP Rajesh Chhibber, District Development and Panchayat Officer Amarinderpal Singh, District Revenue Officer Gurjinder Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer Jagbir Singh, AR Cooperative Societies Rupinder Singh and officers and employees from various other departments were present.

It is the era of modern technological age: Father Sunny Jacob SJ



ARVIND PATHAK
SULTANPUR LODHI: A three-day educational seminar was organized at Christ Jyoti Convent School Sultanpur Lodhi under the leadership of Principal Sister Anslet and today Father Sunny Jacob SJ (Jamshedpur) attended as the chief guest on the last day of the seminar. The main objective of today's seminar was to provide face-to-face and educational information to the parents and teachers of the students. The stage was conducted by Staff Secretary Anjum Dhir and Sunil Kumar, Madam Sonia PRO, Savita Kumari. Sharing his views on the seminar Father Sunny Jacob said that today is the era of modern technological age and the education system has also changed with the era. The previous education systems are not taking the present era forward. Today, the entire world is also struggling to raise the level of education so that their country can become educated and progress. He said that students should not be taught strictly but in a very honest manner and ignore the minor issues of the students. During the seminar, he also presented the relationship between teachers and parents of students in a very good manner.

Police raise awareness against drug abuse among school children in Karnal

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, JULY 23

As part of the ongoing anti-drug campaign, the Narcotics Awareness Team of Karnal Police conducted an awareness session at Adarsh Public School, Kunjpura Road, Karnal. The initiative aimed to educate schoolchildren about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage a drug-free, healthy lifestyle. Addressing the students, the Additional Director General of Police, Karnal Range, highlighted that drug consumption not only deteriorates physical health but has a severe and immediate impact on mental well-being. "Addiction often leads to stress, depression, headaches, and other



psychological problems. Over time, it impairs cognitive abilities, decision-making, and even basic functioning," he said. He warned that excessive alcohol consumption can severely damage the liver, nervous system, and even lead to vision loss. Similarly, the use of tobacco, gutka, pan masala, and cigarettes can result in life-threatening

conditions like oral and lung cancer. The officer encouraged students to adopt a healthy lifestyle by engaging in meditation, staying active in sports, and seeking positive influences and guidance. "Developing skills and channeling energy into constructive activities is one of the best ways to prevent youth from falling into the trap of addiction," he added.

Sea of devotion at Indri's ancient Shiva temple on Sawan Mahashivratri

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, JULY 23

On the auspicious occasion of Sawan Mahashivratri, thousands of devotees thronged the ancient Shiva temple in Indri on Wednesday, creating a remarkable atmosphere of faith and devotion. From as early as 4 a.m., long queues of Shiva devotees began forming to perform jalabhishek. Carrying sacred Ganga water from Haridwar, kanwariyas arrived at the temple chanting "Bol Bam" and offered the holy water on the Shivaling as part of their worship. The temple premises echoed throughout the day with chants, prayers, and deep expressions of



reverence. Alongside regular worship, special Rudrabhishek and havan ceremonies were conducted. The temple management had made elaborate arrangements for water, prasad, resting areas, and assistance for the large crowd. Separate lines and rest zones were set up specifically for kanwariyas to ensure a smooth experience.

Temple priest Mohit Sharma shared that praying to Lord Shiva on Mahashivratri is believed to fulfil all wishes. "The overwhelming devotion displayed by the kanwariyas and other devotees is heartwarming," he said, noting that a significantly larger number of pilgrims had brought Ganga water from Haridwar this year.

NEWS BRIEFS

Guru Ravidas Sabha makes arrangements for boarding and lodging of CAT candidates

MEGH RAJ LUTHRA KACHWA: Kachhwa. Guru Ravidas Sabha of Saidpura near Karnal city has made arrangements for free boarding and lodging for the candidates appearing for CAT exam on 26-27 July. This initiative is being considered an example. Hundreds of candidates will come from far-flung districts of Haryana to take this exam. Social workers of Saidpura, Karam Singh Bhukal and Sonu Chaliya said that candidates of any community can come and stay here a day before the exam. Separate arrangements have been made for the stay of boys and girls. Candidates can also inform on 9991354939/9996905916 before coming.

Large cold storage will be built in every district: Shyam Singh Rana

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana said a large cold storage will be built in every district so that fruits and vegetables grown by farmers do not get spoiled and they can get better prices for their produce.

He directed the officials to speed up work and emphasized that all announcements made in the Budget 2025-26 by the Chief Minister must be completed within the stipulated time-frame. Officers will be held accountable for any delay. Sh. Rana was chairing a meeting of horticulture and other related officials at his office today.

The Agriculture Minister reviewed the status of horticulture-related budget announcements in detail. When he asked about the progress of setting up a modern processing and packaging plant for kinnow fruit in Sirsa, officials informed that 3 acres of land have been identified by the Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation and a draft DPR (Detailed Project Report) has been prepared. Further action will be taken soon.

He was also informed that there are plans to establish similar ad-



vanced processing and packaging plants and mandis for guava in Hisar and Fatehabad, and work on these will begin shortly.

During the meeting, it was informed that out of the 2,000 new Har-Hit stores announced in the state, agreements for 1,805 have been signed, and 1,284 stores have already been opened.

When the Minister inquired about ensuring periodic increase in compensation amounts under the Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana as per inflation, officials responded that the department is formulating a 'Horticulture Policy' and this matter is being included in it.

Sh. Shyam Singh Rana directed

officials to prioritize building one large cold storage facility in every district. He also said that owners of these storages should be encouraged to use solar energy to reduce costs and increase income. Under this scheme, there is a provision of 35% subsidy for setting up cold storage facilities of up to 5,000 metric tons capacity, amounting to between 1.68 crore and 2.10 crore per beneficiary.

He further instructed officials to encourage farmers to grow crops that require less water, fertilizers, and pesticides. This would help conserve water and reduce health issues caused by chemically treated food.

The Agriculture Minister was informed that farmers are being given 30,000 per acre for crops like turmeric, garlic, and ginger, and 15,000 per acre for spices like coriander and fenugreek.

He also reviewed the efforts being made by the department to promote beekeeping and mushroom cultivation.

Sh. Shyam Singh Rana said under the guidance of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, the state government is continuously working to improve the economic condition of farmers.

Anyone who comes to Shri Ghantakarna Dev Darbar with a true heart gets his wishes fulfilled: Pramila

CHAMAN LAL KARNAL, JULY 23

On the special day of blessings of the highly influential Shri Ghantakarna Mahavir Devta, Krishna Chaudas, a Bhakti Sangam was organized with devotion at Shri Ghantakarna Mahavir Tirthasthan, Indri Road. First of all, the collective chanting of Shri Ghantakarna Beej Mantra was done to pray for the welfare of the people and everyone. Sadhvi Jagriti, Jaipal Singh, Karmveer, Garima, Pushpa Goyal, Praveen Jain, Sarita Jain, Pawan Jain, Rita Jain praised with their bhajans. I came to you wandering from door to door; I got everything on seeing you, I felt like this after coming to you: consciousness has awakened in my soul, everyone seems secondary in front of your qualities; you are the immortal story of my thoughts, I have written a request in your court Dada; Just put your seal on it, I am standing in wait, Dada, place both your hands on my head; If you want to give, then give me companionship for life after life, I am happy to bow my head at your door; You have found a priest, I have found a place, etc., the lyrics of these bhajans forced everyone to dance.

Mahasadhvi Shri Pramila Ji Maharaj talked about the highly influential Shri Ghantakarna Devta that Shri Ghantakarna Ji is the 30th



Veer Shiromani among the 52 Veers and is an influential deity with the honorable position of Commander in the council of Veers, who is specially revered and worshipped in all three traditions, Jain, Hindu and Buddhist. In the Jain tradition, he is considered the ruler-protector deity of the twenty-fourth Tirthankara Lord Mahavir. In the Vedic tradition, he is considered the Kshetrapal deity of Badrinath Tirtha, the Gan of Lord Shiva and an inseparable associate of his son Kartikeya. In the Mantra scriptures, there is mention of the mantras and sadhana-methods of Shri Ghantakarna, which work like a panacea for wish fulfillment, resolution siddhi, fear removal, relief from physical pain, removal of ghost-related obstacles, and getting rid of state crises.

Students should study with a goal in life: B K Sunita Didi

MANMOHAN SHARMA HANSI, JULY 23

Students should study with a specific goal in their life and also work in the field of versatility in themselves by engaging in various social service activities like planting trees, donating blood etc, said BK Sunita Didi, Director of Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya branch, before the plantation program organized by Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya branch in the Government Senior Secondary School today. School Principal Rajesh Kumar Badhana said that trees and plants are true friends of humans who always give and do not take anything from us and without trees and



plants, humans cannot even imagine a happy life. BK Professor Pramod Malik and BK Sonia sister, who came from Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya, also made the children aware of moral values and our duties towards the society.

Many types of fruit, flower and shady plants were planted in the school premises. Many teachers, students of the school

and many brothers from Brahma Kumaris organisation participated enthusiastically in the tree plantation programme. The Principal thanked Brahma Kumari Sunita sister by presenting her a gift for organizing the tree plantation program in the school.

Active communication must to strengthen organisation: Tejinder Goldy

GOLDY CHUGH

SHAHABAD: BJP District President Tejinder Singh Goldy said that active communication and dedication is required at every mandal and booth level to strengthen the organisation. Workers are the real strength of BJP and it is because of them that the party has achieved this position today. That is why BJP has started a Pravas program under which they will try to visit all the



booths of the district and stay at the residences of the workers and talk to them about strengthening the party. Under this program, District President Tejinder Goldy and BJP leader Master Subhash Kalsana reached the residence of Shahabad Mandal President Supashiv Jain and General Secretary Jatinder Popli under the Pravas programme. A discussion was held about the organisational strength of the party. BJP leader Subhash Kalsana said that BJP is an ideology based organization which works on a worker based structure. He said that the Pravas program is an important step towards strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level. It is our priority to understand the problems and suggestions of workers by directly communicating with them. BJP District President Tejinder Singh Goldy and Master Subhash Kalsana said that now the Mandal President will also communicate with the workers by visiting booths and Shakti Kendras under the Pravas program. On this occasion, former head of Nagar Palika Baldev Raj Chawla, Mandal President Sarvjeet Kalsani, Mandal President Naresh Kajal, Mandal President Yadavindra Singh Lucky Rana, Councilor Deepak Anand, Baldev Raj Sethi, Nirmal Virk etc.

Free accommodation, food for CET candidates at Jat Dharamshala: Dr. Krishna

DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA, JULY 23

A meeting was held today at International Jat Dharamshala Kurukshetra which was chaired by the head of Jat Sanstha Krishna Shyokand. All the executive members were present in the meeting.

Giving information about the decision taken in the meeting, the media coordinator of the Sanstha Gurdeep Tanwar said that keeping in mind the upcoming CET examination to be held on 26th and 27th July, it was decided to make free arrangements for night stay and food for the candidates at Jat Dharamshala.

He said that on this day, candidates from all over Haryana will reach their respective centres to take the exam. In such a situation, all the colleagues coming to Kurukshetra district are requested that they can come and stay in the Dharamshala whenever they want and extensive arrangements for refreshments and food have been made for them so that any candidate coming here does not face any problem of accommodation



and food and can give his exam comfortably.

He said that Jat Dharamshala is always ready for such social work. Dr. Krishna Shyokand, the head of International Jat Dharamshala, requested all the Jat organizations across Haryana to also make arrangements for accommodation and food for all the candidates coming to the city at their own level so that we

can present an example of social harmony. On this occasion, the head of the organisation Krishna Shyokand, Bani Singh Dhul, Hoshiyar Barwa, Harkesh Sahran, former head Narendra Nain, Karambir Sarpanch Gharaasi, former Sarpanch Tekchand Barna, former head Surender Ambersar, Rajender Hathira, Jaswant Kolkha, Kuldeep Hathira and other members were present.

Plantation campaign conducted in DAV College

PRITI SAINI SADHAURA:

Under the instructions of Haryana 14 Battalion Yamunanagar, NCC cadets conducted a plantation campaign under Greening India's Wasteland on Wednesday in Sadhaura DAV College. More than 40 cadets of the college participated in this campaign under the leadership of CTO Johnny Saini. More than 50 plants were planted under the campaign and the cadets took an oath to take care of them. On this occasion, Principal Tejveer Singh, NSS Officer Dr. Gurmeet Singh were present. Other volunteers also contributed to this plantation campaign. Principal Tejveer Singh inspired the students to plant trees and later take care of these plants.



Narsingh Das Public School presents short play on distraction and concentration

KAMAL SHARMA TARAORI:

Students of Narsingh Das Public School Taraori presented a short play on the topic of distraction and concentration. Students of class XI science stream gave a very beautiful presentation. In the short play, students showed how various distracting things like social media and other destructive things hinder the studies of students. They also showed how concentration is important for us and how we can develop it.

Through the short play, emphasis was laid on the students adopting positive thinking and self-control. School director Dharmendra Kheda said that only through meditation and yoga we can achieve concentration. Concentration is the first step to success. Only through this, students can overcome the battle going on inside the mind. School manager Madhu Gupta said that this play was a useful lesson for the students, which made them aware about the importance of distraction and concentration. Staff members and children were present on this occasion.



Kisan Morcha to hold 'Corporates Quit India Day' on Aug 13: Comrade Bhatol

MANMOHAN SHARMA HANSI, JULY 23

The United Kisan Morcha, including Haryana, will organise "Corporates Quit India" Day on 13 August 2025 across the country. Tractor/motor vehicle marches will be held on that day and effigies of Trump and Modi will be burnt. From August 15 to November 25, a nationwide campaign will be run through various programs on the burning issues of agriculture and farmer farm labourers. On November 26, 2025, strong protests will be organised across the country including the national capital Delhi. The United Kisan Morcha announced these decisions in an online press conference yesterday which was addressed by farmer leaders Comrade Hannan Maula, Comrade Satyawar, Comrade Viju Krishnan, Comrade Prem Singh Gehlawat, Comrade Ravinder Patiala, Comrade Krishna Prasad etc. All the above decisions were taken in the national meeting of SKM held in Delhi on 20 July 2025, in which 110 farmer representatives from 13 states including All India Kisan Khet Mazdoor Sangathan's National President Satyawar and General

Secretary Shankar Ghosh, Haryana Secretary Jaikaran Mandothi, Hansraj Rana actively participated and held extensive discussions for the interests of farmers and farm laborers.

This information was released here by a prominent leader of the United Kisan Morcha and National President of All India Kisan Khet Mazdoor Sangathan Comrade Satyawar in a press statement. Farmer leader Satyawar said that the way the Modi government of BJP is increasing its influence with American imperialism and is going to sacrifice the interests of farmers including the agricultural sector of the country by importing huge quantities of cheap milk-dairy products, grains, fruits etc. through free trade agreements from foreign countries including America, it will not be tolerated at any cost. The draft of the National Policy of Agricultural Marketing released by the Modi government itself is more dangerous than the three black agricultural laws that were repealed in the past. On August 13, farmers will protest against this by holding a tractor/motor vehicle march and burning effigies of US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas to be observed at every assembly level: Kapoor

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JULY 23

This time Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas or Partition Disaster Memorial Day will be observed at every district and assembly level. According to BJP district spokesperson Shiv Nath Kapoor, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has decided to organize a state level function on Partition Disaster Memorial Day in Faridabad on 14th August, while he has called for observing disaster Memorial Day in every district and every assembly level on 10th, 11th and 12th August. It is worth noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August 2021, had announced to hold Partition Disaster Memorial Day across the country on 14th August. Shiv Nath Kapoor said that the way the massacre took place before the partition of the country in which lakhs of people had to sacrifice their lives, tributes will be paid to those countless patriots on this day by remembering them, so that the young generation can get acquainted with how costly the partition was for India. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, while addressing the state level



meeting of Punjabi society at Haryana Niwas, said that in fact, 14th August is celebrated to remember the tragedy of partition and to sacrifice everything for the country and religion and to settle in India but did not change religion, 14th August will be held to express gratitude towards such national well-wishers and to pay tributes to the patriots who were martyred in the mass massacre that took place on this day. In this state level meeting of Punjabi society, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Dharmdev, State President Mohan Lal Badoli, Deputy Speaker of Vidhan Sabha Dr. Krishna Midda, former Minister Subhash Sudha, Vinod Bhyana, Ghanshyam Das Arora, Pramod Vij, former Minister Manish Grover etc.

India will be corruption free only with inspiration of martyrs like Azad: Arora

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JULY 23

Anti Corruption Foundation of India, in collaboration with Traffic Rules and Road Safety Federation and Human Rights International Federation, organized a grand celebration of the birth anniversary of martyr Chandra Shekhar Azad, full of patriotic songs, under the leadership of National Supremo Narendra Arora in front of the statue of martyr Chandrashekhar Azad located in Karna Park. The program was presided over by International Chairman Pawan Sharma and International Chief Director Ajit Rahi. On this occasion, the officials of the Foundation paid tribute to martyr Chandrashekhar Azad by offering flowers to his statue. Rajiv Goyal and Ashok Bajaj paid tribute by singing the song Kar chale hum fida jaano tan sathiyo ab tumhare hawale watan saathiyon and Ranjit Gill paid tribute by singing the song Mera rang de basanti chola.



the country is a slave of corruption and the dream of a corruption-free India will come true only by following the path shown by martyrs like Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad. He said that along with the independence of the country, Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad also dreamt of freedom from corruption, which is still incomplete and the Anti Corruption Foundation of India has been

trying to fulfill it for the last eight years. Yoginder Singh Kaushik, Satish Malhotra, Harish Sharma, Pawan Kumar Kansal, Khurshid Alam, Sudarshan Kansal, Naseeb Singh Batan, Rama Mishra, Dr. Kewal Krishna Chaudhary, Surendra Pal Sharma, Sunil Rana, Karm Singh Langyan, Aljahn etc. were present.

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor / Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(A/c No.) L9001060728635332 & L9001060837782316 Khan Vegetable Store (Borrower), Manir Khan (Co-Borrower), Smt. Bindya (Co-Borrower)	12-Feb-25 Rs. 587606/- Rs. Five Lac Eighty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Only & Rs. 216650/- Rs. Two Lac Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Only 10-Feb-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Khatwat No 1464, Khata No 1660, Mu. No 185, Private Property No 15 Min, Vill Shahpur Begu, Th & Dist Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 191.11 Sq Yds	18-Jul-25
(A/c No.) L9001060141778262 Chauhan Dairy Farm (Borrower), Smt. Geeta Devi (Co-Borrower), Amit Chauhan (Co-Borrower), Surender (Co-Borrower)	17-Mar-25 Rs. 5195746/- Rs. Fifty-One Lac Ninety-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Six Only 12-Mar-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Khatwat No 290, Khata No 339, Mustil No 39, Killa No 18/1(3-11), 19-(8-0), 20(8-0), 21(8-0), 22(8-0), Mustil No 40, Killa No 15(8-0), 16(8-0), 17(2/5-3), 25(7-2), Mouja- Gijador, Teshil And Dist - Jhajjar, Haryana Admeasuring 4 Kanal, East : AGRICULTURE/VACANT LAND, West : AGRICULTURE/VACANT LAND, North : AGRICULTURE/VACANT LAND, South : KACCHA ROAD	22-Jul-25

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said (Act-2002) read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. "The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 (6), in respect of time available, i.e., 30 days from this intimation, to redeem the secured assets." The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.

Place: Haryana Date: 23 July 2025 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

Editorial

New force

For the bulk of Japan's history after World War II, the Liberal Democratic Party has ruled the country, marrying Centrist conservatism with pragmatic nationalism, with an almost ironclad grip on power. But elections to the East Asian nation's upper House of Parliament last weekend have shaken that equilibrium as the LDP of Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba failed to secure a majority even with a coalition partner. Mr Ishiba's position was already in danger: after becoming prime minister last September, he had called snap polls in which the LDP fell well short of a majority and was forced to find post-poll allies in order to stay in power. Since then, he has struggled to win back support as Japan's economic crisis has deepened, cost of living concerns have intensified, and frustrations over the direction of the country — whose GDP has slipped from third in the world to fifth, behind India, by some estimates — have grown. Although Mr Ishiba has for now said he plans to stay on in office, the latest election results will likely amplify calls from within the LDP for a new leader and increase pressure on his government from the Opposition.

Japanese prime ministers often have notoriously short tenures. But the results of these elections represent a deeper churn in that country. The rise of a far-Right party, Sanseito, in particular, has raised questions about whether some of the issues that have galvanised similar movements in the West might also resonate in Japan.

The party, which was born during the Covid-19 pandemic, first gained attention for its campaigns against vaccination and mask mandates. Ahead of the recent election, it also promised tax cuts. But it is best known for its 'Japanese First' agenda, which, its leader has said, is inspired in part by the politics of Donald Trump, the president of the United States of America. Sanseito opposes the very limited immigration that Japan has in recent years started to encourage to counter its declining population and resulting labour woes. In the upper House of Parliament, it went from one seat to more than a dozen, apparently pulling away some segments of the LDP's conservative voter base. More than most nations, Japan knows the perils of the toxic combination of militarised nationalism and xenophobia. Its neighbours remember that Japanese avatar well too. What path Japan chooses next will impact not just its future but how the region and the world view it.

India reaffirms commitment to peace at UNSC

India on Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to international peace and security through multilateralism and peaceful settlement of disputes, while strongly condemning cross-border terrorism and calling out Pakistan at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) High-Level Open Debate. Delivering India's statement on , Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, Permanent Representative to the UN, said, "As we complete 80 years of the United Nations, it is a useful moment to reflect on how far the spirit of multilateralism and peaceful settlement of disputes as enshrined in the UN Charter has been realized."

Highlighting the transformation in the nature of global conflicts, Harish noted, "In the recent decades, the nature of conflicts has transformed, with a proliferation of non-state actors, often propped up as proxies by state actors; and cross-border funding, arms trafficking, training of terrorists, and spread of radical ideologies, facilitated by modern digital and communication technologies." On the need to ensure accountability for terrorism, the Ambassador referenced the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that killed 26 innocent tourists. He said,



"Consequent to the gruesome terrorist attack in Pahalgam... and based on the Council Statement of 25 April... India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), which was focused, measured, and non-escalatory in nature. On achieving its primary objectives, a cessation of military activities was directly concluded at the request of Pakistan."

He stressed that "national ownership and consent of parties are cen-

tral to any efforts to achieve peaceful resolution of conflicts," adding, "There should also be a serious cost to states who violate the spirit of good neighbourliness and international relations by fomenting cross-border terrorism."

Addressing recent remarks by Pakistan's representative, Harish said, "The Indian Sub Continent offers a stark contrast in terms of progress, prosperity and development models. On the one hand, there is India which is a mature democra-

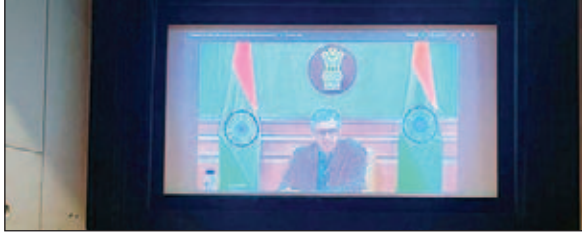
cy, a surging economy and a pluralistic and inclusive society. At the other extreme is Pakistan, steeped in fanaticism and terrorism, and a serial borrower from the IMF." He added, "It ill behoves a member of the Council to offer homilies while indulging in practices that are unacceptable to the international community." The Ambassador also emphasized India's role as the largest cumulative contributor to UN Peacekeeping forces and a pioneer in promoting women in peacekeeping."

Literature & Health

India, Japan discuss boosting maritime connectivity

India and Japan continued to deepen their partnership on maritime connectivity and regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region during a seminar titled "IPOI: India-Japan Partnership in Maritime Connectivity" held at the Indian Embassy in Tokyo on Tuesday (local time).

Ambassador of India to Japan, Sibi George, delivered the inaugural remarks at the event, which featured special addresses by Japan's former Defence Minister and MP H.E. Mr. Minoru Kihara, India's Secretary (East) H.E. Mr. P. Kumaran, and H.E. Mr. Shingo Miyamoto, Director General at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). The discussions focused on strengthening India-Japan



cooperation on maritime linkages across the Indo-Pacific region.

The Indian Embassy later shared highlights of the event in a post on social media platform X, "Glimpses of a seminar on 'IPOI: India-Japan Partnership in Maritime Connectivity' held at the Embassy. Ambassador @AmbSibiGeorge delivered the inaugural remarks at the event, which also featured special remarks by H.E. Mr. Minoru Kihara,

Hon'ble MP & former Defence Minister, H.E. Mr. P. Kumaran, Secretary (East), and H.E. Mr. Shingo Miyamoto, DG, MOFA. Discussions focused on deepening India-Japan cooperation in enhancing maritime connectivity in Indo-Pacific." <https://x.com/IndianEmbTokyo/status/1947647621805576605> n the sidelines of the seminar, Ambassador Sibi George held talks with top Japanese lawmakers.

US lawmaker warns against H2O chip sales to China

Chairman of Select Committee on the Chinese communist party (SCCCP) John Moolenaar (R-MI) gave a speech at the Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy discussing a crucial topic: ensuring the security of the technologies that will shape the upcoming century. "Semiconductors, AI, quantum computing aren't just economic assets. They're the backbone of national security, diplomacy, and global power," asserted Moolenaar, according to the release by SCCC.

Moolenaar also expressed his disagreement with the recent choice to remove the prohibition on the sale of H2O chips to China. "The decision to lift the ban was done for a reason I very much agree with. Sell-



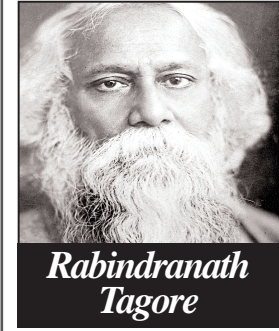
ing H2Os to China further extends U.S. technology as the global standard and provides valuable revenue for U.S. companies that will be used to invest in the next tech generation. However, these are not the only objectives we must achieve. The core objective of all U.S. export control restrictions to China is preventing the PLA from advancing their

military capability, in this case AI, through U.S. technology," he continued, as quoted by SCCC. "The H2O is a stark improvement over what the Chinese can indigenously produce at scale. When, not if, these chips are diverted to a PLA supercomputer, they will substantially upgrade their ability to run advanced AI models."

POEM

The Child-Angel

They clamour and fight, they doubt and despair, they know no end to their wrangling. Let your life come



Rabindranath Tagore

amongst them like a flame of light, my child, unflickering and pure, and delight them into silence.

They are cruel in their greed and their envy, their words are like hidden knives thirsting for blood.

Go and stand amidst their scowling hearts, my child, and let your gentle eyes fall upon them like the forgiving peace of the evening over the strife of the day.

Rabindranath Tagore

India's food delivery and Quick Commerce to sustain growth of 17-22% CAGR

Despite challenges, India's food delivery and quick commerce (QC) sectors are expected to maintain strong growth momentum in the coming years, according to a report by Nirmal Bang. The report highlighted that the food delivery market in the country is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17-22 per cent between 2023 and 2028. Meanwhile, the quick commerce segment is likely to expand even faster, with a projected CAGR of over 60 per cent during the same period. It stated that "India's Food Delivery & QC to Sustain Growth".

The report stated that platforms such as Swiggy and Eternal are expected to continue leading the food delivery segment. On the demand side, factors like customer preference for platforms and assortment variety are working in favour of these incumbents. These fac-



tors are likely to support their leadership position, even though some vul-

nerabilities remain on the supply side. While there has been innovation

around product assortment and faster delivery, the report noted that affordability still has room for improvement, though discounting is not the main focus. In the quick commerce segment, the report stated that Eternal's Blinkit is currently ahead in both scale and profitability.

Swiggy is still catching up, but recent investments in dark stores and improved customer targeting could help it achieve positive contribution profit as a percentage of Gross Order Value (GOV) by FY27.

Better client acquisition and faster customer spending compared to earlier phases are also seen as promising signs for Swiggy. The report values the Indian online food delivery market at approximately Rs 630 billion (USD 7.3 billion) in 2023 and expects it to grow to Rs 1,400-1,700 billion (USD 17-21 billion) by 2028. Similarly, the quick com-

merce market, focused on ultra-fast delivery of daily essentials, is forecasted to grow sharply from Rs 224 billion (USD 2.8 billion) in 2023 to Rs 2.3-4.2 trillion (USD 29-53 billion) by 2028.

The near-term annual growth rate is expected to be 80-100 per cent. This rapid growth is being driven by increasing digital usage, higher consumption frequency, and wider expansion into Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Platforms like Swiggy (Food Delivery, Instamart, Dineout) and Eternal (Food Delivery, Blinkit, District) are turning into multi-vertical ecosystems, meeting consumer needs both at home and outside.

Even in a slowing overall demand environment, platform-based models across food delivery, quick commerce, and dining out are proving to be strong structural growth drivers with long-term potential, the report concluded.

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: On the second day of orientation program organized for first year students in DAV Girls College, Rotary Club Yamunanagar. President Sanjay Pahuja was keynote speaker. He gave detailed information to students



about importance of parents in life and also was explained through various video clippings. Acting Principal of college Dr. Surinder Kaur presided over program. Dr. Sunita Kaushik and Dr. Anita Moudgil were overall co-ordinators. Dr. Rita Singh and Dr. Meenakshi Saini were

conveners. Rotarian Sanjay Pahuja said that it can often be seen that following western civilization, youth remember their parents and wish them only on Mother's and Father's Day. 'This tradition is wrong. Every day is made for parents, so we should hug them every day.

NEWS BRIEF

Plantation campaign conducted in DAV College



PRITI SAINI SADHAURA: Under the instructions of Haryana 14 Battalion Yamunanagar, NCC cadets conducted a plantation campaign under Greening India's Wasteland on Wednesday in Sadhaura DAV College. More than 40 cadets of the college participated in this campaign under the leadership of CTO Johnny Saini. More than 50 plants were planted under the campaign and the cadets took an oath to take care of them. On this occasion, Principal Tejveer Singh, NSS Officer Dr. Gurmeet Singh were present. Other volunteers also contributed to this plantation campaign. Principal Tejveer Singh inspired the students to plant trees and later take care of these plants.

Sawan favorite of Lord Shiva, Rudrabhishek gives peace to mind: Brahmaswaroop Brahmachari



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, JULY 23

On auspicious occasion of Sawan, a very divine, devotional and peace-giving Rudrabhishek ritual was performed at Shri Rameshwar Mahadev Temple of Shri Jayaram Vidyapeeth under inspiration and guidance of P a r a m a d h y a k s h a

Brahmaswaroop Brahmachari of Shri Jayaram institutions operating across country. P a r a m a d h y a k s h a Brahmaswaroop Brahmachari Maharaj himself performed Rudrabhishek and prayed to Lord Shiva for welfare of all. He told devotees importance of Sawan worship and Rudrabhishek and said that month of Sawan is the

Kheer, fruits distributed to Kanwariyas in camp



NIRMAL SAINI

RADAUR: A Kanwar camp was organized for Kanwariyas on SK Road in Radaur by Apco Infratech Private Limited. Various types of dishes were prepared for Kanwariyas in camp. Fruits and Kheer were also distributed as Prasad. Medical facilities were also made available to Kanwariyas. Company's Project Manager Sarveshwar told that pilgrims coming with Ganga water from Haridwar cover a long distance to reach their destination. It is very difficult to travel on foot carrying Kanwad in this scorching heat. Pilgrims rest in Kanwad camps set up at various places. This year, his company also set up a Kanwad camp in which employees of company offered their services. He said that all of us should do such works for welfare of humanity. By doing such work, mind gets peace and one experiences spiritual peace. During this, Utpal Chakraborty, Dhanraj Maurya, Rajendra, Sanjeev Sharma, Shubham Mishra, Anshu Singh, Arvind, Vineet Kumar Vicky were present.

favorite month of Lord Shiva. Performing Rudrabhishek at this time not only strengthens our spiritual life, but it also purifies our mind, body and soul. When Rudra mantras are

chanted after anointing Shivaling with water, milk, ghee, honey, panchamrit, a divine energy is generated which fills tentire atmosphere with positivity.

Last rites of world's oldest marathon runner S. Fauja Singh performed at Beas Village

BUNNY SODHI JALANDHAR, JULY 23

The last rites of 114-year-old international marathon legend S. Fauja Singh, fondly known as the 'Turban Tornado,' were performed at his native village Beas Pind. Known for starting his athletic journey at the age of 90 and setting a world record at 100 in Toronto, he brought immense pride to India. His Bhog ceremony was held at Gurdwara Baba Shaheedan Sarmathpur, attended by dignitaries including SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhani, Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Gargaji, and farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dullewal. Earlier, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, and Congress leader Rana Gurjit Singh had also paid tribute. Fauja Singh, who lived in



England for 26 years with his son Sukhinder Singh, died in a tragic road accident near his home when a Fortuner car, driven by NRI Amritpal Singh Dhillon, collided with his vehicle. He succumbed to injuries during treatment. The accused was arrested within 30 hours. Villagers and the Gram Panchayat expressed deep sorrow over the loss, remembering him as a kind-hearted soul who brought glory to his village, state, and nation.

Inquilab Mandir pays tribute to Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad

NIRMAL SAINI

RADAUR: Inquilab Mandir Gumthala Rao celebrates Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad's birthday. Temple founder Advocate Varyam Singh paid tribute to Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad by offering flowers to his statue and said that Chandrashekhar Azad's name is written in golden letters today. Story of country's independence was written with sacrifice he made for country's freedom. It is because of martyrs that we are breathing in open air today. It is our duty to respect martyrs who sacrificed for country's freedom and to tell other people about their lives and sacrifices.



Outstanding results in 6th semester: B.A. final year students shine at Indira Gandhi (P.G.) Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kaithal



SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: Indira Gandhi (P.G.) Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kaithal continues its legacy of academic excellence as its B.A. final year students delivered an exceptional performance in the 6th semester university examinations (2024-2025). The results declared by Kurukshetra University brought immense pride to the college. Adding more information, President, Governing Body informed that Sohni, secured 1st position with an outstanding 91.33% marks (411/450) in B.A.6th Sem. Mahak, stood 2nd with 90.27% (334/370). Himanshi, earned 3rd position scoring 90.23% (388/430). Muskan Rani achieved 6th position with 88.60% (381/430). Neha, shared the 9th position securing 87.15% (351/400) with Tamanna, daughter of Mahinder Singh, also ranked 9th, scoring 87.15% (351/400). President MMV Samiti, Sh. Jagdish Bahadur Khurania expressed pride in the consistent academic achievements of the college and motivated the students to aim higher in their future endeavors. Management members including Sh.Narendra Miglani, Sh Bhushan Nirwanja, Sh.Sudarshan Gupta and Sh. Amarjit Chabra congratulated all the meritorious students for their hard work and dedication.

Pooja Bharti to participate in the upcoming World Championship in China



CHAMAN LAL

KARNAL: Guru Nanak Khalsa College Karnal's NCC and promising sports student Pooja Bharti has brought laurels to the college and Karnal by participating on behalf of India in the Dragon Boat competition held in Germany. On reaching the college, the head of the management committee, Kanwarjit Singh Prince welcomed Pooja Bharti and assured to provide all possible help from the college. Giving detailed information about this, the college's principal Dr. Chuhad Singh said that India has secured the sixth position in this competition held in Berlin, the capital of Germany and Pooja Bharti was a part of the team. The principal said that the upcoming World Championship will be held in China in which Pooja Bharti will also participate. The principal said that Pooja Bharti is not only a dragon boat player but she has also won a silver medal in powerlifting. Kanwarjit Singh Prince congratulated the principal, sports in-charge Dr. Devi Bhushan, DP Wazir Singh and Subhash coach and the student for this achievement. It is noteworthy that Pooja Bharti is also an NCC cadet. 7 Haryana NCC Battalion Commanding Officer Colonel KK Venkataraman also congratulated Pooja Bharti. On this occasion, College Management Committee's Finance Secretary Harmukhjot Singh Mann, Choudhary Rajbir Chauhan, Mr. Daljit Singh Sharnghar, Jogendra Singh, Hoshiyar Singh, former Principal Dr. SK Goyal.

Tree plantation programme held in Sunrise Public School



RAMKISHAN

PRATAP NAGAR: A special tree plantation programme was organised in Sunrise Public School, Pratap Nagar on the occasion of "Green India Mission" for environmental protection. This programme was organised under the aegis of 14 Haryana Battalion NCC, Yamuna Nagar, which was conducted under the guidance of Commanding Officer Colonel Jarnail Singh and Administrative Officer Colonel Jitendra Dahiya. On this occasion, keeping in mind the World Plantation Day, a special tree plantation campaign was carried out in the institute campus. It was inaugurated by the Principal of the institute, Paramjit Kaur, by planting a sapling. Along with her, Virendra Sandhu, NCC Officer Sachin Nagara and NCC cadets of the institute also participated enthusiastically and planted many types of saplings. On this occasion, in her inspirational address, Principal Paramjit Kaur said. Tree plantation is very important for a green future. We have a collective responsibility towards green forest and clean environment, which everyone has to understand. He said that we all should definitely plant trees on our birthdays, marriage anniversaries or any other event and along with this we should also take the responsibility of taking care of the trees planted.

Dhankhar's tenure as VP matter of pride for 140 crore people: Shandilya

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

AMBALA: National President of Anti Terrorist Front India and Brahmin Mahapanchayat Vireesh Shandilya said that no one should do politics on the resignation of former Vice President of the country Jagdeep Dhankhar. Brahmin



society and 140 crore people of the country are proud of Jagdeep Dhankhar who showed the mirror to the judiciary of the country. As Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar's work style and humanity were bigger than a bent shady, fruit bearing tree, his thinking was dedicated to the integrity of the country. Vireesh Shandilya, National President of Anti Terrorist Front India and Brahmin Mahapanchayat said that he is proud that Jagdeep Dhankhar's daughter is married in Brahmin community and he got a chance to meet Jagdeep Dhankhar many times and he is convinced of his national welfare and farsighted thinking. Brahmin Mahapanchayat will honour former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with Rashtra Ratna and Vireesh Shandilya also saluted the womb that gave birth to Jagdeep Dhankhar. Brahmin leader Vireesh Shandilya said that today no one leaves the post of Pradhan of a locality but Jagdeep Dhankhar has made the whole world accept the light of his thinking and education by resigning from the post of Vice President. Shandilya said that the opposition should not do politics on Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation but should salute his thinking and the politicians of the country should think like Jagdeep Dhankhar and should not stick to their posts.

Crime Branch-1 team arrests man with an illegal country-made pistol

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: Giving information, the police spokesperson said that Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal issued strict instructions to the district police to crack down on those possessing illegal weapons. Acting under these instructions, the team of Crime Branch-1 arrested a youth with illegal weapons. A case was registered against the accused under the Arms Act and he was presented in the court. From where he was taken on one day police remand. The police was investigating the matter thoroughly. In charge Rajkumar said that his team received secret information that a youth was roaming around with an illegal



weapon on the track of the village Kanjanu canal to commit a crime. Based on this information, a team of head constable Brijpal, Kamaljeet, Pawan was formed. The team went to the spot and arrested the youth roaming there. When he was searched, a country-made pistol was recovered from his possession. During interrogation, he was identified as Danny Gondwal alias Abhi son of Sundaral, resident of Shyam Sundar Puri Jagadhari. A case was registered against the accused under the Arms Act and he was presented in the court from where he was sent to judicial custody and was taken on one day police remand.

Shivaratri festival celebrated with pomp and devotion



YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI

PEHOWA: The festival of Shivratri was celebrated with pomp and devotion in the city and the region. On this occasion, since morning, devotees went to Shiva temples and prayed for good wishes by pouring water on the Shivaling. The temples of the city and the region were decorated grandly on the festival of Shivratri, from morning itself, Havan Yagya was performed and Jalabhishek was done in the temples. Similarly, Havan Yagya was organized in the Shiva temple located in village Danipur. Pandit Ishwar Sharma performed the Havan with chanting of mantras and the devotees received the blessings of Lord Shiva by pouring water. After this, a huge feast was also organized in the temple. In which hundreds of devotees took the prasad. Apart from this, devotees performed Jalabhishek in Shiva temples in Guru Gorakhnath Dham, Jandhedi, Kathgarh and all the surrounding villages.

Model Sanskriti Sr Sec School experiences problem of water logging during rainy season



PREETI SAINI

SADHAURA: Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary School, located on the Sadhaura Kotla Road has been constantly experiencing the problem of water logging and during the rainy season, a lot of water often accumulates on the school premises. According to the information received, due to the lack of proper drainage system in Sadhaura Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary School, the school ground filled with water for many days, due to which students not only faced problems in prayer but other activities of the children were also affected a lot. These days, due to water logging in the school, a lot of grass can also be seen. Giving information, teacher Kamaljeet Saini said that the arrangements for the students in the school rooms were good but there was still a problem of a proper ground. In which grass has grown a lot and mosquitoes and flies and became a breeding ground for these. At the same time, Principal Gurdeep Singh Gulati said that now tiles laying work in the school premises has been started, for which the raw material has arrived.

Ladwa Block Committee members plant saplings under program 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'

VIJAY KAUSHIK

LADWA: Plantation was done in the BDPO office of Ladwa under the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. All the members of the Ladwa Block Committee planted saplings on the premises of the BDPO office. Block Committee Chairman representative Kuldeep Kumar, Block Committee Vice Chairman Sanjeev Kashyap, Joginder Badshami, Somnath Kataria, Jasbir Bakali, Vinod Bakali, Vishal, Salinder and Gurdeep Bedi were present during the plantation. The members of the block committee said that the climate was in crisis and tree plantation was its most effective solution. Planting a tree in the name of mother increased the attachment towards nature in human life.



Chairman representative Kuldeep and Vice Chairman of the Block Committee Sanjeev Kumar said that this campaign has a dual purpose. On one hand, the nature has to be made green and on the other hand, every human has to be made to feel responsible towards nature in the name of mother. The members took an oath to protect and take care of the plants. This work was a meaningful step towards environmental protection. This campaign was inspired by the initiative of the Prime Minister of the country Narendra Modi. On which the successful Chief Minister of our state Naib Saini was also working.

Govt should restore scheme of giving 100-yard plots to poor: Brijpal Chhappar



NITIN SINGLA

BILASPUR: Speaking in Galauli and Mahrampur as part of his public relations campaign in villages of Sadhaura assembly constituency, former BSP candidate Brijpal Chhappar said that ever since the BJP government came to power, scheme of giving 100-yard plots to poor people has been closed. During the 11 years of BJP rule, no poor person was given a 100-yard plot. Chhappar has demanded from government that BJP government should restore closed scheme of giving 100-yard plots to poor needy people and immediately give plots to eligible people. Most of the poor people living in villages do not have houses to live in. Government is cutting BPL ration cards so that poor people do not have to give anything. Chhappar said that BJP party has always exploited the Dalits.

Complete verification of pending applications under PM Vishwakarma Yojana soon: DC



RANVIR PARASHAR

KAITHAL: DC Preeti said that Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana is an important scheme, whose eligible persons should get timely benefits. For this, all officers should ensure to work according to prescribed criteria. If there is any pending application, whose verification is pending, complete that work soon. Objective of this scheme is to strengthen economic condition of artisans and craftsmen. She was giving necessary guidelines to officers during meeting of District Implementation Committee under Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana in her office at Mini Secretariat today. She said that under this scheme, verification of any application is not pending in urban area, while verification of 20 applications is pending in rural area.

Waterlogging on Ugala's main road troubles locals and shopkeepers



JAIBEER RANA THAMBER

BARARA: Persistent waterlogging on the main road of Ugala village, located on the Barara-Shahabad route, has caused severe inconvenience to shopkeepers and local residents. The stretch, which connects Ugala's main chowk to Barara and houses both a school and the main market, has become almost impassable due to rainwater accumulation. Shopkeepers Brijesh Sharma, Sunil Dutt Jain, Netrapal Rana, Mukesh Sharma, and Satpal Singh said the road is used daily not only by residents of Ugala but also by people from neighbouring villages like Sohata and Subhri. They added that this problem arises every year during the monsoon, as the road gets damaged due to standing water.

C. Markanda's book 'Kai Jugnu Kay Taare' launched



KULDEEP SOOD

BARNALA: Punjabi Sahitya Sabha Tapa in collaboration with Barnala unit of Progressive Writers' Association Punjab organized a launch function of journalist and writer C. Markanda's newly published book 'Kai Jugnu Kay Taare' at the local SSD College. The book was jointly launched by Bhadour MLA Labh Singh Ugoke and Barnala constituency in-charge Harinder Singh Dhaliwal. They were accompanied by Municipal Council Tapa President Dr. Sonika Bansal, Mrs. Leela Vati Markanda, Bhola Singh Sanghera, Prin. Rakesh Jindal, Dr. Bal Chand Bansal and Dr. Naresh Gupta. Speaking on the occasion, Labh Singh Ugoke said that in the era of social media, the society needs such books more today. C. Markanda has tried to preserve the rich heritage of Malwa by creating this book.

NEWS BRIEF

Hero MotoCorp Strengthens HF Deluxe Portfolio with Launch of New HF Deluxe PRO
CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, has introduced the feature-packed HF Deluxe Pro—a bold and stylish expression of one of India's most trusted motorcycles. The HF Deluxe Pro is available at Hero MotoCorp dealerships across the country at a price of Rs. 73,550/- (Ex-showroom Delhi). Commenting on the launch, Ashutosh Varma, Chief Business Officer—India Business Unit, Hero MotoCorp, said, "HF Deluxe has been a trusted partner for millions of customers across India, celebrated for its reliability and fuel efficiency."

Kotak Launches Solitaire – An Exclusive, Invite-Only Affluent Banking Program
CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: Kotak Mahindra Bank today announced the launch of Kotak Solitaire, a pioneering banking proposition crafted exclusively for India's truly affluent. This isn't just a product—it's a privilege. Solitaire is invitation-only, reserved for individuals and families with a deep, multi-dimensional financial relationship with Kotak. It's not about account balances—it's about Total Relationship Value across deposits, investments, loans, insurance, and demat holdings offered by the Bank and it is calculated at a family level. "India's affluent segment is growing rapidly, but their banking experience hasn't kept pace," said Rohit Bhasin, President - Head of Affluent, NRI, and Business Banking and Chief Marketing Officer at Kotak Mahindra Bank.

iQOO Z10R Debuts on July 24
KARNAL/ROHTAK: iQOO, the high-performance smartphone brand, is all set to launch the iQOO Z10R on July 24th. Crafted for students and budding content creators, it brings together a creator-ready 4K front & rear camera, ultra-slim quasi-curved display, and segment-leading MediaTek Dimensity 7400 processor, making it the ideal choice for those who live life on the go and are always online. Whether it's creating content, attending classes, scrolling through reels, gaming between breaks, or juggling between multiple apps, the iQOO Z10R is designed to keep up with fast-paced, multitasking lifestyles. The iQOO Z10R will come with a comprehensive setup designed for content creators, featuring a 50MP Sony IMX882 OIS main camera, a segment leading 32MP 4K front camera. With 4K video recording on both front and rear cameras, users can capture ultra-clear, HDR-quality videos with professional finesse.

LPU Phase-3 Admissions Open Till July 31
Jalandhar: Lovely Professional University (LPU) has announced that Phase-3 admissions for the 2025-26 academic year will close on 31st July 2025. Aspiring students can apply via the university's portal and appear for the LPUNEST entrance test to secure admission and scholarships. Recognised with NAAC's highest A++ grade, LPU offers AI-integrated programs across streams such as engineering, management, law, fashion, hospitality, and more—from post-10th to postgraduate. Its learner-centric "EduRevolution" model enables students to design flexible, hands-on academic paths, including 2+2 international programs. In 2025, students secured global placements worth ₹2.5 crore, reflecting LPU's strong industry focus and innovation-driven education.

Amity Innovation Incubator's Investor Pitch Day Showcases India's Next Generation of Disruptive Startups
CHANDIGARH—The Amity Innovation Incubator aimed at nurturing entrepreneurial endeavours, proudly hosted its Investor Pitch Day, bringing together a powerful constellation of emerging startups and top-tier investors for an exciting day of live pitches, strategic networking, and growth-focused dialogues. With over 1100+ startups incubated and accelerated, the Amity Innovation Incubator, which recently won AABI's 'Incubator of the Year Award', continues to drive its mission to accelerate India's entrepreneurial momentum. The July 2025 Pitch Day marked a significant milestone with 10 high-potential startups presenting cutting-edge solutions across sectors like health tech, AI, fintech, and social impact.

Delegate Formation Process Begins to Revive Shiromani Akali Dal: Satwinder NABHA (RAKESH JINDAL)
In a significant step toward the revival of the Shiromani Akali Dal, the five-member recruitment committee constituted from the walls of Sri Akal Takht Sahib has completed the initial membership drive and has now begun the process of appointing delegates. The aim is to elect a universally accepted, Panth-oriented president for the party. As part of this next phase, Iqbal Singh Jhundra, a member of the five-member committee, will be visiting the Horticulture Factory near Gurdwara Tibbi Sahib, Nabha, at 3:30 PM on July 24. Sharing details, Jathedar Satwinder Singh Thora, member of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), stated that the recruitment initiative has received strong backing from the Sikh Sangat. With widespread support, the formation of delegates is now underway to facilitate the transparent election of block, district, and state presidents which will lead to the democratic revival of the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab.

Tree Plantation Drive Held at Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Naihariyan
Amb (Avinash Chauhan): As part of the 'Ek Paudha Maa Ke Naam' campaign, a tree plantation drive was organized at Government Senior Secondary School, Naihariyan. Principal Nisha Sharma distributed saplings to the students and urged them to plant and nurture the trees with care. Speaking on the occasion, she emphasized the importance of environmental protection and encouraged students to actively participate in preserving nature by planting more trees. The event witnessed the presence of all school teachers and the head of the School Management Committee, marking a collective commitment to a greener future.

Kargil Vijay Diwas: SJOBA to pay tribute to Indian Army by organising marathon



CHANDIGARH: The SJOBA Marathon 2025, one of the region's most inclusive and anticipated running events, is set to be held on Saturday, 26th July 2025, to mark the solemn occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas. Organized by the St. John's Old Boys Association (SJOBA), the event will honour the valour and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces while promoting messages of remembrance, unity, and environmental responsibility.

Addressing the media at a curtain raiser press conference held at St. John's High School, Harpal Singh Malvai, President, SJOBA, informed that the marathon will begin at 5:00 AM from the school campus and will also conclude there. Malvai said that a prize distribution ceremony will follow at the venue to celebrate the spirit of participation and achievement.

Apart from the current event will feature race categories of 21 km, 10 km, 5 km, and 3 km, open to men and women across all age groups. It's not just a run—it's a celebration of health, unity, and national pride.

Col Harpreet Singh Mann, Race Director, emphasized that comprehensive safety measures and logistics have been implemented. "The route will be fully monitored by marshals, with key intersections secured. Medical support has been arranged in partnership with Fortis Hospital and First Intervention Vehicles (FIVS), with ambulances stationed along the course. Hydration points will be available to keep runners refreshed throughout."

In a truly inclusive gesture, the event will see participation from 9 wheelchair-bound runners and several specially-abled individuals, underlining the marathon's commitment to accessibility and empowerment. Participants range in age from 14 years to 80 years, reflecting the wide and enthusiastic support for the cause.

Each participant will receive a finishing medal, goodie bag, and a healthy breakfast. Trophies will be awarded to winners in each category, with recognition for both male and female participants. Special awards will also be presented to the youngest and oldest runners.

The Title Sponsor for the SJOBA Marathon 2025 is Scott Edil, while Rahi Care is the Co-Sponsor. Esteemed Associate Sponsors include Indian Oil, Fortis, Halt, Coca-Cola (Kandhari Beverages), HDFC Bank, Sahayak Associates, and Verka.

It is noteworthy that SJOBA (St. John's Old Boys Association) is the alumni association of one of Chandigarh's most prestigious institutions—St. John's High School. SJOBA is deeply committed to social initiatives, including its annual blood donation camp, mentoring of economically challenged students, and contributions to the school through sports facilities and financial assistance. The SJOBA Foundation also awards scholarships to meritorious students excelling in academics and sports. SJOBA is also well known for organizing the SJOBA Motor Rally, a flagship sporting event that holds an important place in the national motor rallying circuit.

The Lawrence School, Sanawar dominates in State Swimming C'ship

SANAWAR: The Second Himachal Pradesh State Swimming Championship concluded on a high note at The Lawrence School, Sanawar with two days of intense competition featuring 178 swimmers from 12 districts and five school teams. The host school, Lawrence School Sanawar emerged as the Overall Champion while Pinegrove School secured the Runners-Up Trophy. Chief Guest Purnav Bhardwaj, Block Development Officer, Kasauli applauded the spirit of fair play and urged the youth to "Say No to Drugs and Yes to Life." In the individual award category, Samaira Dhanekar of The Lawrence School, Sanawar was adjudged the Best Swimmer in the Girls Open category, while Bhushan Thakur from Solan district was awarded the Best Swimmer in the Boys Open category. In the Under-17 category, Adhiraj Singh from The Lawrence School, Sanawar emerged as the Best Swimmer among boys, and Bhagverdkma Verma from Solan district was recognized as the Best Swimmer among girls. In his vote of thanks, Headmaster Himmat Singh Dhilon expressed pride in hosting the championship and reaffirmed Sanawar's commitment to nurturing young sporting talent through its world-class infrastructure and inclusive sporting culture.

PhysicsWallah Announces PWNSAT 2025 to Offer Scholarships for NEET/JEE Aspirants in Panchkula

PANCHKULA: Education company PhysicsWallah (PW) announced its fourth edition of PWNSAT (PhysicsWallah National Scholarship Cum Admission Test) 2025, a scholarship test. This initiative attempts to support NEET-UG and IIT-JEE aspirants by making education and guidance accessible to students, regardless of their financial background. The initiative was announced at an event held in (Panchkula Vidyapeeth) where PW Regional Head of Punjab & Jammu-Kashmir, PW Vidyapeeth Panchkula's Centre Head and Business Head came together to explain the various features/benefits of PWNSAT 2025. Furthermore, Principals of multiple schools from the city, also attended the event. Alakh Pandey, Educator, Founder and CEO of PhysicsWallah, said, "Many students give up on their dreams, not because of a lack of potential, but because of financial barriers. PWNSAT 2025 is our effort to change that. Every child deserves a fair chance, and through this initiative, we're trying to reach every student, tell them that their dreams matter, and we're here to support them." The top performers in these exams will be awarded cash rewards as well as a 100% scholarship, covering the entire fee. These students will also gain access to an Exclusive Rakers' Group, directed towards giving them focused mentorship and strategic guidance, trying to help them perform well in competitive exams like NEET-UG and IIT-JEE. The PWNSAT 2025 exam will be conducted across both online and offline modes, trying to make the exam more accessible to students across regions. Students choosing the online mode can appear for the exam between October 1 and October 15, 2025. For those opting for the offline mode, the exam will be conducted on October 5 and October 12, 2025, at all PW Vidyapeeth and Pathshala centres. Registration for the exam is free and now open to students from Class V to XII, as well as those who have completed Class XII, across both PCM and PCB streams. Results are scheduled to be announced on 25th October, 2025.

Movie screened for the underprivileged children of Don Bosco

CHANDIGARH: A special screening for the underprivileged children of the Don Bosco Navjeevan, Faidan Centre was organised at CP 67 Mall. The screening was facilitated by the Himalaya Foundation wherein the children watched the inspiring film 'Taare Zameen Par' and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The children learned the importance of empathy, understanding and believing in one's unique potential. Father Reji Tom, Director of the Centre, said, "Such moments bring joy and confidence to our children. We're deeply grateful to the Himalaya Foundation for making them feel valued and celebrated."

OP Jindal Global University Launches India's First Bachelor's Degree Offering 1-Year of Industry Experience

MUMBAI/SONIPTAT: To meet the rising demand for tech-enabled, job-ready graduates, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)—a non-profit, multi-disciplinary and research-oriented Institute of Eminence has launched the country's first Co-op Bachelor's Degree program designed to equip students with a full year of real-world work experience even before they graduate. These programs will be offered by the Jindal School of Banking & Finance. The announcement was made at an industry-academia event hosted in Mumbai, attended by prominent leaders from the education, higher academia, and technology ecosystem. The event aimed at initiating conversations around agile curriculum and the future of employability, featured an insightful panel discussion titled "The Need for Co-op Blended Bachelor's Degrees". The discussions addressed the pressing skill deficit across finance and technology sectors, the evolving expectations of global employers, and the urgent need to rethink traditional degree formats to better align with the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 and the Top 10 Skills that are Expected to Grow Fastest by 2030. Distinguished speakers included Mr. Abhimanyu Basu, Dean & CEO, Dhruvabhai Ambani International School, Dr. Hemant Manuj, Professor and Executive Dean, Jindal School of Banking & Finance, OP Jindal Global University, Dr. Vandana Lulla, Director Principal, Podar Group of Schools (Cambridge & IB), Lt. Gen. Surendra Kulkarni, Secretary General & Former Director, Mayo College, Dr. Rupesh Sharma, Assistant Professor, Jindal School of Banking & Finance, and Muran Ramuka, AI & Technology Strategist, Microsoft—moderated by the Leading Career & College Counselor, Mr. Himanshu Dev. Commenting on the evolving education landscape Mr. Murari Ramuka of Microsoft said,

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Honda Celebrates 25 Years in India, Launches CB125 Hornet & Shine 100 DX

KARNAL: Marking a significant milestone in its journey, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) today celebrated 25 years of operations in India. The company commemorated its glorious 25 years by unveiling two new motorcycles—the CB125 Hornet and Shine 100 DX. These launches underscore HMSI's commitment to delivering modern, technologically advanced products tailored for Indian customers. Ushering into the new era of Generation Honda towards golden dominance, bookings for the all-new Honda CB125 Hornet and the Honda Shine 100 DX will be open from 1st August 2025. Speaking on the momentous occasion, Mr. Tsutsumo Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "Today marks an important chapter in HMSI's journey in India. As we celebrate 25 glorious years, it gives me immense pride to unveil not just one, but two new motorcycles that represent Honda's commitment to innovation and customer-centric approach. The introduction of CB125 Hornet and Shine 100 DX reaffirms our promise of bringing hi-tech mobility solutions for the Indian market. This celebration also resonates with Honda's global achievement of the 500 million production milestone and HMSI's 70 million production landmark."

Bank of Baroda Marks its 118th Foundation Day with a Focus on Innovation and Sustainability

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: Bank of Baroda (Bankjobs) celebrated its 118th Foundation Day by reaffirming its commitment to trust, innovation and sustainable growth. The theme for the Bank's 118th Year is 'Trust Empowered by Innovation', highlighting the Bank's vision to uphold the long-standing trust of its customers, while shaping the future of banking. Shri M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), was the Chief Guest at the Bank's Foundation Day ceremony. Shri M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services said, "On its 118th Foundation Day, Bank of Baroda's rich legacy stands as a testament to enduring trust, resilience and a commitment to innovation. As we march towards the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, public sector banks like BOB will continue to play a pivotal role by facilitating inclusive growth, supporting MSMEs and empowering youth, backed by technology-driven banking." Speaking on the occasion, Shri Debabatta Chand, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Baroda said, "For well over a century, Bank of Baroda has earned the trust of its stakeholders by supporting their aspirations. This trust is not just a part of our legacy, it continues to inspire us to innovate boldly and responsibly, making banking simpler, smarter, safer and more accessible. On our 118th Foundation Day, through the initiatives being announced, we renewed our promise to our customers and the nation—to be a steadfast partner in building a more inclusive, sustainable and digitally-empowered India."

Kotak Launches Solitaire – An Exclusive, Invite-Only Affluent Banking Program

GURUGRAM: Kotak Mahindra Bank today announced the launch of Kotak Solitaire, a pioneering banking proposition crafted exclusively for India's truly affluent. This isn't just a product—it's a privilege. Solitaire is invitation-only, reserved for individuals and families with a deep, multi-dimensional financial relationship with Kotak. It's not about account balances—it's about Total Relationship Value across deposits, investments, loans, insurance, and demat holdings offered by the Bank and it is calculated at a family level. "India's affluent segment is growing rapidly, but their banking experience hasn't kept pace," said Rohit Bhasin, President - Head of Affluent, NRI, and Business Banking and Chief Marketing Officer at Kotak Mahindra Bank. "Solitaire is our response to that gap. It's not a product—it's a proposition. Solitaire recognizes success, respects ambition, and reimagines what banking should feel like. "This card doesn't just reward you—it respects your journey," said Frederick Souza, Business Head - Credit Cards. "It's designed for those who've earned their place at the top—and want their family to enjoy the same level of service and recognition."

PNB MetLife Launches Dhan Suraksha Yojna for Rural Households

CHANDIGARH: PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (PNB MetLife) announced the launch of Dhan Suraksha Yojna, an affordable micro-insurance plan. Dhan Suraksha Yojna is a simple, low-cost life insurance solution that helps rural families secure their future. With a one-time premium starting at just Rs. 5,000 and no GST charges, the plan provides affordable life and accidental death cover, especially for people who are acquiring insurance for the first time. The product will be made available across 462 branches of Punjab Gramin Bank, helping extend protection to rural and semi-urban areas in the state. Mohit Bahuguna, CDO, Group & Partnerships PNB MetLife, said, "We aim to bring simple, affordable life insurance to many more families in Punjab with Dhan Suraksha Yojna. Whether you're 18 or 50 or any age in between, this coverage will help you plan for the future and protect your loved ones. We're collaborating with Punjab Gramin Bank, leveraging their strong local presence in Punjab to make this offering even more accessible." Mr. Gajendar Kumar Negi, Chairman, Punjab Gramin Bank added, "Financial inclusion is at the heart of our mission. By partnering with PNB MetLife, we are able to offer our customers an insurance product that is not only affordable but also tailored to their needs."

Anti-Drug liaison meeting held at Baba Gandha Singh Public School, Barnala

BARNALA (KARANPREET KARAN): A liaison meeting was organized at the renowned Baba Gandha Singh Public School, Barnala, as part of an ongoing campaign against drug abuse. The initiative was supported by the police administration and the school management. The meeting was held at the school premises, where officials from the Punjab Police, along with school management and students, discussed strategies to combat drug abuse. The meeting was held at the school premises, where officials from the Punjab Police, along with school management and students, discussed strategies to combat drug abuse. The meeting was held at the school premises, where officials from the Punjab Police, along with school management and students, discussed strategies to combat drug abuse.

CHANDIGARH: LuLu Forex, a leading name in foreign exchange and remittance services, along with LuLu Finserv, a burgeoning microlending provider, has announced their partnership with the Argentine Football Association (AFA) as Regional Fintech Partners. This collaboration is part of a broader global agreement where various entities under LuLu Financial Holdings will serve as official partners of the AFA across ten countries. The partnership, which runs through mid-2026, was unveiled at a recent event in Dubai, featuring Argentina's World Cup-winning coach, Lionel Scaloni, senior executives from LuLu Financial Holdings, and AFA officials. This agreement coincides with a pivotal period in global football, leading to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, where Argentina will defend its title. In the coming year, customers of LuLu Forex and LuLu Finserv can expect exciting campaigns and fan-centric activations, including contests with exclusive prizes such as match tickets and official AFA merchandise. Adebek Ahmed, Founder and Managing Director of LuLu Financial Holdings, emphasized the emotional connection between Argentine football and their customers, stating, "The Argentine team symbolizes hope, resilience, and joy, mirroring the journeys of our customers who use our services to build better futures."

Maruti Suzuki's 4th JIM at Sonipat commences admissions for the first batch

PANIPAT: Maruti Suzuki India Limited (Maruti Suzuki) has opened admissions for the first batch at its newly commissioned JIM at Master Atul Govt. ITI in Sonipat, Haryana. The JIM, JIM Sonipat will follow a dual system of training that combines theoretical learning with practical on-the-job training. The program will follow NCVT curriculum. Additionally, it will include essential training in safety, quality, discipline, kaizen, and other acclaimed Japanese manufacturing practices relevant to the automobile manufacturing industry. Applauding the Company's Skill Development initiatives, Shri Gaurav Gautam, Minister of State - Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge), Sports, (Independent Charge) and Law & Legislative said, "Maruti Suzuki's commitment to skill development in Haryana through its state-of-the-art JIMs at Uncha Majra and now at Sonipat is truly commendable. By training youth and equipping them with the way for their brighter future and contributing to Haryana's development and economic growth. This is in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's 'Skill India Mission' and I applaud Maruti Suzuki's efforts in this space." Elaborating on the initiative, Mr. Rahul Bhatia, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Maruti Suzuki said, "We are committed to supporting the Government of India's 'Skill India Mission' by training youth and making them industry ready."

Vedic Vivaha: Reviving the Sacred Essence of Indian Marriages

CHANDIGARH: In an era dominated by destination weddings, opulent photo shoots, choreographed dances, and lavish feasts, the true essence of marriage—a sacred, lifelong bond between two souls—often gets lost amid the glitter and grandeur. Recognizing the urgent need to restore depth and sanctity to this vital institution, Vedic scholar Dr. Udayan Arya has launched Vedic Vivaha—a transformative initiative aimed at reviving the soul of Indian weddings through authentic Vedic rituals and values. Vedic Vivaha is not just a ceremonial service but a cultural movement, calling upon modern India to reconnect with its spiritual roots. Drawing inspiration from the ancient scriptures—the Vedas, Upanishads, and Puranas—the initiative offers a holistic and meaningful alternative to today's commercialized weddings. With a team of over 25 trained professionals, Vedic Vivaha creates an immersive, sacred experience where couples and families become active participants in the wedding ceremony, not mere observers. At the heart of Vedic Vivaha is the Vedic Marriage Ceremony, a 60-90 minute spiritual ritual led by Sanskrit experts, where each of the 19 rites and the 7 sacred steps (saptapadi) are explained and celebrated with reverence. The ceremony concludes with a divine aarti and soul-stirring Vedic chants, ensuring a spiritually uplifting experience that binds not just two individuals but two families. Dr. Arya, a Ph.D. and M.Phil from Panjab University, Chandigarh and Director of the Chandigarh Sanskrit Academy, brings decades of scholarly and practical experience to the initiative. His mission is clear: to guide couples toward lasting love and emotional wellness through the timeless wisdom of Vedic philosophy. To complement the ceremonies, Vedic Vivaha offers the Happy Marriage Workshop—a unique, three-day program designed to help couples nurture understanding, mutual respect, and emotional resilience. Unlike conventional seminars, this workshop emphasizes deep, reflective discussions that promote a complaint-free, joyful marital life. It covers key aspects such as mindset development, relationship harmony, and inner happiness. Additionally, the Pre-Baby Planning Workshop offers couples spiritual and emotional guidance on conceiving a child consciously—not merely as a biological act but as the sacred invitation of a pure soul into the family. Rooted in Vedic science,

Neurologists suggest Chronic Stress might affect Brain Health

AMRITSAR: In today's fast-paced world, chronic stress has become an integral companion, taking a toll on both mind and body. Doctors at Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar warn that constant mental strain can lead to hormonal imbalances, inflammation in the brain and higher oxidative stress and it further increases vulnerability to neurological problems and age-related cognitive decline. Dr. Raj Kamal, Director – Neurosurgery and Dr. Manik Mahajan, Additional Director – Neurology, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar, have further shared that growing evidence shows prolonged emotional stress can disrupt brain structure and function, affecting memory, concentration, and overall mental well-being. Dr. Raj Kamal, Director – Neurosurgery, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar, explained: "Chronic stress doesn't just impact mood, it can physically change the brain, damaging cells and shrinking areas critical for memory and learning. We often see patients of different age groups who report forgetfulness, poor focus, or emotional instability linked to long-term stress. Recognizing these signs early, going for timely check-ups, and adopting healthy habits like regular exercise, mindfulness, good sleep, and a balanced diet can help protect brain health." Dr. Manik Mahajan, Additional Director – Neurology, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar, added: "Stress is not just a psychological concern—it triggers real, biological changes in the brain. Prolonged exposure to stress hormones like cortisol can affect the connectivity between brain regions and reduce neuroplasticity, which is essential for learning and recovery. It's important to prioritise mental health just as we do physical health, especially for working professionals, students, and the elderly."

Suriya's 'Karuppa' teaser offers a glimpse into high-octane action



Tamil actor Suriya has turned 50 years old today. The makers of his upcoming film 'Karuppa' shared the highly-awaited teaser of the film on the occasion of the actor's birthday. Posting on their X handle, Dream Warrior Pictures (official production banner of the movie) shared the teaser of Suriya starer 'Karuppa'. In the teaser, the actor is seen performing high-octane action sequences, which were choreographed by popular stunt master Anbariv. The teaser has introduced the actor as a man who excels in street fighting and also knows how to win battles in court, as he has been portrayed as a lawyer in the film. As per the video, the film appears to be a complete package of grand visuals,

high-octane action sequences, dance, peppy songs, and punchy dialogues. While sharing the video, Dream Warrior Pictures wrote, "On this special day of celebrating @Suriya_offl Sir, we're thrilled to present the powerful teaser of #Karuppa" <https://x.com/DreamWarriorpic/status/1947876948765753694>?The movie is written and directed by RJB. Along with Suriya, the film also stars Trisha, Indrans, Natty, Swatika, Sshivadha, Anagha Maya Ravi, Supreeth Reddy and Others in prominent roles. The music of the film is composed by Sai Abhyankar. The makers have not yet revealed the release date of the film. Meanwhile, Tamil superstar Suriya's next film, titled 'Suriya 46,' has officially gone on the floors with a tradi-

tional pooja ceremony in Hyderabad. The film is directed by Venky Atluri and produced by Sithara Entertainments. The makers shared the news on their official X (formerly Twitter) handle. "The most anticipated #Suriya46 has been officially launched with a grand pooja ceremony! @Suriya_offl x #VenkyAtluri unite to create magic on screen! Thank you #Trivikram garu for gracing and marking the beginning of this journey with the first clap. Shoot begins at the end of May! Catch it in theatres Summer 2026!" Sithara Entertainments wrote on X.G.V. Prakash Kumar will compose the music for the film, which stars Mamitha Baiju as the female lead. Raveena Tandon and Radhika Sarathkumar are also onboard in key roles.

Rising Talent from Punjab: Angad Kumar Making His Mark as an Art Director in Punjabi Music Industry

KHEM KARAN: Angad Kumar, a young and dynamic art director born on December 10, 1999, in Khem Karan, District Amritsar, Punjab, is rapidly gaining recognition in the Punjabi music industry for his creative vision and innovative approach to visual storytelling.



With a passion for aesthetics and an eye for detail, Angad has contributed significantly to various successful Punjabi music videos, playing a key role in shaping their visual appeal. His work reflects a deep understanding of cultural roots blended with modern design elements, which resonates strongly with the youth and global Punjabi audiences.

Having collaborated with numerous artists and production houses, Angad has become a sought-after name for set design and artistic direction in music video productions. His dedication, professionalism, and artistic flair have made him a valuable asset to the industry.

Angad Kumar continues to inspire aspiring creatives in Punjab, setting a shining example of how talent, hard work, and innovation can lead to success in the world of entertainment.

Punjabi superstar Ammy Virk headlined the exclusive Dubai premiere of Sarbala Ji



AMRITSAR: Punjabi superstar Ammy Virk took centre stage at the exclusive premiere of his upcoming film Sarbala Ji, held at VOX Cinemas (IMAX), Nakheel Mall, Dubai. The special screening, hosted by BNW Developments' chairman Ankur Aggarwal, was organised as an exclusive invite-only premiere for the much-awaited film ahead of its global release. The event brought together the power of Indian cinema and Dubai's vibrant diaspora, with Virk personally engaging with fans and media in a memorable night celebrating Punjabi cinema, filled with the vibrant rhythms of Punjabi Dhol and energetic Bhangra dance.

The evening was graced by a mix of Dubai's cultural connoisseurs, real estate leaders, and cinema enthusiasts. A red-carpet welcome and a packed theatre added to the energy. Ammy Virk was welcomed into a houseful theatre and interacted with all the guests present at the event. The event was attended by BNW leadership, including Ankur Aggarwal, Founder & Chairman of BNW Developments, Sreesanth- celebrated former Indian Cricketer, Dolly Bindra- Indian actress, channel partners, top realtors, the company's top management, and media representatives.

Speaking at the premiere, Ammy Virk said, "Dubai is like a second home for Indians. Choosing this city for the exclusive premiere of Sarbala Ji was my way of honouring the audiences here who have given our stories so much love. It's a global city that feels deeply personal-special thanks to BNW and my braah Ankur Aggarwal for supporting regional cinema on a worldwide stage. Ever since I've known him, he's always given back to India in many ways that I could imagine, and I admire that about him. His love added that extra pinch of success to our film, and we couldn't thank him and the entire BNW team enough. Adding to this, Ankur Aggarwal, Chairman & Founder, BNW Developments, noted, "BNW is proud to curate experiences that go beyond business. Events like these strengthen the spirit of the Indian diaspora around the globe, intersecting cinema, community, and culture. Hosting Sarbala Ji through an exclusive premiere was a tribute to that spirit. We are, and always will, tie back to our roots in whatever we do. Regional cinema like this deserves recognition on a global stage, and we at BNW were extremely happy to champion that alongside Ammy and the entire team. We have a lot of interesting things lined up and we are super excited about it all."

From TV sets to village life — Anjuum Faakhir takes on Chhoriyan Chali Gaon

CHANDIGARH : Zee TV is all set for its upcoming reality show — Chhoriyan Chali Gaon, staying true to its legacy of pioneering non-fiction formats. The show brings together 11 independent urban women who step away from their modern comforts to



spend over 60 days in a rural Indian village, taking on everyday tasks without the aid of technology or conveniences. With a compelling blend of desi charm and heartfelt resilience, the show promises to bridge the worlds of 'India' and 'Bharat' in a way that feels both fresh and deeply resonant. Guiding the journey is Rannvijay Singha, who steps in as host, mentor, and motivator — a steady presence encouraging the women through every challenge. Stepping into this journey with passion and purpose is popular television star Anjuum Faakhir. Known for her striking screen presence and ability to deeply resonate with viewers, Anjuum will bring a grounded perspective to the show. Her personal connection to village life offers her a unique lens through which she embraces the challenges ahead.

Anjuum Faakhir said, "I genuinely think Chhoriyan Chali Gaon is one of the most exciting and refreshing concepts in recent times, and I'm truly thrilled to be a part of it. The moment I was approached, I said yes without a second thought. I knew it would be a unique challenge, and I love stepping outside my comfort zone. Having been born in Ratnagiri, I feel I may have a small edge — my village roots have taught me to understand the rhythm and realities of rural life, and that awareness will hopefully help me adapt better." She added, "I've always admired Rannvijay — he has an inspiring personality. But beyond that, what really stands out is how grounded and genuine he is."

Glamour

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Cinépolis Expands Club Cinépolis Loyalty Program

CHANDIGARH: Cinépolis India proudly announces a major upgrade to its customer loyalty program Club Cinépolis. Starting today, members can now earn and redeem points not only on movie tickets but also on food and beverage purchases made across all platforms app, website, and at-theatre concessions. This full integration marks a pivotal moment in the brand's customer-first evolution, offering patrons greater value, convenience, and a seamless rewards experience. Whether indulging in gourmet popcorn, nachos, desserts, or beverages, Club Cinépolis members will now enjoy benefits that extend beyond the big screen. The enhancement also strengthens the brand's efforts and the much-loved fusion of food and movies that underscores Cinépolis' belief that the best cinema moments are made even better with delicious bites. New Features of the Enhanced Club Cinépolis: Earn and redeem loyalty points on both movie tickets and F&B purchases. Unlock exclusive member-only offers and benefits across digital and on-ground touchpoints. By bringing F&B into the Club Cinépolis ecosystem, the brand is reinforcing its commitment to delivering personalized, immersive, and joy-filled experiences for its moviegoers from screen to snack.

COLORS' 'Dhaakad Beera' proves not all warriors wear capes—some fight with love and innocence

CHANDIGARH : Hum aksar un superheroes ki tareef karte hain jo screen par duniya jeet lete hain... par un asli warriors ka kya, jo har ghar mein pyaar aur himmat se apni jung lad rahe hain? Bringing a heart-touching story of an extraordinary brother (Beera) who becomes the nurturer & protector by taking the mantle of dhaakad beera. COLORS unveils its new social drama, 'Dhaakad Beera', capturing just how powerful and life-altering a brother-sister relationship can be when it stands alone against society. With courage as his superpower, 8-year-old Samrat becomes a one-man army for his baby sister Kishmish's right to live in a world ruled by cruel conventions he doesn't understand. He doesn't realize that the threat to his sister's life is his own grandmother, Bhanwari Devi — the village's ruthless head honcho. Starring Rakshanda Khan as Bhanwari Devi and Divyam Shukla as Samrat, Dhaakad Beera premieres on July 24 and thereafter airs every day at 7:00 PM, only on COLORS. Set in a fictitious village, this social drama follows Samrat, an eight-year-old boy whose pure love for



his baby sister, Kishmish, defies generations of silence. When his dying mother places the newborn in his arms, he promises to protect her at all costs. Unwanted by the village and ostracized by her family, Kishmish is the sweetest truth Samrat has ever known. He becomes her everything — mother, father, brother — standing between her and a world that wants her dead. But the greatest menace is closer than he knows: his own grandmother, Bhanwari Devi, the iron-fisted ruler of the village. Obsessed with control and old customs, she sees Kishmish as a threat to her

power — and her grandson's claim as heir. As the village sharpens its knives, how far will this innocent Dhaakad Beera go when the enemy is his own family? Speaking about her role as Bhanwari Devi, Rakshanda Khan said, "I play Bhanwari Devi, the matriarch of a village, feared more than loved, respected more out of tradition than truth. But beneath her steely exterior lies a woman attached to her grandson, who is her pride and only soft spot. She listens to everything he says, and through him, she believes her legacy is secure. Her world revolves around her grandson Samrat, the boy she's groomed as her heir, the one she sees as an extension of herself. The arrival of Samrat's newborn sister questions Bhanwari's authority and her place in her grandson's life. Children have a unique way of questioning what adults blindly accept, and this show captures that. It's powerful that COLORS is telling a story that speaks volumes through the grandmother-grandson bond and the love between a brother and sister."

Soulful living through vedic wisdom: A path to joyful relationships and purposeful parenting

In today's modern society, we have made remarkable advancements in various fields and created countless material comforts to enhance our lifestyles. While we have progressed materially, we have neglected the emotional and human aspects of life. Despite our growing wealth, many of us feel unfulfilled and unhappy. We struggle to find completeness and maintain meaningful relationships. Our interest in human connection has diminished, while our attachment to material possessions has increased — a trend that poses serious harm to our emotional and societal well-being.

Vedic culture, rooted in ancient Indian scriptures like the Vedas, Upanishads, and Puranas, is not just a historical legacy — it is a living philosophy and a pathway to lasting happiness. Recognizing its timeless wisdom, we have adapted these teachings in a modern format to strengthen relationships and promote emotional well-being. Through dedicated research on the Vedas, we have discovered practical solutions for today's challenges. Based on this knowledge, we have designed three specialized programs aimed at creating happy, prosperous, meaningful, and complaint-free relationships — ensuring a fulfilling and harmonious married life.

Vedic Vivah/ Phere / Lavan

In Indian culture, marriage is considered incomplete without the sacred fire — a divine witness to the union of two souls. It is a spiritual journey that joins two individuals for completeness and harmony. The Vedic Vivah team has reimagined this sacred tradition in a way that is both traditional and easily understandable, making the ceremony more engaging and meaningful instead of monotonous. Our team of over 25 dedicated members



works together to ensure that every aspect of the marriage is conducted beautifully and authentically. We explain the purpose and significance of each ritual, helping participants connect deeply with the tradition. The ceremony concludes with a soul-enriching aarti and traditional musical chants, creating a truly divine atmosphere. The entire process takes around 1 to 1.5 hours, with Vedic mantras chanted by qualified Sanskrit experts.

Happy Marriage Workshop (A 3-Day Spiritual Journey)

By participating in this workshop, couples will experience lasting spiritual happiness, far beyond materialistic pleasures. The divine connection fostered through our teachings ensures

that your marriage will be filled with love, growth, and the true joy of being soulmates. No any Lecture, No any Order Only Deep Discussion.

- Benefits of the Happy Marriage Workshop**
- Complete Solution for Relationship Complaints
 - Fearless Environment After Marriage
 - Increase Focus on Mindset of the Individual
 - Self-Confidence for Forever Happiness in Life.

Pre-Baby Planning Workshop: Nurturing a Pure Soul for Your Family.

In today's world, childbirth is often viewed as a mere biological outcome of physical intimacy. However, in Vedic rituals, the act of creating life is much more sacred. Our workshop focuses on the deeper spiritual aspect of conception, helping couples prepare their bodies, minds, and souls to welcome a child who will embody puri-

ty, wisdom, and health.

A child, when conceived through Vedic rituals, is seen as a soul invited into the mother's womb—free from ailments and impurities, destined for a bright future. Our workshop is designed to ensure that your baby will be a disciplined, intellectual, and pure soul, contributing to the betterment of the family and society.

Dr. Udayan Arya, the founder and director of VedicVivaha, is a distinguished scholar, philosopher, and educator dedicated to preserving and promoting the timeless teachings of Vedic culture. With advanced academic credentials including an M.Phil and Ph.D(Punjab University Chandigarh), Dr. Arya combines his deep understanding of Vedic philosophy with a practical approach, guiding individuals and communities toward spiritual growth, holistic health, and balanced living.

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