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NEWS BRIEFS

2 soldiers killed in encounter with terrorists in J-K's Kulgam

SRINAGAR: Two Army soldiers were killed and as many injured in an overnight gunfight with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, in one of the longest anti-terror operations in the Valley that entered the ninth day on Saturday, officials said.
The Army's Srinagar-based Chinar Corps, in a post on X, paid tributes to the soldiers killed in the encounter and said that the operation was still under way.
Two terrorists have been killed in the encounter that began on August 1 after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in a forest at Akhal in the south Kashmir district, following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists there.
The identity and the group affiliation of the slain terrorists have not been ascertained so far.

Harsimrat Badal ties rakhi to brother Majithia in Nabha jail after high-voltage drama

NABHA: Former minister and Member of Parliament Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Saturday visited Nabha jail and tied a rakhi to her brother, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia, who was arrested in a disproportionate assets case.
Majithia is lodged in New Nabha jail at Patiala after the Mohali court extended his judicial custody until August 14.
However, high-voltage drama unfolded before the ceremony this afternoon as Harsimrat lambasted the government for not letting her tie a Rakhi to her brother.
"I came amidst the rain from Delhi to tie a Rakhi on the wrist of my brother, Bikram Majithia, who is lodged in Nabha jail on false charges, but was denied this right. I have been trying for the last four days to get permission to observe Raksha Bandhan with my brother, but to no avail."

Jr Women Hockey Nationals: Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, U.P. reach semis

KAKINADA: Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh won their respective matches in the quarterfinals of the 15th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship - Division 'A', sealing their spots in the semifinals here on Saturday.
In the quarterfinals played on Saturday, Haryana defeated Odisha 4-1, Chhattisgarh Hockey beat Hockey Madhya Pradesh 2-1, Hockey Jharkhand overcame Hockey Punjab 3-1, while Uttar Pradesh Hockey prevailed over Hockey Maharashtra 2-1.
In the first match of the day, Hockey Haryana enjoyed a comfortable 4-1 victory over Hockey Association of Odisha. The winning side opened the game strongly with an early goal by Kajal (2'), followed by another one in the second quarter by Supriya (27') to extend the lead.
Captain Sashi Khasa (36') also featured on the scoresheet with a goal in the third quarter. In the final quarter, Amisha Ekka (47') scored a consolation goal for Hockey Association of Odisha, but Saavi (60') struck the net again for Hockey Haryana to help her side win with a sizable lead.

US tariff on India 'unfair and unworkable' as Europe leads in Russian energy imports: Report

India's rejection of economic coercion by US strong message to developing countries: Report

AGENCY
MOSCOW, AUG 9

US President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on India is both "unfair and unworkable", especially when Europe remains the world's largest importer of Russian energy in dollars and the biggest contributor to Russian revenues, a report in Britain's leading newspaper has cited.

"It's not just Trump's hypocrisy that has the Indians up in arms – it's the unfairness of being punished for breaking no laws. Russian oil exports are not sanctioned by the EU or the US, but they are subject to a price cap designed to keep world oil supply steady while limiting the profits to the Kremlin," a report in the UK's Telegraph newspaper highlighted.

It stated that India has adhered to the rules by purchasing Russian oil at capped prices, refining it, and exporting a significant portion to the European market. However, the problem lies, if India were to stop buying Russian crude, a worldwide oil price panic would quickly follow. At present, Moscow ranks as the world's second biggest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia, shipping 4.5 million barrels of crude daily to international markets.

According to the report, in March 2022, shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine, concerns over Russian oil being pushed out of the market caused Brent crude prices to surge to $137 per barrel – nearly twice the projected prices of 2025. Analysts warn that a similar panic would drive the price to $200 per barrel.

"The eighteenth (and latest) European sanctions package supposedly bans the import of refined oil products originating from Russian crude. But as well as being technically impossible to verify, exceptions have been made for Canada, Norway, Switzerland, the UK, and the US, rendering the supposed 'ban' toothless. And let us not forget that Russian gas is not sanctioned or price-capped at all," the report titled 'Trump's reckless trade war with India could crash Europe's weak economies' by leading British writer and historian Owen Matthews detailed.

It also mentioned the Trump administration's top Russia negotiator and US Special Presidential Envoy Steve Witkoff visiting Moscow for talks recently amid the US President's ultimatum to Russian President Vladimir Putin demanding a ceasefire in Ukraine.

"Witkoff, a real estate developer and golfing buddy of Trump's, brings no Russia expertise to the table. But he will deliver the one concrete threat that his boss in the White



Trump, Putin to meet in Alaska on August 15 to discuss Ukraine peace deal

WASHINGTON: Trump made the highly anticipated announcement on social media after he said that the parties, including Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, were close to a ceasefire deal that could resolve the three-and-a-half-year conflict, one that could require Ukraine to surrender significant territory.
Addressing reporters at the White House earlier on Friday, Trump suggested an agreement would involve some exchange of land.
"There'll be some swapping of territories to the betterment of both," the Republican president said. The Kremlin subsequently confirmed the summit in an online statement.
The two leaders will "focus on discussing options for achieving a long-term peaceful resolution to the Ukrainian crisis," Putin aide Yuri Ushakov said.

AGENCY
WASHINGTON, AUG 9

India's rejection of economic coercion by the US through the imposition of a 50 per cent tariff on key Indian exports sends a strong message to other developing countries facing the challenges of globalisation and weaponisation of trade, a report cited on Saturday.

The firm stance taken by India underscores its commitment to economic sovereignty, at the cost of short-term gains.

"The way India has adopted a protectionist approach is more than economic prudence — it is a strategy to maintain social stability, food security, employment, and rural welfare, which are essential for India's national development," the India Narrative report highlighted.

According to the report, India's resistance is driven by the need to protect its agricultural sector, which supports millions of rural livelihoods. With small-scale and marginal farmers dependent on agriculture, lowering tariffs on agricultural imports such as fisheries, dairy products, and genetically modified crops would significantly impact rural incomes, encourage market monopolization, and disrupt social cohesion.

In addition to agriculture, the report mentioned that tariffs will impact other key industries, including textiles, garments, gems, jewellery, and auto parts, which depend on the US market.

"Despite being faced with this situation, India has adopted a strategy to not depend on one market, but make a more resilient approach by diversifying its trade partnerships in a multipolar world order. It has expanded ties with the UK, the European Union, ASEAN, and the Global South coalitions, including BRICS and SCO," the report detailed.

It further stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation at the upcoming SCO Summit will mark an important shift in India's foreign policy.

India, the report said, is responding not only through public statements but also by legally challenging the US tariffs at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). At the same time, India is upholding its commitment to the principle of rule-based international trade, and contesting what it views as "unlawful and unilateral punitive measures" by the US. This legal approach reinforces India's alignment with other countries promoting fair practices in global commerce without bowing to coercive tactics.

"This situation accelerates diversification, strengthening legal assertiveness in global trade governance and underscores its commitment to control its own economic destiny. This posture shifts the India-US relationship into one of complexity, contestation, and sovereignty-focused engagement rather than unbridled market integration," the report highlighted

India's resolute stance against the US tariff pressure, the report mentioned, reflects not just reactive anger or reactionary nationalism but a careful judgment grounded in complex economic realities.

First-ever freight train carrying cement from Punjab arrives at Anantnag goods shed in Kashmir

AGENCY
ANANTNAG, AUG 9

In a major development for regional connectivity, a freight train successfully reached the Anantnag goods shed in South Kashmir, the Northern Railway said on Saturday.

The train arrived for the first time from Rupnagar, Punjab, marking a significant milestone in connecting the Kashmir region to the national freight network.

Northern Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay said the arrival of the freight train, carrying cement, is set to accelerate infrastructure projects and improve living standards for the people of Kashmir.

Officials said the inaugural freight train was loaded with 21 BCN wagons of cement.

"The journey, spanning approximately 600 kilometers, culminated at the newly commissioned Anantnag Goods Shed today in less than 18 hours," he said.

He added that this event marks the "first-ever cement loading specifically for this facility, underscoring its readiness to support a new era of logistical and economic growth in the Kashmir region."



The spokesperson said the cement transported on this train will be used for crucial projects, including the construction of roads, bridges, public infrastructure, and residential housing in the Kashmir Valley.

Officials said the logistics for this groundbreaking journey were executed with precision.

"An indent was placed with Northern Railway at 23:14 hrs on August 7, 2024, with the rake placement occurring at 09:40 hrs the following day, i.e., August 8. Loading was completed by 18:10 hrs on August 8, 2024, with the train departing from the Gujarat Ambuja Cement Limited (GACL) facility in Rupnagar, Punjab at 18:55 hrs," the spokesperson said.

The freight was hauled by an Electric WAG-9 locomotive, highlighting the modern capabilities of the national railway network.

Upadhyay said the arrival of this first freight train "is not just a logistical achievement but a powerful symbol of progress and integration, paving the way for a more connected and prosperous Kashmir Valley."

School Girls tie rakhi to Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini on Raksha Bandhan

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 9

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini celebrated the festival of Raksha Bandhan with joy and enthusiasm at Sant Kabir Kutir on Saturday. On this occasion, the Vice Chairperson of Haryana State Council for Child Welfare and the Chief Minister's wife, Smt. Suman Saini, was also present. On this special and auspicious day, little girls from two government primary schools of Panchkula district and from the Welfare Centre for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment in Raipur Rani, along with their teachers, tied Rakhi on the Chief Minister's wrist as a symbol of love, trust, and protection.

When the girls, dressed in school uniforms, tied colourful silk threads of affection on the Chief Minister's wrist, he presented them with gifts and blessings. The Chief Minister interacted warmly with the girls, asking about their studies, sports activities, and future aspirations. He encouraged them to excel in education and to make a mark for themselves in society.

Among them were 12 girls from Government Model Sanskriti Primary School, Sector-26 and Sector-4, Panchkula city, and 8 girls from the Welfare Centre for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment, Raipur Rani. Accompanying them were District Education Officer Sandhya Chhikara, District Science Specialist Pooja, District Cultural Coordinator Deepa Rani, and teachers from the respective schools. Women teachers also tied Rakhi to the Chief Minister. On the occasion, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said, "Raksha Bandhan is not just a festival for brothers and sisters, but a symbol of love, sacrifice and protection. Such occasions connect us with our culture and traditions, and strengthen the spirit of brotherhood and harmony in society."



'Great day': PM Modi lauds first freight train to Kashmir valley

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded the first freight train to the Kashmir valley. Calling it a "great day", PM Modi said the achievement is set to boost "progress and prosperity" in the region. "Great day for commerce and connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir!" PM Modi shared in a post on the social media platform X.
"It will enhance both progress and prosperity," he added.
Creating a historical milestone in goods transportation of Kashmir, the first freight train reached Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag town on Saturday.
This also marks the operational debut of the Banihal-Sangaldan-Reasi-Katra section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
"The first freight train reached the newly commissioned Anantnag Goods Shed in the Kashmir Valley from Punjab, marking a significant milestone in connecting the Kashmir region to the national freight network," Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw shared on X.
"Transportation by railway network will reduce cost for our citizens living in the Kashmir valley," he added.
The USBRL project covers the districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir.

5 Pakistani fighter jets, 1 spy plane shot down during Operation Sindoor: IAF Chief

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, AUG 9

Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Saturday said that the Indian S-400 air defence system had shot down five Pakistani fighter jets in the air along with a Pakistani surveillance plane at a distance of about 300 km, besides some parked F16s at the Jacobabad air base.

The IAF Chief was delivering the Air Chief Marshal LM Katre memorial lecture in Bengaluru during which he mentioned about the IAF operations during Operation Sindoor (May 7-10).



The IAF Chief said, "...We have at least five fighters confirmed kills and one large aircraft, which could be either an ELINT aircraft or an AEW &C aircraft, which was taken on at a distance of about 300 km. This is actually the largest-ever recorded surface-to-air kill that we can talk about."

He then mentioned the Pak F16 base at Jacobabad, saying, "One of the major airfields that was attacked. Here there's an F-16 hangar. One half of the hangar is gone. And I'm sure there were some aircraft inside which have got damaged there..."

"The IAF also hit at least two command and control centres, like Murid and Chaklala. At least six radars, some of them big, some of them small. Also, there is an indication of at least one hangar for surveillance planes and few F-16s."

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Two arrested for running betting operations at separate locations, Rs. 5,000 recovered

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: Police spokesperson Chamkaur Singh informed that under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal, a team from City Police Station, Yamunanagar, arrested two accused red-handed from different locations for running



betting operations, recovering a total of Rs. 5,000 from them. Cases have been registered against both under the Gambling Act, and further investigation is underway. Station House Officer Narendra Singh said his team had received secret information that a man was openly running a betting racket near Dashmesh Colony. Acting on the tip-off, a team was formed, and upon reaching the spot, they arrested Naresh, son of Bhagwan Das, a resident of Dashmesh Colony, while he was engaged in betting operations.

NEWS BRIEF

Civil Surgeon reviews NCD health services



SURINDER DAMDAMI
FARIDKOT: Civil Surgeon Faridkot Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kakkar visited the OPD of the Medicine Department of the Civil Hospital and inquired about the ongoing treatment, medicines and the treatment and counseling services being provided by the staff of the Civil Hospital from the patients present there. Dr. Kakkar himself got his BP checked on a special machine installed to check the blood pressure of the patients and got information about the national program being run for the prevention, cure and treatment of NCD-non-communicable diseases like BP, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease and stroke etc. and gave appropriate directions. On this occasion, Nodal Officer Aam Aadmi Clinic Dr. Sarvdeep Singh Romana, Deputy Mass Media and Information Officer Dr. Prabhdeep Singh Chawla, Sudhir Dhir, Senior Pharmacy Officer Sunil Singla and Data Manager Pritpal Singh were present.

School students celebrate Raksha Bandhan with Chandigarh DGP UT Dr Sagar Preet Hooda



HARMINDER NAGPAL
CHANDIGARH: On the eve of Raksha Bandhan, students from Govt. Model Sr. Sec. Schools in Sector 37-D and Sector 10, Chandigarh, visited the Chandigarh Police Headquarters in Sector 9. They warmly greeted Dr. Sagar Preet Hooda, DGP, UT Chandigarh, and tied colorful Rakhis on his wrist, embracing the festival's spirit. Dr. Hooda motivated the students, encouraging them to excel in their education for a bright future.

Not just a protective thread but a symbol of India's cultural unity: CM Dhami extends Raksha Bandhan wishes

AGENCY
DEHRADUN, AUG 9

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami extended his wishes to the people of the state on the festival of Raksha Bandhan on Saturday. He urged them to pledge to honour and protect women on the occasion.

"Heartfelt congratulations and affectionate best wishes to all the people of the state on the sacred festival of Raksha Bandhan," Dhami said in a post on X.

"The rakhi tied by sisters on their brothers is not just a protective thread but a symbol of India's cultural unity, family values, and sacred relationships. Let us, on this occasion, all pledge to honor and protect women," he said.

Dhami on Friday announced a free travel facility for women in the buses operated by the



Uttarakhand Transport Cooperation on the eve of Raksha Bandhan, stated a release. He also highlighted the state's continuous efforts on women's empowerment.

"The dream of a prosperous Uttarakhand cannot be fulfilled without empowering women. We expect the people of the state to cooperate in the creation of an ideal society for the empowerment of women and their progress," the CM had said.

Raksha Bandhan, also known as Rakhi, is a traditional Hindu festival that celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters. On this occasion, sisters tie a rakhi around their brothers' wrists, and in return, brothers offer gifts as a symbol of love and protection.

Meanwhile, the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, has introduced floral biodegradable rakhis.

These biodegradable rakhis are a unique and eco-friendly product made of natural and dried flowers and plant material.

NBRI Director Ajit Kumar Shasany, on Thursday, said that the initiative was taken for women's empowerment. He added that the institute came up with the idea to convert its floral art into biodegradable rakhis.

"This concept has come up as we were making floral crafts in NBRI. We were doing it for women empowerment. A few days ago, we got an idea that we could convert the floral art into environmental friendly rakhi. We give various shapes to dried flowers. It is eco-friendly," Ajit Kumar Shasany told ANI.

These floral rakhis are available at the Institute campus for Rs 50.

Sharing an X post, CSIR-NBRI wrote, "Celebrate a Green Raksha Bandhan with CSIR-NBRI's Biodegradable Floral Rakhis! Crafted with love, tradition & sustainability by empowered women. Available for Sale | Rs 50 only Sale Section, Gate No. 3, Botanic Garden, CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow."

Army western command organises large-scale 'organ donation drive'



SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, AUG 9

The press information bureau (defence wing), GoI, in a press release said, "The Western Command of the Indian Army organised a large-scale Organ Donation Awareness Drive, chaired by Lt Gen Manoj Katiyar, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief. In this remarkable display of support for public health and humanitarian service, the participation of over 400 individuals including serving personnel, their families and school children was seen.

The awareness drive was preceded by a series of community outreach activities, conducted over a period of a few weeks, aimed at promoting the importance of organ donation. These events conducted by command hospital, western command, Chandimndir, included an awareness walkathon and cyclothon, which saw active participation from all age groups, as well as interactive sessions held at various Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) across the Chandimandir cantonment. These events focused on dispelling myths, addressing fears and encouraging open conversations around organ donation.

Patiala Army recruitment rally sets model for the country

RAKESH JINDAL
PATIALA, AUG 9

The 8-day Army Recruitment Rally in Patiala for the selection of Agniveers has been hailed as a model event, thanks to seamless coordination between the Indian Army and the district administration. Youth from Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Sangrur, Mansa, Barnala, and Malerkotla—who had cleared the written examination—participated in large numbers, with over 10,000 candidates registering this year. The pass rate in the physical test rose to around 65%, significantly higher than previous years.

The rally, organized by the Zonal Recruiting Office (ZRO) Jalandhar with support from Kharga Corps, Airawat Division, and local



administration, also received appreciation from senior Army officials. Chief of Staff, Western Command, Lt. Gen. Mohit Wadhwa and Maj Gen Birender Singh Bisht GOC, AIRAWAT DIVISION reviewed the arrangements, motivated the candidates, and thanked the civil administration and police for their cooperation.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Preeti Yadav, after inspecting the arrangements with Director, Recruiting, Army Recruitment Office Patiala, attributed the rally's success to the Army's transparency and professionalism, along with full youth participation. She commended the spirit of the candidates and reiterated the Punjab Government's commitment, under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, to extend all support for youth employment in defence services.

'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to be held in three phases until Independence Day: DC Uttam Singh

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, AUG 9

Karnal Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh announced that to encourage citizens to hoist the national flag at their homes and strengthen their personal and emotional connection with the Tricolor, the Central Government is celebrating the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign for the fourth consecutive year as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The campaign will run in three phases until the 79th Independence Day on August 15 — the second phase from August 9 to 12, and the third phase from August 13 to 15.

The DC said that guidelines for the campaign have been issued by the



Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the Directorate General of Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana. The first phase has already concluded. In the second phase, large-scale events will be held, including a grand Tiranga Mahotsav, featuring a massive fair and a musical concert. The state-level celebration will take place at a prominent venue with widespread public participation, showcasing products made by self-help groups under the Rural Development Department, MSME-supported items, local goods, and tricolor-themed merchandise.

The Tiranga Mahotsav will also host exhibitions and be complemented by Tiranga bike rallies and Tiranga cycle rallies in collaboration with the Home Department, police, paramilitary forces, NCC, NSS, Civil Defence, Home Guards, and the Sports Department. Flags will be distributed through self-help groups, PDS shops, Khadi outlets, and local markets.

In the third phase, from August 13 to 15, flag-hoisting ceremonies and tricolor lighting will be arranged at all government buildings, educational institutions, and offices. Citizens will be encouraged to take selfies with the national flag and upload them to www.harghartiranga.com.

Highlighting the purpose of the initiative, DC Uttam Singh said the campaign aims to evoke patriotism among citizens, promote respect for the national flag, and spread awareness about national symbols. He directed officials to ensure flag-hoisting ceremonies and illumination of public buildings during the campaign.

'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign a pledge of patriotism: Raj Singh Godara

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI: Senior BJP leader Raj Singh Godara said the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is not only a way for Indians to show respect for the national flag, but also a powerful pledge of patriotism. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the campaign launched by the Central Government strengthens the spirit of unity, integrity, and dedication in the country.



Godara informed that this year too, for the fourth consecutive year, the Central Government has launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, which will continue until August 15, 2025. The campaign inspires every citizen to hoist the Tricolor at home and reminds people of the sacrifices and struggles of the freedom fighters.

"Our national flag is not only our identity, but also a symbol of our pride, sacrifice, and selfless devotion," he said. "The Har Ghar Tiranga campaign gives us a deeper understanding of our history, culture, and national duties."

Appealing to the public, the BJP leader urged everyone to participate enthusiastically in the campaign and proudly hoist the Tricolor at their homes to strengthen the spirit of patriotism and contribute together to the nation's progress. He added that such campaigns inspire the younger generation to learn about and understand the history of India's independence.

Tricity startup Prozo Secures Investment from actor Ranbir Kapoor to power next-gen supply chains

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, AUG 8

Prozo, a full-stack supply chain platform supporting some of India's fastest-growing brands, has received investment from actor and entrepreneur Ranbir Kapoor. Known for his versatility—both in portraying complex characters and investing in impactful ventures like ARKS and Mumbai City FC—Kapoor's backing reflects the rising demand for tech-led logistics solutions. It also underscores Chandigarh's growing relevance as a hub for high-growth, tech-driven startups. Founded in 2016 by Dr. Ashvini Jakhar—a former Naval doctor, McKinsey consultant, and ISB graduate—Prozo has built a future-ready supply chain platform. "Ranbir brings strategic sharpness and creative energy to the table," said Dr. Ashvini Jakhar,



Prozo's Founder & CEO. "His belief in dependable execution mirrors Prozo's culture, and we're thrilled to build together for the long haul."Prozo's proprietary stack—which includes a Warehouse Management System (WMS), Transport Management System (TMS), and a real-time Control Tower—enables brands to achieve SLA-compliant and channel-agnostic fulfillment. This makes Prozo a preferred partner across B2B, D2C, and marketplace ecosystems, regardless of scale or industry. "Whether in films or business, range and reliability matter," said Ranbir Kapoor. "What impressed me about Prozo is its ability to offer enterprise-grade speed and precision to every brand—whether it's a new-age disruptor or an established player. Their tech stack is built for scale, and their execution builds long-term trust." Prozo brings together warehousing, freight, and fulfillment on a single platform, powered by proprietary tools like ProWMS, ProShip, and a real-time Control Tower.

Royal Stag BoomBox presents 'Maybe', a BoomBox original song with Armaan Malik and Ikka - a soulful fusion of bollywood melody and Hip-Hops

BUREAU
AMRITSAR/JALANDHAR/LUDHIANA : Royal Stag BoomBox, brand's flagship music IP in collaboration with Universal Music Group, returns with a fresh line-up under Royal Stag BoomBox Originals — a unique format that fuses melody and hip-hop. Following a successful run with tracks like Pehle Jaisi Baat Nahi, Hoodie, Mohabbat, and Imtihaan, the platform now drops its third original of this season, Maybe — a powerful collaboration featuring Armaan Malik and Ikka. Kartik Mohindra, Chief Marketing Officer and Head of Global Business Development at Pernod Ricard India said, "The universal language of music, has this remarkable power to unite people and create moments of pure magic. Royal Stag continues to celebrate music as its key youth passion pillar. With Royal Stag Boombox Originals we are set to elevate the experience with exciting new soundscape, blending the melodies of Bollywood with the pulsating beats of Hip-Hop, truly exemplifying the brand philosophy of Living It Large." Commenting on the collaboration, Preeti Nayyar, SVP & Business Head - India & South Asia, UMG For Brands, says: "Royal Stag Boombox stands for bold



expression and creative freedom to cross over from familiar sonic to discover new ones. At UMG for Brands, we are proud to support a platform that gives artists the space to experiment, blend genres, and create music that speaks to the youth. Royal Stag BoomBox Originals continues to bring together incredible voices from different musical worlds and turn them into unforgettable collaborations. It's a true reflection of the evolving sound of India."

Rakhi making and Mehndi competition organised in school on occasion of Rakhi

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, AUG 9

Rakhi making and Mehndi competition was organized in Nivedita Public School, Kurukshetra today. Children made beautiful Rakhis with their understanding and art, while in Mehndi competition, children made beautiful Mehndi designs on each other's hands. During this, children tied Rakhis to each other. Director of school, Meva Ram Kashyap said that such competitions give children a chance to know their culture and traditions. He made boys take a pledge to respect and protect all girls. Students from class 3 to class 8 participated in this competition. All participants



displayed their art by making colorful Rakhis. Principal of school, Bala Devi said that such events increase understanding of art and craft in students and also increase their confidence. Through Rakshabandhan, he gave message of mutual love, brotherhood and environmental protection and gave hearty wishes of Rakhi festival to all children and also gave message of living together. Aditya from third class came first and Divyanshi second in Rakhi competition. In class fourth to eighth, Kajal fifth class came first, Bipul sixth class came second and Mehnaz fifth class came third. From class sixth to eighth, Tania seventh class came first, Monika seventh class came second and Mukul sixth class came third.

DSP Gurmukh Singh appointed President of Kapurthala District Chokball Association

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, AUG 9

A special meeting of the Kapurthala District Chokball Association was held at New Ahuja Sweets near Char Batti Chowk under the leadership of Mamta and Gagandeep Kaur. The event was graced by special guests DSP S. Gurmukh Singh, Rakesh Kumar, and Rajiv Walia (President, Youth Sports Welfare Board).

During the meeting, Rajiv Walia briefed all members about the Chokball game, stating that his aim is to introduce new sports in Punjab so that more and more youth can engage in games and physical activities. Rakesh Kumar also interacted with the



members and provided information about Chokball. It was collectively suggested that more coaches should be trained in Chokball so they can promote the game in schools and colleges by training children. With the unanimous consent of all members, DSP S. Gurmukh Singh was appointed President of the Kapurthala District Chokball Association. He was honored with garlands and bouquets, and congratulated on his appointment. In his address, S. Gurmukh Singh thanked all members and assured full cooperation in promoting Chokball, while also announcing that new members would be inducted into the association.

Vardhman Yarns & Threads Ltd. under ifs CSR initiative has been Laling welfare activities of many Educational Institutes



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: Vardhman Yarns & Threads Ifd, Hoshiarpur under ifs CSR initiative has been Laling welfare activities of many Educational Institutes with in the city of Hoshiarpur and its vicinity. Today Mr. Sanjeev Narula, Managing eefor & Mr. Tarun Chawla Director(Fin & Admin) Vardhman Yarns and Threads has done inauguration of an Elevator which has been successfully installed at swali Sindhu Nyas Girls hostel, Jalandhar af the cost of 16.5 lakhs. This elopment is a part under Vardhman's CSR initiatives as a significant step lowards roving infrastructure and ensuring a safe accessibility. This Occasion, Mrs. Saroj Malhotra, President, with her staff members along with dhman Officials were present. Mrs. Saroj Malhotra has berifed that Sarswati Thu Nyas is an NGO run by Rashtriya Sevika Smifi's. it is an Girls hostel for needy dents. The girls here come from border areas, adivasi areas & from orphanages study only.

NEWS BRIEFS

School van accident in Sadhaura leaves children unharmed

PRITI SAINI
SADHAURA: On Friday afternoon, a van belonging to Ganpati Convent Smart School, Kanipla, carrying schoolchildren met with an accident on the Sadhaura–Barara road after reported-



ly going out of control. According to available information, the van was on its way to drop children home after school when its steering allegedly got jammed, causing the driver to lose control and the vehicle to crash.Eyewitnesses said there were around 12 to 15 children in the van at the time of the accident. Fortunately, none of them suffered any injuries. Attempts to contact the school management for comment were unsuccessful.

Under CM Saini's leadership, Hry will emerge as a cleanliness champion: Subhash Chandra

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, AUGUST 9



The results of the Swachh Survekshan 2024 during the tenure of the Nayab Saini government 2.0 have proven that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship Swachh Bharat Mission is being taken very seriously by the state government, administration, and the people of Haryana. This was stated by Subhash Chandra, Acting Vice Chairman of Swachh Bharat Mission Haryana, in a press release today.

He said that in January itself, the Chief Minister had instructed all officials and him to begin preparations for Swachh Survekshan 2024. Alongside this, the CM directed that Swachhta Pakhwada be observed across the state from January 1 to 15 to improve the rankings of all municipal corporations, councils, and committees.

Following the CM's instructions, Chandra said he visited districts across the state, meeting officials, social and religious leaders, educational institutions, Resident Welfare Associations, and trade representatives to discuss the previous rankings and devise strategies for better performance this time. As a result, Haryana made a significant jump in this year's survey.

Speaking about future plans, Chandra said that special focus will be given to districts that failed to achieve satisfactory rankings. A targeted strategy is already being implemented. Recently, the CM's Special Executive Officer Bharat Bhushan Bharti and Chandra himself convened meetings with senior officials of Kurukshetra and Panchkula, directing them to run cleanliness campaigns in mission mode within their offices and premises. "Our goal for the upcoming Swachh Survekshan is for Haryana to emerge as the number one state in the country," Chandra said, adding that CM Nayab Saini is fully committed to this mission and regularly reviews the progress. He appealed to everyone for full cooperation to ensure that the next survey brings good news for Haryana.

Khurshid Alam celebrates Raksha Bandhan with over forty Hindu sisters in Karnal, promoting communal harmony

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, AUG 9



A unique display of communal harmony was witnessed in Karnal today as Khurshid Alam, former media coordinator of the Haryana State Haj Committee, had over forty Hindu sisters tie rakhis on his wrist. Alam, who started this tradition years ago, continues to celebrate Raksha Bandhan with great joy, inviting his Hindu sisters to his home every year on this occasion.

This year, just like before, a long queue of sisters visited his home to tie the sacred thread. After the ceremony, Alam assured them of his protection, presented gifts, and expressed his gratitude. Known for his inclusive spirit, Alam participates wholeheartedly in Hindu festivals despite belonging to the Muslim community. Sisters including Kusum Sharma, Pankaj Sharma, Seema Dharba, Seema Sharma, Komal Narang, Khushi Narang, Mahak Maheshwari, Khushi Maheshwari, Arshi Saini, Payal Valmiki, Indu Valmiki, Archana Kashyap, Shalini Kashyap Rajput, Aarti Devi, and Ekta Kapoor were among those who tied rakhis.Across Karnal, Raksha Bandhan — the festival symbolising the inseparable bond between brothers and sisters — was celebrated with joy and traditional customs. Since morning, markets bustled with crowds at shops selling rakhis, sweets, and gifts. Sisters tied the protective thread on their brothers' wrists, praying for their long life and happiness, while brothers gifted them presents and renewed their vows of protection and affection. In many families, the occasion was marked with songs, music, and delicious dishes. Avi, Dimpy, Angel, Laddu, Pakhi, Himani, and Bhavya tied rakhis to their brothers Kanha, Ekansh, and Shivay. Special programmes were also organised in neighbourhoods, temples, gurdwaras, and social institutions, with children actively portraying the purity of the sibling bond.



BKU Tikait group to hold tractor parade, protest on august 13

PRITI SAINI
SADHAURA: A meeting of the Bharatiy a Kisan Union (BKU) Tikait Group was held in Sarawi village under the chairmanship of constituency general secretary Satish Kumar. According to information, key issues were discussed during the meeting, including preparations for a tractor parade and protest to be held at district headquarters on August 13. The protest will also involve burning effigies of the Prime Minister at all district headquarters.

Grand Van Mahotsav to be held in Syonsar village, Pehowa today

YAGYADUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: A grand Van Mahotsav 2025 celebration will be organised in Syonsar village of Pehowa subdivision. Deputy Commissioner Mahavir Prasad said that all preparations for the event have been completed. The highlight of the ceremony, to be held on August 10, will be the presence of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini as the chief guest.

The Deputy Commissioner was speaking after reviewing the arrangements for the event, which is being organised jointly by the district forest department and the administration. Earlier, he inspected the preparations made by the forest authorities and issued certain necessary instructions to officials and staff. During the programme, Chief Minister Saini will plant a sapling and lay the foundation stone for the Saraswati Wetland Reservoir, as well as the Saraswati Flora and Biodiversity Conservation Garden. The event will also be attended by Haryana Environment, Forest and Wildlife Minister Rao Narbir Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Environment, Forest and Wildlife) Anand Mohan Sharan, and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Haryana, Vineet Kumar Garg.

BJP Government insulting Sikh community by interfering in religious affairs: Ladi

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Gurnam Singh Ladi, member of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGPC) from the Nissing, Karnal ward, has condemned the recent amendment to the Haryana Gurdwara Election Act by the state government, calling it interference in Sikh religious affairs. Speaking to reporters, Ladi said that the Sikh community in Haryana had elected members to the HSGPC to serve the gurdwaras of the state, and their decisions represent the will of the Sikh sangat.



He alleged that the amendment was made without consulting the Sikh community, which he described as an insult and a violation of a Supreme Court ruling. He added that the government was preventing elected representatives from performing their duties, sparking anger within the Sikh community. According to Ladi, the unnecessary amendment to the 2014 Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Act attempts to curtail the rights of elected members.

"This will not be tolerated under any circumstances, as it appears the Haryana government wants to wrongly control gurdwara management," he said. Ladi informed that a meeting of members was recently held at the head office to oppose the decision, and warned that the BJP would have to face the consequences of such actions. He demanded that the amendment be withdrawn immediately.

Raksha Bandhan celebrated as Indrjeet Singh Goraya ties bond of love with Kumari Selja

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: All India Kisan Congress national spokesperson and Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee member Indrjeet Singh Goraya marked the festival of Raksha Bandhan by meeting All India Congress Committee general secretary, former Union minister, and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja in Hisar, where she tied a rakhi on his wrist. The rakhi was tied with traditional rituals, followed by the exchange of sweets and festival greetings. Goraya said that Raksha Bandhan symbolises the unbreakable bond of love, trust, and protection between brothers and sisters. He added that it is not just a custom but a celebration that conveys the message of social harmony, togetherness, and mutual respect. In today's fast-paced life, he said, maintaining relationships with time and warmth is essential, and such festivals keep us connected to our roots. Selja also extended Raksha Bandhan greetings to Goraya, wishing him a healthy, happy, and bright future. She said that the sibling relationship offers lifelong companionship and emotional support, and the love within this bond is priceless. During the meeting, both leaders discussed the importance of promoting social unity, brotherhood, and the spirit of service in the country and the state.



St Thomas school students send handmade Rakhis to soldiers at the border

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA: On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, students of St Thomas Convent School made handmade rakhis for soldiers posted at the nation's borders. During a school programme, these rakhis were tied to army personnel present at the event and later handed over to the Ambala Army Unit to be sent to soldiers on the frontlines. Captain Gurmel Singh, Subedar Ravindra Kaushik, and R.R. Sharma attended the programme.



School managing director Anjali Marwah said that every year, students of St Thomas Convent School prepare rakhis for soldiers serving at the borders and eagerly await this occasion. School director Kartikey noted that sending rakhis to soldiers has been a long-standing tradition of the school, symbolising not just a thread but the love and blessings of the children. He added that the initiative is aimed at fostering patriotism among students and honouring the sacrifices of soldiers.
Teachers Rajni, Kulwant, and Komal Sharma were also present on the occasion.

Wartsila releases its Half-year Financial Report

CHANDIGARH: This release is a summary of Wartsila's Half-year Financial Report January-June 2025. The complete report is attached to this release as a pdf file. Order intake increased by 18% to EUR 2,190 million (1,854), while the organic growth, which excludes FX impact and the impact of acquisitions and divestments, was 20%. Service order intake decreased by 6% to EUR 926 million (982). Net sales increased by 11% to EUR 1,719 million (1,556), while organic growth was 13%. Book-to-bill amounted to 1.27 (1.19). The comparable operating result increased by 18% to EUR 207 million (176), which represents 12.0% of net sales (11.3). The operating result increased by 11% to EUR 186 million (168), which represents 10.8% of net sales (10.8). Earnings per share increased to 0.23 euro (0.20). Cash flow from operating activities increased to EUR 416 million (216). In general, Wartsila underlines that the current high external uncertainties make forward-looking statements challenging. Due to high geopolitical uncertainty, the changing landscape of global trade, and the lack of clarity related to tariffs, there are risks of postponements in investment decisions and of global economic activity slowing down.

Students of DPS celebrate raksha bandhan with Air Force personnel at Kalpi station

RAHUL KOHLII
YAMUNANAGAR: Class VII students of Delhi Public School, Yamunanagar, visited the Air Force Station at Kalpi in Ambala district to celebrate the festival of Raksha Bandhan with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. On the occasion, the students applied tilak, tied rakhis on the wrists of Indian Air Force officers and personnel, and offered them sweets. The heartfelt interaction brought alive the traditional message of the festival — protection, trust, and affection. During the visit, the students were also taken on a tour of the Air Force Station's museum, where they learned about the glorious history, achievements, and tales of valour of the Indian Air Force. School management and Principal Purnima Wadhwa described such activities as an important step towards fostering patriotism, respect, and cultural values among students.



One-day International Conference on National Technology Day held at Global Research Group of Institutions, Nachraun

NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: A one-day international conference was organized on the occasion of National Technology Day at Global Research Group of Institutions, Nachraun. The event was held under the patronage of the Haryana State Council for Science, Innovation and Technology, Government of Haryana, and in collaboration with the Society of Pharmaceutical Education and Research. The theme of the conference was Yantra Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research and Acceleration. The objective was to encourage thought-provoking discussions among the scientific community, foster unique collaborations between professionals from academia, industry, and the healthcare sector, and provide participants with insights into patent processes, intellectual property rights, and the latest research techniques.The event attracted professionals, researchers, policymakers, and technology enthusiasts from various fields, creating valuable networking opportunities.



Pawan Vision Foundation celebrated Raksha Bandhan at Apna Aashiana



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KAITHAL, AUGUST 9

Pawan Vision Foundation celebrated the festival of Raksha Bandhan at Apna Aashiana in Karnal. On this occasion, BK Shivika Didi from Brahma Kumaris Ashram tied rakhi to the residents of Apna Aashiana and offered them sweets. Calling Raksha Bandhan a symbol of purity, she said the bond between a brother and sister is the most sacred in the universe. She expressed happiness in tying rakhi to the residents, saying it brought her immense joy and blessings, and prayed for their health and happiness wherever they live. Foundation chairperson Neha Arora also tied rakhi to all the residents and offered them sweets. She said the foundation decided to celebrate this year's festival at Apna Aashiana, considering the whole world as one family. Emphasising the importance of Raksha Bandhan, she said it reminds us that love between siblings remains strong regardless of time or distance, and the rakhi signifies a promise to protect, share in happiness, and stand by each other in every difficulty.

The event was attended by chief guest BK Shivika Didi, foundation chairperson Neha Arora, Sandeep Sahil, Advocate Kamal Arora, Amit Munjal, Mukesh Dhingra, Nidhi, Rajesh Grover, Shravan Bahl, and Jyoti.

Sisters tie rakhi, brothers return with gifts on raksha bandhan in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, AUG 9

Raksha Bandhan, the festival symbolising the eternal bond between brothers and sisters, was celebrated in Karnal with great joy and traditional fervour. Since morning, the city markets bustled with activity as shops selling rakhis, sweets, and gifts drew heavy crowds. Stalls adorned with colourful rakhis became a lively sight as sisters shopped for their brothers.



On the festive day, sisters tied the sacred rakhi on their brothers' wrists, praying for their long life and happiness. In return, brothers presented gifts and renewed their promise to protect and cherish their sisters. In many families, the celebration became even more special with music, songs, and delicious dishes. Avi, Dimpy, Angel, Laddu, Pakhi, Himani, and Bhavya tied rakhis to their brothers Kanha, Ekansh, and Shivay.

Special programmes were also organised in various neighbourhoods, temples, gurdwaras, and social institutions across the city. Children too reflected the purity of the sibling bond. On this occasion, every corner of Karnal was filled with the fragrance of love, togetherness, and brotherhood. Women dressed in traditional attire, and the excitement of the festival shone brightly on the faces of children.

Youth Parliament on national security held at Sugni Devi Arya Girls Senior Secondary School

VIJAY KAUSHIK
LADWA, AUG 9



Sugni Devi Arya Girls Senior Secondary School in Ladwa hosted the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, where students effectively enacted the roles of members of the National Security Committee. The event was chaired by Principal Pooja Chhabra, with Manasvi Bangad serving as the presiding officer. The parliament was coordinated by political science teacher Suman and history teacher Renu.

On the first day, special guests included Tilak Raj Gupta, Monika Bansal, and Poonam Saini. As part of the state-level youth parliament programme, the proceedings were conducted with full adherence to the decorum and protocol of the Indian Parliament. Participants included 33 students from Gurugram Global Heights School, two from Aggarsain Public School Kurukshetra, two from Divine Public School Shahabad, five from The Millennium School Kurukshetra, 12 from Gurukul Kurukshetra, and 15 from Sugni Devi School.

The session's main discussion focused on the Pahalgam attack. Students assumed the roles of National Security Committee members, the Jammu and Kashmir police chief, and other stakeholders, engaging in parliamentary-style debates with questions and answers from both the treasury and opposition benches. The young participants displayed enthusiasm and skill in presenting their statements.

On the second day, special guests Vikas Singhal and Durgesh Goyal attended, while Anil Goyal, president of the school's managing committee, was the chief guest. Awards were given to winners: Best Delegate – Anagh Tripathi (Gurukul Kurukshetra), High Commendation 1 – Himakshi (Gurugram Global Heights), High Commendation 2 – Sanjeevani (The Millennium School), Special Mention 1 – Jagrut Mahedru (Gurukul Kurukshetra), Special Mention 2 – Trisha, Special Mention 3 – Palak (Sugni Devi School), and Medal of Honour – Sanjay Kumar (Gurukul Kurukshetra).

Certificates from the Government of India were also presented to Ritu Panjeta, Suman Judge, Renu Bala, and Principal Pooja Chhabra. Special honours were awarded to Manasvi Bangad from Gurugram, who played the role of the Prime Minister, and Rishya Chhabra from Kurukshetra for their contributions. Principal Chhabra thanked the students, teachers, and all contributors for making the event a success, saying it would inspire students to participate in such activities with confidence and critical thinking in the future.

Plaksha University celebrates its first undergraduate convocation

CHANDIGARH: Plaksha University, a technology university reimagining higher education and research in India, celebrated a major milestone with the convocation of its founding BTech cohort, the Class of 2025. The event highlights Plaksha's vision of nurturing a new kind of engineer who can address the challenges of an ever-evolving world. The university's strong industry connects and the diverse career trajectories of its graduates, reaffirms Plaksha's commitment to interdisciplinary learning, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.



The graduating cohort was addressed by the chief guest, Dr V Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO at the university campus in Mohali, who emphasised the importance of lifelong learning. He said "Great students are shaped by great teachers and Plaksha has that strength. This is a true temple of knowledge, and it's inspiring to see the calibre and purpose in its graduates. Keep learning, work hard, serve the country, and above all, be good human beings. You now have the chance to help build a Viksit Bharat, make it count."

The university's first graduating batch saw strong career outcomes, securing roles across diverse functions such as data science, AI/ML, business analysis, software engineering, product management, and consulting. Of the students who opted for industry roles (65% of the eligible cohort), 100% successfully secured job offers.

The average CTC stood at little above Rs. 20 lakh per annum, with top offers reaching up to Rs. 60 lakh per annum. Top 25 percentile of the class received average CTC of Rs. 36 lakh per annum, underscoring the strong demand for talent trained in interdisciplinary and future-facing skills.

In addition to placement outcomes, 27% of students chose to pursue higher studies and research, securing admissions from leading global institutions like Carnegie Mellon University, UPenn, University of Chicago, University of California San Diego, King's College London, New York University, TU Delft among others. This underscores the academic rigor and research-driven approach at Plaksha, preparing students for advanced studies in cutting-edge fields. Remaining students have chosen to start their own startup ventures.

"This moment represents not just the graduation of a cohort but the emergence of a new model for tech education in India," said Neeraj Aggarwal, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Plaksha University and Chair, Asia-Pacific at Boston Consulting Group.

Cure for an obsession: get another one.
Mason Cooley

Editorial

Israeli military control of Gaza city is unwelcome

Israel is to go on the offensive again to take military control of Gaza City into which more than a million Palestinians have crammed themselves in apartments or makeshift camps amid the rubble created by Israeli air raids. The world, by now accustomed to the indescribable cruelties inflicted on the Palestinians, may look on hopelessly in its inability to do anything about Israel's continued trampling of the people of Gaza.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Security Cabinet has taken this decision to occupy Gaza City after long deliberation and overruling the Army chief Lt Gen. Eyal Zamir who is loath to recommend such an operation considering the difficulties of taking on the remnants of the Hamas fighting force ensconced there amid the civilian population.

Gaza City, in the north of the Gaza Strip, is one of the few areas not under evacuation orders while most Palestinians have been forced northwards as Israel built a security zone upwards of the Egyptian border. What this will entail is greater spread of the famine that has gripped the people as Israel has made the free flow of food and medicines aid near impossible.

The senseless fury of the October 7, 2023, cross-border terror attack by Hamas on Israelis, killing 1,200 and taking 250 hostage, brought upon the Palestinians an unrelenting campaign of destruction of civilian areas and the dehumanisation of a whole people, of whom more than 61,000 have been killed — mostly women and children — and more than 1.5 lakh injured.

Much more of this horrendous infliction of cruelty on the Palestinians will now be enacted as Israel looks to get back the 20 hostages still thought to be alive in and around Gaza City. To end the operations, Israel seeks disarming of Hamas, a demilitarised Gaza, total security control over the enclave and the establishment of an alternative civilian government that should not include Hamas.

Though it already controls over 75 per cent of Gaza, save for a coastal strip running from Gaza City to Khan Younis in the south, what Israel is laying down are impossible conditions as Hamas holds on to a few hostages in tunnels. The few still alive are being deliberately starved as retaliation for Israel denying food aid to Palestinian civilians who are forced to get by on broth that aid workers distribute as food for the day.

Mumbai's Pigeon Politics: Will CM or Shinde Win?

Mumbai gangsta speak includes "kabootar" -- slang that refers to a weak, unreliable, untrustworthy gang member. In corporate lingo, a "kabootar" is someone who is a soft target for scams and can be easily taken advantage of. Not sure who's winning the local kabootar war, but my guess is that it will be Mr Fadnavis. Our "shaana" chief minister frequently defies convenient pigeon-holing. And this time he has cleverly set the cat among the kabootars.

Kabootar politics has as much to do with playing into religious sentiments while ignoring health issues. Mr Fadnavis has shrewdly aligned himself with the affluent and influential Jain community by ordering the BMC to ensure "controlled feeding" of pigeons in the city.

Talk about the theatre of the absurd! Didn't imagine it would come to this -- a political game of one-upmanship triggered by kabootars! Yes, Mumbai's well-fed pigeons are at the centre of a mini-storm that pitches chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and his deputy Eknath Shinde. Our pigeons are a pampered lot. Without moving from their perches, they receive generous meals around the clock, while in the same vicinity, under-privileged kids scrounge around garbage dumps for scraps of food.

I have nothing against kabootars, per se. But they are a bloody menace… besides posing several, well-researched, well-established health risks to humans.

Mumbai gangsta speak includes "kabootar" -- slang that refers to a weak, unreliable, untrustworthy gang member. In corporate lingo, a "kabootar" is someone who is a soft target for scams and can be easily taken advantage of. Not sure who's winning the local kabootar war, but my guess is that it will be Mr Fadnavis. Our "shaana" chief minister frequently defies convenient pigeon-holing. And this time he has cleverly set the cat among the kabootars.

Kabootar politics has as much to do with playing into religious sentiments while ignoring health issues. Mr Fadnavis has shrewdly aligned himself with the affluent and influential Jain community by ordering the BMC to ensure "controlled feeding" of pigeons in the city.

Animal rights activists are backing the chief minister's move while those more concerned about health repercussions continue to protest. This is tricky terrain. Public health is being pitted against religious sentiments. I am rooting for the health of citizens over the khanapeena of kabootars. Our kabootarkhanas pose many hazards, including ecological ones. Pigeons are more than capable of feeding themselves.

It is not as if millions of pigeons will starve to death and fall from the skies if this practice is discontinued. Pigeon feeders need to be aware of the many health issues unleashed on human beings with this ongoing indulgence. According to a report published in 2023 by the State of India's Birds, the population of pigeons has increased by over 150 per cent since 2000.

How can one continue to ignore the advisories issued by leading doctors and veterinarians against the ever-burgeoning presence of pigeons in the middle of our overcrowded metropolis -- all in the name of compassion. What about disease transmission? How can we ignore the warnings issued by pulmonologists?

Lung diseases are on the increase, often caused by an allergic reaction to bird droppings, leading to an inflammation of lung tissue and breathing difficulties. Surely, minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha blithely ignored the HC's order in this matter. His preposterous suggestion to create feeding stations for pigeons inside the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, BKC and the Race Course, as an "amicable solution" to the problem, should not even be considered. Said Shiv Sena MLC Manisha Kayande: "It's like the government is now officially feeding pigeons, which is a violation of the court order."

The non-violent Jains are on the warpath, literally. Protesters tore off tarpaulins in Dadar and demanded a re-opening of the feeding area, threatening they'd opt for the NOTA option in the coming civic elections. "Pigeons are innocent… we must be allowed to feed them," supporters insisted.

Meanwhile, alarmed citizens are what -- sitting ducks? Didn't spot too many pigeons in Delhi during a short visit. Of the avian variety, that is. I was told the real kabootars flock to the corridors of power and stalk VVIPs. Like Mumbai's lazy, fattened-on-free-grain pigeons, the Delhi kabootars also thrive on moofat public feeding and patronage of different groups.

The Dilli kabootar is a special breed and easy to spot. Perpetually bhooka… looking for handouts, hanging around gang leaders, err… political netas. Obsequious in posture. Sly in dealings. One can observe clusters of kabootars at places like the India International Centre and India Habitat Centre.

Dozens of grim-faced babus walk around with files under their arms, behaving like the future of India rests on their shoulders. Most are pigeon-chested, to boot. And make the same cooing sounds as their feathered counterparts during conversations. Shifty-eyed and restless, they appear kursi-obsessed.

Understandably so… senior babus specialise in keeping underlings insecure -- sudden transfers. Overnight orders. Changed portfolios. Unexplained suspension. Delhi kabootars are skilled tightrope walkers. Just like Mumbai's annoying pigeons perched on innumerable illegal cable connections criss-crossing the cityscape. One question: Why are kabootars being singled out for this preferential treatment? Why not other birds? I'm thinking of the vast and varied avian population -- peacocks, sparrows, crows, vultures, hawks.

Political birds in Parliament, parroting rhetoric. We have enough grain to feed them all! Without religious connotations. The pigeons of Mumbai are entitled and privileged indeed. Too fat to fly, too entitled to look for food. Meanwhile, there's a great deal of chirping about the appointment of Aathi Sathe, former spokesperson of the Maharashtra BJP, as a judge of the Bombay high court. Critics are squawking that the appointment of a political figure raises doubts about the entire process of delivery of justice. NCP (SP) legislator Rohit Pawar dubbed her appointment "the gravest blow to democracy". The lady remains unfazed. "I have resigned from all political posts before this. So, that settles it." Does it?

Literature & Health

Smoking linked to increased risk of slipped disc, warn doctors

Doctors at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) here have warned that smoking significantly increases the risk of developing a slipped disc, also known as lumbar disc herniation.

The warning came after a successful surgery was performed on a patient referred with recurrent lumbar disc herniation.



A team led by surgeon Dr Bhaskar Borgohain recently carried out a tubular microdiscectomy successfully to relieve the pressure on the S1 nerve root on a patient admitted to the hospital. Four large fragments of the disc were removed during the minimally invasive procedure, he said. "Research suggests that smoking is one of the risk factors for slipped discs, possibly due to damage to collagen fibres in the disc's outer ring caused by toxic hydrocarbons in cigarette smoke," Dr Borgohain said. He added that such damage weakens the structure of the spinal discs, making them more prone to rupture or herniation, particularly in the lower back. Doctors at NEIGRIHMS have urged the public to avoid smoking not only to reduce the risk of spinal problems but also to improve overall musculoskeletal health.

Medical officer urges women not to feed infants with bottles to prevent infections

Shimla Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Yashpal Ranta presided over a session held at the Mother and Child Health Centre, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Zonal Hospital, on Monday to raise awareness among pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and ASHA workers about the importance of breastfeeding and appealed to them to not feed infants with a bottle to prevent infections.

He also appraised the women of the importance of breastfeeding and encouraged all mothers present in the session to breastfeed their child. Additionally, awareness campaigns are being organised at the block level throughout the district.



Speaking during the session, the CMO said World Breastfeeding Week was celebrated globally every year from August 1 to 7 and breastfeeding awareness campaigns were also being organised at the block-level throughout the district.

He said breast milk was not only the best food for the infant but also the nectar of life. He emphasised that it was important to breastfeed the baby within the first half hour of birth as early breastfeeding of the first thick milk (colostrum) was highly beneficial for the baby.

"Colostrum enhances the infant's immunity and should be followed by exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months.

POEMS

She

She who ever had remained in the depth of my being, in the twilight of gleams and of glimpses; she who never opened her veils in the morning light, will be my last gift to thee, my God, folded in my final song.

Words have wooed yet failed to win her; persuasion has stretched to her its eager arms in vain.

I have roamed from country to country keeping her in the core of my heart, and around her have risen and fallen the growth and decay of my life. Over my thoughts and actions, my slumbers and dreams, she reigned yet dwelled alone and apart.

Rabindranath Tagore

Will 'Wokery' now displace all rivals to Christianity in Britain of today?

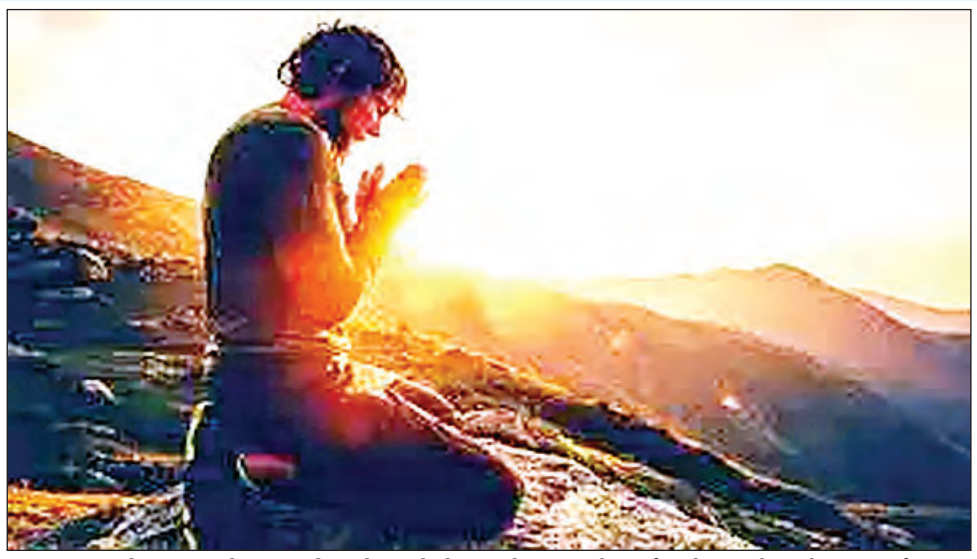
"The winds blow over the emperor's tomb
He now lies safe in eternity's womb
Eternity denies us all rebirth
To lie there hearing all echoes of doom
But why, Bachchoo, these morose thoughts today?
I've just been reading a history essay
Proving we never learn from human past -- Guns and bombs constantly have their way...?"

From The Rubaiyat of Aesop Goal

In the last week three million people tuned in to a speech by the British MP, Danny Kruger. He had, some days earlier, delivered it to a virtually empty House of Commons as his parliamentary colleagues, not having any political differences to settle or demonstrate their partialities, had quit the green benches, had a good lunch and presumably retired to their constituencies.

Nevertheless, dedicated Christian Kruger, addressed the green cushions and the handful of nodding-off colleagues because he had, he thought, something urgent to say about the state of the country, its heart, its soul, its present as he saw it and its future as this present threatened.

His speech began on a note of despair. The churches were emptying. He hadn't checked the latest statistics which proudly announce that the



reverse trend seems to be spreading through the country -- abandonment is slowly but surely being abandoned.

Nevertheless, Danny carried on. His contention was/is that Christianity is in the very fabric of this country and its values. He used the metaphor of it "being the substance of its bones!". He could have appealed to a younger constituency by saying it was in its DNA, but perhaps that would be wrong as the pagan, tribal, Druidic past of this country only changed when St Augustine brought the word of Jesus to the green and pleasant land.

Danny was of course conscious that though there weren't any ears of peers listening in the House, his speech would reach a gracious, numerous following of Christians through the advertised social media transmission.

There were two forces, he said, which were displacing Christianity: Islam and Wokery. "Fact?" as the Orange blob would ask (sorry, he uses the word to give questionable veracity to a lie. So "!!!!", and not "?") I am afraid not. I beg to differ on both counts.

There is absolutely no evidence that masses of Christians are converting to Islam. But perhaps that's not what Danny means. He wants to imply that Muslims have invaded the country in hordes and mosques and Islamic centres are cropping up in most cities and in communities where Muslim immigrants have settled. Aha! -- the dog-whistle against immigration and the supposed alien invasion?

If at all conversions are taking place, they are not to Islam but to the cults of Hinduism. The Hare Krishna crowd in their lungis and shaved heads chant in some city squares. Others have taken to following Hindu godmen in search of spirituality. Yoga, despite its roots and origin in Hindu theology, is incarnate in Britain as an absolutely secular way of staying nimble.

So, what then of Danny's contention that the second religion displacing Christianity in contemporary Britain is "Wokery"? His speech took for granted that his listeners would have, through common perception, a uniform definition of what the word means.

As Humpty Dumpty said to Alice, the word means what he intends it to mean. To my mind, gentle reader, it seems to mean very many different things. To the right-wing commentators in anti-Left vituperative publications such as Britain's weekly Spectator, it means anything that the entire spectrum of what it characterises as "The Left" believes.

For some commentators -- again writers for Britain's dailies The Telegraph, The Mail and The Express -- support for the people of Gaza, for a state of Palestine or any stand against the genocide by the Benjamin Netanyahu government qualifies as "wokery". Some of these commentators -- and I can name them, but their identities would mean little to most of this column's audience -- would characterise the counter-demonstrators who oppose the mobs who gather to attack the hostels and living spaces that the government has allocated to migrants awaiting their appeals for residence to be processed, as "woke".

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Kavita Sharma ties Rakhi to Sumit Singla

SHANTI GAUTAM
BADDI: In Madhav Basti, located under Municipal Ward No. 6, women leader and social worker Kavita Gautam tied Rakhi to Curatech Group MD and Amit Singla Social Welfare Society President, respected brother Sumit Singla, along with his family. She also tied Rakhi to the group's security officer, Umesh Singh — the first time in 30 years that a woman tied him a Rakhi. Volunteers from Madhav Basti, including Dhairya Prabhakar, Sarthak Rai, Divyansh, Saksham, Arvind, Amit, Kittu, Kannu, Prakriti Paku, Dimple, Pooja, Jyoti Kajal, Shivani Bhardwaj, Gauri, and Geetu, tied Rakhis to one another and wished each other long life.



NEWS BRIEF

Brahma Kumari's Tie 'Rakhi' to Governor ahead of Raksha Bandhan



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: On the eve of the sacred festival of Raksha Bandhan, sisters from Prajapita Brahma Kumaris, Sunni and Panthaghati branches, tied the traditional Rakhi on the wrist of the Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla at Raj Bhavan, today. They conveyed their prayers for the Governor's long life, good health and continued service to society. The Governor expressed his gratitude for their warm gesture and extended his best wishes on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, highlighting its significance in promoting affection, mutual respect and the spirit of harmony.

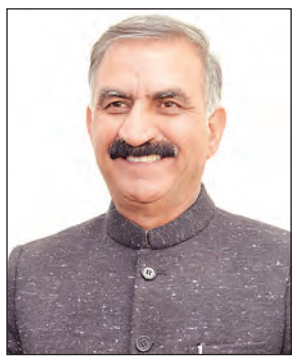
Rakhi from Tauni Devi school girls reach Galwan Valley soldiers, blessings sent in return



RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR: This Raksha Bandhan brought unforgettable and emotional moments for the Guides students of Government Senior Secondary School, Tauni Devi. The students had prepared rakhis, greeting cards, and heartfelt messages for soldiers posted at the nation's borders. In a special gesture, these rakhis reached all the way to Leh and the Galwan Valley after "Operation Sindoor," where soldiers tied them on their wrists and sent love, blessings, and thanks to the daughters who made them. Under the guidance of Principal Rajneesh Rangra and with the support of Guide Captain Kusum Lata, the students carried out this initiative.

Himachal seeks separate e-way bill for tracking of narcotic substances under GST

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, AUG 9



In a move to curb the growing menace of drug abuse and prevent the diversion of narcotic substances from the pharma companies, the Himachal Pradesh government under the leadership of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has initiated a series of strong measures aimed at ensuring strict monitoring, regulation and enforcement.

A Spokesperson of the state government today informed that a committee was being constituted under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) to oversee operations of licensed pharmaceutical companies dealing in narcotic formulations. This committee will include officers from the Excise department, Police and Drug Control Authority and would be tasked with ensuring compliance with regulatory norms and preventing misuse of narcotic substances.

To further enhance traceability, the state government has formally approached the GST Council, seeking the introduction of a dedicated e-way bill mechanism specifically for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. This step is expected to enable real-time monitoring of their movement across the supply chain, thereby tightening control at every stage. In addition, the Department of State Taxes and Excise has imposed quantity restrictions on the handling of narcotic drugs by license holders. This measure is intended to minimize the risk of excess stock being diverted for illegal use.

The spokesperson further added that the government was currently revising the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Rules, 1989 and updating the Integrated Drug Prevention Policy, aiming to strengthen the overall legal and administrative framework for drug control in the State. In line with its commitment to grassroots-level enforcement and public awareness, the government has also constituted district-level committees under the chairmanship of respective District Magistrates. These committees will ensure effective implementation of laws, facilitate inter-departmental coordination, and organize awareness campaigns, particularly targeting the youth.

"This fight is not just about laws, rules and regulations, it is about saving lives and protecting our future generations.

Governor performs 'Havan Yagya' for disaster-free Himachal

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, AUG 9



On the auspicious occasion of Sawan Purnima, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla performed a sacred Havan Yagya at Raj Bhavan on Saturday, praying for peace, safety and protection of the State from natural calamities. Special offerings were made seeking divine intervention to prevent the recurrence of disasters that have recently impacted Himachal Pradesh and neighbouring State of Uttarakhand.

The ceremony was attended by Lady Governor Janaki Shukla along-with all officers and staff members of Raj Bhavan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said, "We, the people of Himachal, are deeply rooted in our faith and firmly believe that such rituals will help protect the 'Dev Bhoomi' from natural calamities."

He expressed concern over the significant loss of life and property and prayers were also performed for the peace of departed souls who lost their lives in the disaster.

Later, members of Maitri Sanstha and women from the State Red Cross tied Rakhis to the Governor's wishing him a long life and good health. Extending warm greetings on the occasion, he said the festival was a symbol of affection, trust and mutual protection. Secretary to the Governor C.P. Verma was also present on the occasion.

Six villages are at risk of landslides, team of geologists will conduct survey

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, AUG 9

In Kullu district of the state, six villages Ghaliad, Darmedha, Talinga, Balu, Kubni and Raunal are at risk of landslides. Out of these, Ghaliad village of Tirthan Valley of Banjar and Darmedha village of Sainj are at greater risk. In view of this, the district administration will get Darmedha and Ghaliad villages surveyed by a team of geologists.

More than 100 people from about 30 families live in Ghaliad village of Tirthan Valley of Banjar and Darmedha village of Sainj. The district administration has decided to get a survey conducted by a team of geologists regarding the threat of landslides looming over these villages. Geologists will examine the soil of both the villages and will find out the reason for the dangers of the hills cracking from behind the villages.

Regarding this, SDM Banjar has started preparing a report and it will be sent to the Geological Survey of India through the district administration for survey. Landslides have been occurring from the hill behind Darmedha village for about two weeks and about 60 members of 14 families of the village are in panic.

The administration has also distributed tents for their safety. Arrangements have been made for them to stay in the rest house of Great Himalayan National Park in Ropa. Some people are forced to stay in the rest house while many people are forced to stay at their close relatives' place.

Villagers Chet Ram and Rameshwar Thakur said that the danger is not over. The series of landslides from behind the village continues. Landslides are also continuously occurring from the hill behind Ghaliad village of Tirthan Valley of Banjar.

The houses of the village are in danger. In view of this, the administration has already evacuated 10 houses of the village.

DC flags off district-wide 'Har Ghar Tiranga – Har Ghar Swachhata' campaign

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, AUG 9



Deputy Commissioner Una, Jatin Lal, inaugurated the district-wide campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga – Har Ghar Swachhata: Swatantrata ka Utsav, Swachhata ke Sang' from his office premises on Friday. Organised under the Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission, this special campaign will run from August 8 to 15 across all gram panchayats in the district to mark India's Independence Day.

Speaking at the launch, the Deputy Commissioner urged active participation from panchayat heads, secretaries, village-level water and sanitation committees, self-help groups, Anganwadi and ASHA workers, teachers, and students. He stated that the campaign aims to promote awareness on cleanliness, water conservation, hygiene, and respect for the national flag in rural areas.

Under the campaign, various activities will be conducted at the panchayat level each day. On August 8, banners and posters will be displayed at panchayat offices and key locations, along with a pledge for 'Swachh Sujal Gaon'. From August 9 to 11, community cleanliness drives, cleaning of public places and water sources, rallies in schools, rangoli-making, and wall paintings will be held. On August 12, pump houses and water tanks built under Jal Jeevan Mission will be cleaned and decorated. August 13 will feature awareness events and demonstrations on waste management, water conservation, and plastic reduction. Preparations for Independence Day, including venue cleaning and decoration, will take place on August 14, followed by flag hoisting, felicitation of 'Swachhata Champions', and widespread dissemination of cleanliness messages on August 15. The Deputy Commissioner directed all panchayats to execute the campaign activities on schedule and submit photographic and video documentation of each event to the concerned department.

Rakhsha Bandhan gift initiated by former CM Dhumal continues as tradition: Archana Chauhan

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR, AUG 9



Former BJP Mahila Morcha district president Archana Chauhan has said that the tradition of offering free bus travel to women on Raksha Bandhan, initiated by former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, continues to this day. In a press statement, she welcomed the transport department's decision to provide free city bus services to women and girl students on August 9 across inter-state transport corporation services. Chauhan stated that when politics is driven by sensitivity, it goes beyond policies and announcements to reflect the emotions and dignity of society. She praised Dhumal's gesture during his tenure as Chief Minister, where he introduced free travel for women on Raksha Bandhan, turning a political decision into a gift of relationships.

She also recalled that during the BJP government under Dhumal's leadership, women were given 50% reservation in the Panchayati Raj system, empowering them at the grassroots level.

Chauhan further lauded the current Modi-led central government for implementing 33% reservation for women, calling it a milestone that has brought pride to women across the country.

Workers allege poor food and labour exploitation on NH-03 construction site

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR, AUG 9



workers constructing the Hamirpur–Mandi stretch of National Highway 03 walked off the job in protest. Around 22 workers alleged that Surya Infra Engineering Company, the contractor, neither pays wages on time nor provides meals regularly. They claimed that the food quality is consistently poor, and on this day too, they found insects in their meals. Worse still, the food is being served in banned plastic bags, posing serious health risks. Workers including Basharat, Manjeet, Ashok, Avtar, and Umesh said that they are serving a 20-day notice to the company, after which they will stop working. They accused the company of violating labour laws and exploiting workers. "We won't tolerate this anymore," they said, alleging that the company intimidates them with threats of false police cases and imposes arbitrary penalties and debits without cause. They also complained of no weekly rest, undefined work hours, and undue pressure. "Surya Infra Engineering must clear our dues. We no longer wish to work with them," the workers said, adding that they would work for the remaining 20 days and expect the company not to frame false allegations against them. "Safeguarding machinery is the company's responsibility. If our dues aren't cleared after the notice period, we will approach the district administration and the media." In response, highway engineer Ankit Singh stated that a couple of workers are misleading the rest. He warned that if any damage is caused to machinery during this period, legal action will be taken.

Gift for Haroli: New Ayurvedic Medical College becomes reality through Dy CM's efforts

KISHORI LAL BAINS



UNA: In a major boon for the people of Haroli constituency, the state government has officially granted permission to open an Ayurvedic Medical College at the Himcaps Institute located in Haroli. This prestigious cooperative-sector institution, already successfully running a law college and a nursing college at Bhadera in Haroli, is now set to make its mark in the field of Ayurvedic education as well. The new institution will operate under the name Himcaps Ayurvedic Medical College & Hospital. In its initial phase, the college will admit 100 students annually. It will offer high-quality Ayurvedic education, state-of-the-art research facilities, and modern treatment services, ensuring that the people of the region receive quality healthcare within their own district. This achievement is the result of the sustained efforts and visionary leadership of Mukesh Agnihotri, the popular MLA from Haroli and the Deputy Chief Minister of the state. The move is set to become another milestone in transforming Haroli into a leading hub of education and development. The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the new Ayurvedic Medical College, to be established in Haroli constituency, will significantly strengthen the state's healthcare and education infrastructure. He added that not only will young people be able to access quality Ayurvedic education close to their homes, but local healthcare services and employment opportunities will also see remarkable growth.

Industries Minister to unfurl tricolor of I-Day at Chamba

BALKRISHAN PRASHAR
CHAMBA, AUG 9



The Deputy Commissioner of Chamba Mukesh Repaswal today held a meeting with the district officers regarding the preparations related to the organization of the district-level Independence Day celebrations at Chamba.

Presiding over the meeting, the DC directed all the district officers associated with the event to ensure arrangements in accordance with the dignity of the celebrations.

He told that Industries Minister Harshvardhan Chauhan would be the chief guest at the district-level function of the Independence Day celebrations which would be organised at Chowgan number-one of Chamba town.

While discussing various topics related to the successful organization of the function, the DC asked the Executive Officer of the local Nagar Parishad to ensure cleanliness of the Chowgan. In addition to this, he also instructed that proper seating arrangements should be made. It was decided in the meeting that the contingents of Police, Home Guards, NCC and NSS and forest department would display march past in the function. Apart from this, cultural programs would also be organized. The officers and employees doing excellent work in various departments would also be honored in the function. Additional Superintendent of Police Shivani Mehla, SDM Priyanshu Khati, AC to DC Aparajita Chandel alongwith officers and employees of various departments were also present in the meeting.

31-day women's garment training program concludes



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: Punjab National Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute Una office was running a 31-day women's garments training program. On this occasion, Punjab National Bank Chief Manager Piyush was present as the chief guest. He shared banking schemes with the participants and also distributed certificates to the participants. Specially present Chief Manager Rohit Kumar shared banking loan schemes with the participants. PNB RCity Una Director Sudhir Sharma requested the participants to start their own business and assured any kind of help in the future. PNB R City faculty member Akash Bhardwaj told that the institute provides free training to unemployed women and men between 18 and 45 years so that they can become self-reliant! On this occasion, 31 participants including master trainers Anita Ran, Rajni, Meenakshi were present from PNB RCity Una office.

Virendra Kanwar stakes claim on Kutlehar seat, says BJP will give ticket and he will ensure victory

JOGINDER DEV ARYA
BANGANA, AUG 9



Former Himachal Pradesh minister and president of the All India Volleyball Federation, Virendra Kanwar, has made a bold political statement ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections. In an interview with a YouTube channel, Kanwar asserted that he would contest from the Kutlehar constituency on a BJP ticket and was confident of both securing the ticket and winning the seat.

Kanwar said he remains actively involved in politics and, respecting the sentiments of the people and party workers, has decided to contest from Kutlehar. "I am certain that the BJP will give me the ticket. My goal is to accelerate long-pending development work in Kutlehar," he said.

When asked if this announcement had the backing of senior leaders such as former Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, Kanwar responded that not only Dhumal, but leaders like Anurag Thakur, Jairam Thakur, and Rajeev Bindal are also supporting him. "The entire party organisation is behind me. Together, we will strengthen BJP's position in Kutlehar once again," he said.

His statement comes amid increasing speculation within political circles about ticket distribution in Kutlehar. His claim is being seen as a major signal that could put an end to ongoing uncertainty around the seat.

Kanwar also emphasised that his primary focus will be to revive development projects—especially in the sectors of roads, health, education, and irrigation—that began during his ministerial tenure but remain incomplete. His statement has energised his supporters, many of whom have begun expressing their excitement on social media.

As political temperatures rise in Kutlehar, all eyes are now on the BJP leadership and how it responds to Kanwar's confident declaration.

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Found fallen iPhone on road, returned to owner

RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA) : Surinder Singh alias Nikka, who runs a shop near the local bus stand, today found a fallen iPhone (mobile) on the side of the road near village Lehra Dhurkot. After verifying it, he returned the said mobile to its real owner. Surinder Nikka said that this morning, after dropping his daughter at the college located in Lehra Mohabbat, he was returning when he found an iPhone, the value of which is said to be more than one lakh rupees, on the side of the road near village Lehra Dhurkot, which he picked up and came to his shop.



Meanwhile, the owner of the mobile, Bikramjit Singh son of Dharampal Singh, resident of Bhucho Mandi, who is on duty at the Animal Dispensary Lehra Dhurkot, received a call. Based on the signs given by him, he was called to the shop and the mobile was returned. The mobile owner Bikramjit Singh specially thanked Surinder Singh for this action.

NEWS BRIEF

Health dept as students aware about dengue and seasonal diseases in schools



GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA, LEHRAGAGA : As per the instructions of the Health Department, a survey was conducted in government and private senior schools of Lehragaga under the leadership of Senior Medical Officer Dr. Sanjay Bansal regarding the larvae of dengue, Chikungunya and other seasonal diseases. During the survey, Tamiphos spray was sprayed at the suspected larval sites and the dengue larval boxes were destroyed on the spot.
On this occasion, information was given to students, teachers and local people about the causes, sources, effects and prevention methods of dengue.

Congratulations to Suba Singh Badal on becoming General Secretary of Shiromani Akali Dal Punjab



JS GILL
JAITO: On the appointment of senior Akali leader and in-charge of Jaito constituency Suba Singh Badal as the General Secretary of Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) Punjab, District President Sher Singh Mand, former MLA and Core Committee Member Mantar Singh Brar, senior Akali leader and former director Gurchet Singh Dhillon, Pali Dhillon, Bibi Amarjit Kaur Panjgraia, former chairman of PADB Jaito Pargat Singh Brar, Nirmal Singh Nimmi Waring, Dr. Gurnaib Singh Mallah President, Jagroop Singh Brar former Sarpanch Ghania, Gurbaksh Singh former Sarpanch Malhan, Sukhman Khosa, Sukhwinder Singh Sukha President, Jagsir Singh Seera Dhillon President, Vijay Kumar Kaddu Garg, Soni Garg, Kuldeep Singh Fauji Dhillon, Lali Badal, Pali Badal, Sarabjit Singh Brar, Gagandeep Singh Gagana Brar, Dhira Dhillon, Lakha Brar, Lakha Dhillon, Sarabjit Singh Brar Numbardar, Harmel Singh Gora Dhillon former Sarpanch, Jasmel Singh former Sarpanch, Amandeep Singh Manu Wada Bhaikka, Gurjant Singh Junta former Panch, Karamjit Singh Khosa, Bibi Jasmel Kaur former Sarpanch Wada Bhaikka, Sukhdev Singh Gill, Bibi Harbans Kaur former Sarpanch Sedha Singh Wala, Sukhbir Singh Tony Numbardar Sedha Singh Wala etc. expressed their happiness and congratulated him and thanked Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) President Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Electric workers will hold protest march at district headquarters from Aug 11 to 13



GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA
LEHRAGAGA: The employees have decided to intensify the struggle as the meeting held with the management of the Power Corporation to implement the demands of the organizations of electricity workers and pensioners remained inconclusive. In the meeting held here today, employee leaders Puran Singh Khai, Davinder Singh Pasor and Ram Chander Singh Khai said that despite accepting the legitimate demands of the employees, the Powercom management is not implementing them, due to which there is huge protest among the employees and pensioners. While explaining the demands of the employees, he said that the employee's have arrears of 13% dearness allowance. Restoration of the old pension scheme. Correction of errors in salary/pension revision. Payment of arrears.

Rakhi making competition held at Dayanand Anglo Vaidik School



SARWAN
QADIAN: At Dayanand Anglo Vedic School in Qadian, students from classes 3rd to 10th recently participated in a lively Rakhi making competition to celebrate the festival of Rakshabandhan.
Around 30-35 students enthusiastically took part, showcasing their creativity by using materials like glass, colorful ribbons, and pearls to design their own unique Rakhis. The competition saw some impressive winner in which Harkirat Singh got first place, Pradeep 2nd Place ,Daljeet third place Japsirat got 4rth place respectively.The school's head teacher, Amar Jyoti, and the school manager, AK Vaidya, congratulated the participants, explaining the significance of Rakshabandhan and extending their best wishes for the festival. The chairman, Arun Abrol, vice chairman, BK Mittal, and ARO principal, Anjana Gupta, also sent their good wishes to everyone.

Joga Singh's arrest expected to expose more culprits in 2015 drug racket: Cheema

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, AUG 9



Punjab Finance Minister and Chairman of the 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' Cabinet Subcommittee, Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema, announced today that the arrest of Joga Singh, former security officer to MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira, is a significant step toward justice for the victims of the 2015 Gurdev Singh Debi drug racket. Cheema said that the decade-long delay in the case was due to the alleged involvement of culprits who had political connections with the Shiromani Akali Dal and Congress leadership.

Speaking at a press conference here at Punjab Bhawan, the Finance Minister detailed the events leading to Joga Singh's arrest. Joga Singh had been absconding since being nominated as an accused on September 28, 2023. His bail was denied by the session court in Fazilka in October 2023 and by the high court in January 2024. Despite numerous police raids, he remained at large.

Joga Singh was finally detained by immigration authorities at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, while attempting to flee to Australia, due to a Look Out Circular (LoC) issued by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in November 2023. He was taken on transit remand and produced before the court in Jalalabad, which granted a five-day police remand.

The Finance Minister further disclosed that Joga Singh played a key role in facilitating communication between Sukhpal Singh Khaira and both Gurdev Singh, the convicted in this case, and Gurdev Singh's UK-based sister, Charanjit Kaur. The Finance Minister said that Joga Singh used his mobile phone to arrange these calls while Gurdev Singh was a fugitive. The minister further added that call detail analysis showed multiple instances where Joga Singh and Gurdev Singh were at the same location, even in Khaira's absence. The Finance Minister also provided an update on the state's "Yudh Nashian Virudh" (War Against Drugs) campaign, which began on March 1, 2025.

He said that since the campaign's inception, 16,062 cases have been registered under the NDPS Act, leading to the arrest of 25,177 individuals. Additionally, 178 illegal properties belonging to drug smugglers have been demolished. Major seizures include 1,044 kg of heroin, 21,309 kg of poppy husk, 365 kg of opium, and nearly 3.2 million tablets, capsules, and pills.

Dhakauli police arresting interstate gang involved in robbery

VICKY BHABAT
ZIRAKPUR, AUG 9



Dhakauli Police has achieved a major success in arresting and recovering the interstate gang involved in robbery. This gang had also robbed a shop named Gobind Jeweler in Dhakoli. Giving information about the case, SP Sub Division Zirakpur Jaspinder Singh Gill said that as per the directions of Senior Superintendent of Police, District SAS Nagar Harmandeep Singh Hans (IPS), SP (Rural) Manpreet Singh, Inspector Simarjit Singh, Chief Officer of Police Station Dhakoli, Inspector Malkit Singh, Inspector Gabbar Singh, Inspector Ranveer Singh have succeeded in arresting the interstate gang involved in the looting of Dhakauli.

In his statement to the police, Surinder Kwatra, son of Brij Lal, resident of Flat No. 73, Hillview Enclave, Dhakoli, police station Dhakoli, said that he has a jewellery shop in the name of Gobind Jeweller at Hermitage Plaza. On July 11, at around 11:30 am, when he was sitting in his shop, two youths came to his shop and started looking at a gold chain.

When they asked him to show them more jewellery, he said that his son would come and show them more jewellery in the evening. Hearing this, both of them left and came to his shop again at around 12:30 pm and on the pretext of looking at the chain, they forcibly entered the shop and took him to the room above and tied him up with a rope. He said that one youth stood next to him and the other stole the jewellery and ran away.

The SP said that during the investigation, with the help of CCTV cameras, a youth was identified whose name was Vijay Kamal son of Ramesh Kamal, resident of Nawada Housing Complex, Delhi. He wore a turban after watching YouTube to hide his identity. He was working as a constable in Delhi Police and had 8 cases registered against him, including kidnapping. He used to do racketeering through the app of jewelry shops and carried out the crime.

MP Dr. Raj Kumar and MLA Dr. Ishank Kumar Chabbewal pay obeisance at Dera Baba do guttan wale



HOSHIARPUR(DALJEET AJNOHA): Lok Sabha MP from Hoshiarpur Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal and constituency MLA Dr. Ishank Kumar visited Dera Baikunth Dham of Baba Ji Do Guttan Wale to pay their respects. They fondly recalled memories of the time spent with the late Mukh sevadar Late. Bal Krishan Anand Ji and offered floral tributes.

They assured the newly appointed Mukh sevadar Madan Lal of every possible support for the development of the Dera and the surrounding area. On this occasion, Mall Sahib, Pawan Kumar (USA), Vasdev Lalwan, singer Makbool, Sarpanch Surinder Kaur (Bhulewal Gujran), Amandeep Singh (Kammowal), Talwinder Singh Heer, Kuldeep Singh (Sarpanch Sherpur), Thekedar Hardeep Singh (Sarpanch Bahowal), Iqbal Singh (Kalewal Bhagtan), Mahinder Singh, Billa Mahilpur, Gurpreet Mahilpuri, Gurbakhshish Singh (Banga), Bittu Kalewal, Mahinder Singh (Ex-Army), Billa Lalwan, Kush Kumar, and a large number of devotees were present at the Dera.

Chandigarh Police conducts mock drill ahead of Independence Day



CHANDIGARH, AUG 9

To ensure preparedness and coordination among security agencies ahead of Independence Day celebrations, the Chandigarh Police Operations Cell carried out a mock drill today at Police Headquarters, Sector 9.

The exercise was conducted under the direction of Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, IPS, SP/Operations, and the supervision of Sh. P. Abhinandan, Dy.SP/Operations. The drill aimed to assess readiness, coordination, and response time between the counter teams of Chandigarh Police and other emergency services of the Chandigarh Administration.

During the drill, the Police Headquarters premises were cordoned off and evacuated by commandos of the Operations Cell. HIT Teams, along with the Bomb Detection Squad and Dog Squad, conducted a joint search operation and successfully located a dummy bomb near the HDFC Bank ATM inside the premises.

Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), PCR vehicles, ambulances from GMSH-16 and the Police Hospital in Sector 26, Dial-112, Fire Brigade, Civil Defense, Mobile Forensic Team, District Crime Cell, and the local Police Station-03 team also participated in the operation. The dummy device was safely transported in a sandbag truck with pilot and escort PCR vehicles to an open ground in Police Lines, Sector 26, where it was defused. A thorough search of the headquarters was completed, with no further suspicious items found. Officials said such mock exercises help enhance inter-agency coordination and strengthen the city's security framework for large-scale public events.

Joint CP Rupinder Singh elevated to Indian Police Service

LUDHIANA (SHASHI PAL JAIN): Rupinder Singh Joint CP (City and Rural) Ldh has been elevated to the Indian Police Service (IPS). He had joined the Police department as probationary DSP on August, 1994. He served on various sensitive and important positions in the state.



He served as DSP Sub-Division Kharar, Mohali, Dera Bassi, Sh. Fatehgarh Sahib and Sadar Ludhiana. After that, on promotion as a SP, he served as SP city Ludhiana, SP Traffic & Security Ludhiana, SSP Vigilance Range Jalandhar, SSP Vigilance Economic Wing Ludhiana, SSP Vigilance Range Ludhiana and Commandant-Cum-Deputy Director (Outdoor & Indoor) Punjab Police Academy Phillaur, DCP Headquarter Ludhiana, SSP Economic Offence Wing Vigilance Bureau Ludhiana. In the year-2021, he has been awarded President Police Medal for Meritorious service during Covid Pandemic. He is at present President of Punjab Golf Association. Presently, he is posted as Joint Commissioner of Police, City and Rural Ludhiana. He is grandson of Sh. Giani Zail Singh Ex-President of India.

The women of Wada Bhaika celebrates festival of Teej with great enthusiasm

JAITO (JS GILL): In view of the month of Sawan, the festival of Teej was celebrated with great pomp and show in the nearby village of Wada Bhaika. On this occasion, the women of the village celebrated the festival of Teej by dancing in the village's Dharamsala, wearing pinghas jhootis and folk songs of Punjab. On this occasion, folk songs were also sung by the housewives. During the conversation, the housewives said that in the month of Sawan, the married girls of the village come to their ancestral villages and express their feelings by dancing in the village's pinghas jhootis.

Gurmat program organized by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee in Sri Amritsar Sahib



SARWAN
QADIAN, AUG 9

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) recently organized a Gurmat competition at Gurdwara Raja Ram in Halqa Sri Har Gobindpur. The event honored the 350th Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji and others, as well as the 350th Guruta Gaddi Divas of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Students from A.V.S. Senior Secondary School, Qadian, were among the participants. Eknoor Singh, Gurfateh Singh, and Harjinder Singh won second place in the Kavishri competition. The school's management and staff celebrated the students' success and affirmed their support for the SGPC. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) of Sri Amritsar Sahib organized a Gurmat event.On this occasion Madam Shashi Bala, Director of School Managing Committee, Aditya Sehgal, President of School Committee and Principal Navneet Kaur jointly congratulated everyone and assured that the school will always support Shiromani Committee Sri Amritsar Sahib.

Tent to Triumph – Parliamentary education study center welcomes B.Ed. students from Swami Sarvanand College of Education



GURDASPUR (VERMA): A story of resilience and transformation unfolded once again as the Parliamentary Education Study Center, nestled in the heart of Maan Kaur's slum area, welcomed 50 B.Ed. students from Swami Sarvanand College of Education, Dinanagar for an academic visit.

Founded by Mr. Romesh Mahajan, National Awardee and Honorary Secretary of the District Child Welfare Council, the center began in 2014 as a small tent with just three children. Today, it stands tall as a double-story hub of inclusive education, integrating modern academics, cultural enrichment, digital tools, and exposure to national institutions like the Indian Army, judiciary, and administrative services.

Led by Principal Mr. Dr. J.K.S Chouhan and accompanied by Professors Hemlata, Roohi Sharma, and Harish Dutt, the visiting students interacted with the center's young learners, who shared their journeys and aspirations.

Tent houses and house caught fire due to short circuit



ARVIND PATHAK
SULTANPUR LODHI, AUG 9

A major accident occurred in the holy city of Sultanpur Lodhi this morning when the warehouse of a tent house built in a house in Mohalla Mori suddenly caught fire. Which soon took a terrible shape, due to which all the belongings of the tent, the entire house was burnt in the terrible fire. But by the grace of God, there was no loss of life. The owner of the house, Subhash Dhir Bhalwan, said that he was sleeping in his room in the morning when his sister-in-law Veena told me that the tent warehouse in the house has caught fire.

"Ek Rakhi Sainik ke Naam" celebrated in SLIET Longowal



RAVI GARG
LONGOWAL, AUG 9

The Happy Club, Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology, Longowal organized a heartwarming Rakhi celebration on 07/08/25 dedicated to the brave soldiers of India, showcasing the spirit of patriotism and gratitude.

A Rakhi making competition and cultural performances were part of this event.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students who made beautiful handmade rakhis as a token of love and respect for the Indian Army. Alongside the rakhi-making activity, a slogan writing competition was also held, where students expressed their emotions through inspiring words for the soldiers guarding our nation. The event was graced by esteemed guests including Prof. Mani Kant Paswan, Director SLIET Longowal; Prof. M.M. Sinha, Dean Student Welfare; Prof. A.S. Arora, Dr. Preetpal Kaur Buttar, Er. Kuldip Singh and other faculty members. Dr. Yogesh Kapil, Faculty Advisor, Happy club coordinated the event.

Rakhi, thank you card making competitions held at AVM Senior Secondary School, Batala

VERMA
GURDASPUR, AUG 9



A.V.M. Senior Secondary School, located at Tathiyari Gate in Batala, organized Rakhi Making and Thank You Card Competitions for students from classes 1 to 5. The young participants enthusiastically created a variety of beautiful rakhis and heartfelt thank you cards. Students were informed about the event in advance, which allowed them to come prepared with ideas and materials.

The children used colorful threads, beads, and other decorative items to design unique and vibrant rakhis. They also crafted thoughtful thank you cards to express their love and gratitude towards their siblings and teachers. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and creativity, making it a memorable experience for all. On this occasion, Principal Mrs. Ritu Mahajan shared the significance of Raksha Bandhan, emphasizing that it is not just a thread but a symbol of the sacred bond between brothers and sisters. She explained how the festival represents a sister tying a rakhi on her brother's wrist, while the brother vows to protect her.

On "Vriksh Bandhu Diwas", pledge to protect environment for welfare of humanity: Gill



GURDASPUR (VERMA): Paramjit Singh Gill, National Executive President of the Himalaya Parivar Organization, celebrated "Vriksh Bandhu Diwas" today by tying a rakhi (sacred thread) to a tree along with his family, in accordance with the traditions of the organization.

On this occasion, he took a pledge to protect the environment and called upon others to do the same for the betterment of humanity.

Yuva connect programme inspires youth towards viksit Bharat @2047

CHANDIGARH, AUG 9



The YUVA CONNECT PROGRAMME was successfully organized yesterday at DAV College, Sector 10, Chandigarh, featuring a series of competitions centred around the theme "Viksit Bharat @2047".

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students in Debate, Quiz Competition, Presentation Competition, and Poster/Slogan Making contests, providing a vibrant platform for young minds to showcase their talent, creativity, and vision for the nation's future.

The competitions were judged by Mr. Sachin Singla, Assistant Public Relations Officer, Chandigarh Administration; Mr. Vinay Kumar, District Youth Officer, Mera Yuva Bharat, Chandigarh; and Mr. Abhishek Sharma, Director, Tagore Theatre.

The judges commended the participants for their enthusiasm and commitment to national development, offering insightful remarks and motivating them to contribute meaningfully towards the vision of a developed India by 2047.

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CHANDIGARH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

YUGMARG
News

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Teej festival celebrated with pomp by the women of village Malla

JAITO (JS GILL): Teej festival was celebrated with great pomp in the nearby village Malla. Sheikh Farid Sr. Sec. School Bajakhana staff participated as the chief guest in this event. At this time, Madam Seema Rani told the journalists that the residents of village Malla deserve congratulations for organizing this program, the organizers have made very good arrangements for this event. At this time, the audience was entertained by the girls and women performing folk songs and Giddha Bhangra. She further said that the women eagerly wait for this festival and express their happiness by wearing Giddha Bhangra. During this event, the school staff was honored by the women. At this time, a langar of kheer puras was served. On this occasion, a large number of girls and women were present, including School Principal Satwinder Pal Kaur, Seema Rani, School Staff, Gurwinder Kaur Junior President Sidhupur, Gurcharan Singh Charna Tailor Master, Jaswant Singh (Tantu) Member, Sewak Singh Halwai Member, Sukhdev Singh, Maulvi Parvez Alam, Kulwant Singh, Rani Kaur, Kirandeep Kaur, Veerpal Kaur, Harjit Kaur, Lakhwinder Kaur etc.

NEWS BRIEF

Trailblazing couple makes history/ Major Munish Chauhan and Capt Harpreet Chauhan Become First Indian Couple Commissioned in Brifish Army



DALJEET AJNOHA

HOSHIARPUR: In a proud moment for the Indian diaspora and aremarkable milestone in military history. Major Munish Chauhan and Captain Harpreet Chauhan have become the first Indian couple to be commissioned officers in the Brifish Army. Originally from India, bolh Major Munish and Capf Harpreet began their military careers as enlisted soldiers nearly two decades ago. Today, Ihrough perseverance, grif, and unwavering commifment, they stand not only as a symbol of professional excellence but also as an inspiration to thousands of Indians in the UK and beyond.

From Soldier fo Surgeon: Major Munish Chauhan MBBS, MRCS, PGDIP, DMCC, RAMS

Major Munish Chauhan embarked on his military journey 18 years ago, joining the British Army as a junior soldier. His dedication,academie excellence, and deep commitment to service led him to pursue a medical career within the forces. Today, he stands as the only Indian-born surgeon currently serving in the Brifish Army.

Speaking about his journey. Major Chauhan said:"Leadership is not just about rank or uniform. It's about lifting ofhers as you rise. This journey from the dusty streefs of our villages, being a foof soldier to a commissioned surgeon proves that with discipline and belief, no dream is foo disfant."

Former PSO of Congress' drama-king Khaira arrested after 10 years in drug trafficking case: Amritpal



JALANDHAR: Chairman of the District Planning Board and President of the Aam Aadmi Party Jalandhar, Amritpal Singh, said that once again the law has proven the saying, "One blow of a blacksmith is equal to a hundred of a goldsmith". The former PSO of senior Congress leader Khaira has been arrested at Delhi Airport after 10 years in a drug trafficking case. Amritpal Singh reminded that Khaira himself was also named in this very case, but got out on bail. This incident exposes the true face of Congress' opportunist campaigners who mislead people while hiding their own wrongdoings. He said that the Punjab Government and law enforcement agencies have made it clear that no drug trafficker, whether big or small, will be spared. This arrest is yet another strong step towards the promise of a drug-free Punjab.

Theft incident in Lehragaga, Splendor motorcycle theft, thief caught in CCTV



GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA LEHRAGAGA: A motorcycle theft incident has come to light in front of Singla Optical Lehragaga located near the Shiv Mandir in the city. The thief has stolen a Splendor brand motorcycle (PB 13 Y 5577) but the thief has been caught in the CCTV camera of the area. In which the thief's movements are clearly visible. According to Nathu Ram and local residents, two people came on a motorcycle in the afternoon. They carried out the incident and left. As soon as the information about this incident was received, the police have started investigating the matter and are trying to identify the thief on the basis of CCTV footage. Local people have expressed concern over the increasing thefts in the city and have demanded from the police administration that strict action be taken against the thieves so that law and order is maintained in the area.

Condolences to former Parliamentary Secretary Mantar Singh Brar

JS GILL

JAITO : Former Parliamentary Secretary, Core Committee and Working Member Mantar Singh Brar, former MLA, Balkar Singh Brar and Kultar Singh Brar, former Chairman Zila Parishad mother and Amarjit Singh Dulat Bhagtuana and late Amarjit Singh Dhillon's mother-in-law Sardarni Manjit Kaur Brar, wife of late Jaswinder Singh Brar, former Minister, have passed away at the feet of Guru. In this hour of grief, Sant Rishi Ram Jalalwale, Suba Singh Badal General Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal (B), Jathedar Sher Singh Mandwala Working Committee Member, Kulbir Singh Matta Retired Deputy General Manager Punjab State Mandi Board Punjab, Senior Akali Leader Surjit Singh Shatab, Mohammad Sadiq Former Member of Parliament, Kultar Singh Sandhwan Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha, MLA Jaito Amolak Singh, Gurchet Singh Dhillon Working Committee Member, Yadwinder Singh Yadi, Circle President Dr. Garnaib Singh Malhan etc.

Police launches drive against bad elements, arrested 7 accused

SUMER GARG
SANGRUR, AUG 9



The SSP, Sangrur, Mr. Sartaj Singh Chahal, while addressing a press conference said that the Police had started a drive against bad elements and arrested seven persons, who opened fire, out side a resident falls under thana Sadar Dhuri. Police recovered from them, three pistols, one Bolero and one motorcycle used in this incident.

Mr Chahal further said that Mr. Kulwinder Singh informed the Police that on the day of incident, he has gone to Malerkotla, his wife and his father Baldev Singh were at home and some unknown persons have opened fire outside his home and regarding this his wife informed him on the phone. In an investigation, Kulwinder Singh found that Harmanpreet Singh resident of village Mullowal thana Sadar Dhuri was involved in this incident. On this the Police has registered a case against Harmanpreet Singh and three others under the various sections of BNS and started investigation.

Under the guidance of Davinder Attri, SP (Investigation) & under the supervision of Daman Veer Singh DSP, Dhuri; inspector, Sandeep Singh, incharge CIA, Bahadur Singh wala and inspector Karamveer Singh Sandhu, SHO, Thana Sadar Dhuri, many teams of Police personnel were formed, conducted technical investigation and arrested Harmanpreet Singh. During investigation three more accused including, Taranveer Singh, Nitish Bhathi and Gurunoor Singh were come to light, the Police also arrested these accused and two pistols and one motorcycle were recovered from them.

Army western command organises large-scale 'organ donation drive'



SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, AUG 9

The press information bureau (defence wing), GoI, in a press release said, "The Western Command of the Indian Army organised a large-scale Organ Donation Awareness Drive, chaired by Lt Gen Manoj Katiyar, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief. In this remarkable display of support for public health and humanitarian service, the participation of over 400 individuals including serving personnel, their families and school children was seen.

The awareness drive was preceded by a series of community outreach activities, conducted over a period of a few weeks, aimed at promoting the importance of organ donation. These events conducted by command hospital, western command, Chandimndir, included an awareness walkathon and cyclothon, which saw active participation from all age groups, as well as interactive sessions held at various Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) across the Chandimandir cantonment. These events focused on dispelling myths, addressing fears and encouraging open conversations around organ donation. During the main event, Lt Gen Katiyar emphasized that service to the nation extends beyond the battlefield and organ donation represents the highest form of selfless service. He encouraged everyone to pledge their organs and become catalysts of change in saving countless lives. Subject-matter experts from the armed forces medical services institutions spoke on the medical, legal, and ethical aspects of organ donation, providing clarity and reassurance to the audience. Families of deceased donors and living donors who donated to their family members were also felicitated for their humanitarian contribution. The event culminated in taking an 'organ donation pledge' by all attendees, reaffirming the Indian Army's commitment not just to defending the nation, but also to leading from the front in matters of public health and social responsibility.

Jalandhar police conducts targeted CASO to curb illegal activities under the leadership of special DGP



JALANDHAR (JS SODHI): Under the leadership of Special DGP (Technical Support Services) Ram Singh IPS and Commissioner of Police Jalandhar Dhanpreet Kaur, a targeted CASO Operation was conducted in the city. A total of 130 police personnel were deployed at identified drug hotspots, under the supervision of Joint CP Sh. Sandeep Sharma, DCP Law & Order Sh. Naresh Kumar, ADCP-1 Smt. Akarshi Jain, and ACP North Sh. Amar Nath.

The primary objective of the operation was to combat illegal activities in the city. During the operation special checking was carried out in Avtar Nagar near Chugiti Rama Mandi and Indra Colony near Verka Milk Plant Jalandhar. Multiple naka points were established at key locations to ensure thorough checking and heightened vigilance, with the active involvement and support of the respective SHOs and their police teams. Extensive searches were conducted in residential and commercial areas to ensure compliance with the law and to identify any illicit activities. This operation is part of Jalandhar Police's continuous efforts to eliminate drugs from the city, take strict action against offenders, and maintain law and order to ensure public safety.

Major breakthrough by arresting accused involved in cheating, fraud case

CHANDIGARH, AUG 9



As per directions of Ms. Kanwardeep Kaur, IPS, W/SSP/UT, Chandigarh, under the close guidance of Ms. KM Priyanka, W/SP/City Chandigarh and under the supervision of Sh. Jaswinder Singh, SDPO/South a team of officials of Police Station, Sector-34, Chandigarh headed by Insp. Satinder, SHO/PS-34 and I/C PP-Burailalongwith the team of Police Station Sector 34 got major success by arresting accused Mohd. Hazrat S/o Mohd. Saddiqqi R/o Mundi kharar Distt-Mohali (Punjab), Profession-Unemployed, Age-32 years and Sangam S/o Rajesh Kumar R/o House No. 461 Village-Kajheri, Sector-52, Chandigarh Profession-Unemployed, Age-29 yearsin FIR No. 124 dated 07.08.2025 U/S 316(2), 318(4), 3(5) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, PS-34, Chandigarh.

Case 124 dated 07.08.2025 U/S 316(2), 318(4), 3(5) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, PS-34, Chandigarh.

It is submitted that above cited FIR was registered on the complaint of Ashish Kumar S/o Somnath R/o Address House No. 229 New Generation Apartment Dhokali, Zirakpur (Punjab), in which, he has stated that he is working in accounts at M/S Shanaya Services, Kharar (Pb). On 31.07.2025, a boy namely Mohd. Hazrat son of Mohd. Siddiqui, resident of Mundi Kharar, to whom he had met earlier one/two days, who told him that he had some American Dollars. He said if you want, he can sell him 4,000 American Dollars at a half of the rate. He agreed for this and Mohd. Hazrat called him at Village-Burail, Sector-45. Chandigarh. He reached there alongwith Rs. 1.70 lac (Rupees One Lac Seventy Thousand). As per discussion, Mohd. Hazrat reached at the given point alongwith three to four of his friends and shown him two bundles of currency notes (20 Dollars per bundle) in asmall bag.

After that he left for there for a short while and again returned back after two minutes. He gave Rs. 1.70 (Rupees One Lac Seventy Thousand to Mohd. Hazrat and he handed the small bag to him. Later on, when he opened the bag, it was empty. Mohd. Hazrat and his friends neither given him the Dollars nor returned back his money.During investigation, on the identification of complainant, both the accused Mohd.

Breakthrough by arresting two accused person under vehicle theft, recovery 1 stolen motorcycles



CHANDIGARH : In a significant development, under the direction of Ms. Kanwardeep Kaur IPS, W/SSP UT, Chandigarh, Ms. Priyanka, SP/City, and in the close supervision of Sh. Vijay Singh, SDPO/North-East, headed by Inspector Maninder Singh, SHO-PS/Mani Majra and other police officials successfully arrested one person under Vehicle theft.

CASE eFIR NO. 865 Dated 27.07.2025 U/S 303(2) added 317(2), BNS PS- MM, CHD

It is submitted that the above said case was lodged by the Parves Dhiman S/o Kuldeep Kumar R/o Vill Harioli Raipur Rani Pkl in which he reported that on 25.07.2025 an unknown person has stolen his Royal Enfield Bullet HR03S0487 engine & chassis No.FB700003 from Shoroom No.238 Shiv Barytan Bhandar Near Shakar AC Motor Market Manimajra, Chandigarh.

During course of investigation on 08.08.2025, accused Sharad S/o Parwinder Singh R/o H.No. 43, Preet Vihar, Baltana Zirakpur PB age 28 yrs was arrested and stolen property Royal Enfield Bullet HR03S0487 was recovered from his possession.

Schools instructed to strictly follow safe school vehicle policy



PARAMJIT SINGH
JALANDHAR, AUG 9

Keeping the safety of students in mind, Secretary Regional Transport Authority Balbir Raj Singh directed the principals of government and private schools to strictly follow the Safe School Vehicle Policy.

Presiding over the meeting held under the Safe School Vehicle Policy on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Himanshu Agarwal, Secretary RTA said that strict compliance of the instructions given under the policy regarding the safety of children should be ensured. He said that no laxity should be used in implementing the policy. On this occasion, Regional Transport Officer Amanpal Singh, District Education Officer (CEO) Dr. Gurinderjit Kaur, District Child Protection Officer Ajay Bharti were also present with him.

Gatka players of Dasmesh School win overall trophy



KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH, AUG 8

The zone level games were inaugurated under the guidance of zone coordinator Principal Dilpreet Singh Sandhu. The Gatka competitions were meticulously organized under the leadership of DPE Gurnam Singh and Krishan Kumar.

Gatka players from Dasmesh Convent Senior Secondary School and Dasmesh International School, Sardulgarh, achieved a resounding victory at the summer zone level games organized by the Punjab Government. They secured the overall trophy, demonstrating exceptional prowess in Gatka competitions held at Government School Sardulgarh.

The impressive performance included a total of 14 gold and 6 silver medals at the zonal level. The Under-19 boys and girls, as well as the Under-14 boys and girls, each bagged gold medals in both single sculls and free sculls events.

The Under-17 Gatka team further contributed to the school's success by claiming a gold in freestyle and a bronze in single style.

In the individual Gatka competitions, several students excelled: Komalpreet (U-19 girl), Veerpal Kaur (U-17 girl), Arshdeep Singh (U-17 boy).

, and Jashandeep Singh (U-14 boy) all secured gold medals in their respective categories.

New brand identity for their joint venture announced

CHANDIGARH, AUG 9

Generali Group and the Central Bank of India (CBI) announced a new brand identity for their life and general insurance joint venture – Generali Central. The new brand names - Generali Central Life Insurance and Generali Central Insurance – represent the coming together of Generali Group's global expertise and the Central Bank of India's trusted heritage to protect what customers value most: their family, their health, their assets, and their future.

The Generali Central brand launch includes a new visual identity, including a new logo and typography, as well as a new website and revamped social media presence. It reinforces the company's core values of protection and reliability, while signaling digital strength and a renewed focus on accessibility across India. Rob Leonardi, Asia Regional Officer, Generali, said, "India has long been a strategic market for Generali and our joint venture with the Central Bank of India reflects the potential we see today and for the future. The synergies between our two organisations are clear and I have every confidence that we'll be able to deliver on our joint vision to provide accessible solutions that reflect the real needs of Indian families and businesses across the country." Alok Rungta, MD and CEO, Generali Central Life Insurance Company Limited, said, "With our new brand identity, Generali Central Life Insurance marks a defining moment in our journey to becoming a future-ready, customer-first life insurer. Our strategic partnership with CBI unlocks transformative potential to reshape the landscape of protection and insurance in India."Anup Rau, MD and CEO, Generali Central Insurance Company Limited, said, "Our new brand identity reflects the powerful synergy between two iconic institutions—Generali Group.

Rajya Sabha MP Sant Seechewal visits Mand area

ARVIND PATHAK
SULTANPUR LODHI, AUG 9



Rajya Sabha member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal today visited Mand area this afternoon .

While interacting with the farmers, Sant Seechewal assured them that he always stands with the farmers. On the occasion, he instructed the XEN Drainage Department to maintain coordination with the farmers and to make advance arrangements for soil bags wherever the embankment seems weak.

Drainage department officials said that approximately 20,000 sand bags have been arranged which have been placed at sensitive places on the Dhussi bandh.

He instructed the administrative officials to visit Mand area regularly and further strengthen flood control arrangements.

Sant Seechewal also appealed to the farmers that they should remain alert like army personnel. Sant Seechewal, describing the farmers in the Mand area as warriors, said that cultivation between the Beas River and Kali Bein is a daunting task in itself.

He said that he will stand by the farmers in every crisis. The farmers who gathered on the spot said that the water level in Beas is continuously increasing. It is worth mentioning that 25 to 30 thousand acres of paddy is sown in the Mand area.

Golden Group of Institutions, Gurdaspur students shine in Punjab Technical University Results

GURDASPUR (VERMA): Students of Golden Institute of Management and Technology and Golden College of Engineering and Technology, run under the prestigious Golden Group of Institutions, Gurdaspur, have achieved remarkable success in the recently declared results by Punjab Technical University (PTU) in various streams including B.Com, M.Com, BBA, and MBA. In B.Com Semester 2, Sukhmanpreet Kaur secured the first position with a CGPA of 8.86, Navjot Kaur and Shruti stood second with 8.71 CGPA, Randeep Kaur bagged the third position with 7.76 CGPA.

Komalpreet Kaur secured first position with 8.04 CGPA, Mahakpreet Kaur stood second with 7.63 CGPA, Anmolpreet got the third with 7.59 CGPA.

In B.Com Semester 6, Manpreet Kaur and Mansi Thakur jointly secured first position with 7.80 CGPA, Rajwinder came second with 7.56 CGPA, Simrandeep Kaur stood third with 7.32 CGPA.

बोली सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्राम पचायत भूरे का माजरा के पंचायती तालाब को मछली पालन के लिए पट्टे पर देने हेतु तालाब की खूली बोलीदिनांक 18-08-2025, दिन सोमवार को सुबह 11:00 बजे ग्राम पंचायत भवन, भूरे का माजरे में की जाएगी।प्रत्येक बोली दाता को 5000/- रुपये की राशी बतौर सिक्योरिटी जमा करवानी होगी।बाकी शर्तें बोली से पूर्व मौखिक रूप से पढ़कर सुनाई जाएगी।

श्री श्याम लाल, खण्ड एवं पंचायत विकास अधिकारी, खण्ड सरस्वतीनगर (यमुना नगर)

श्रीमति रेखा, सरपंच ग्राम पंचायत भूरे का माजरा खण्ड सरस्वतीनगर (यमुना नगर)

HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

National Olympiad Programme 2025-2026
in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Junior Science

All students wishing to participate in the programme must appear in corresponding **National Standard Examinations (NSEs)** (for science subjects) on **November 22 and 23, 2025,** conducted by **the Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT).**

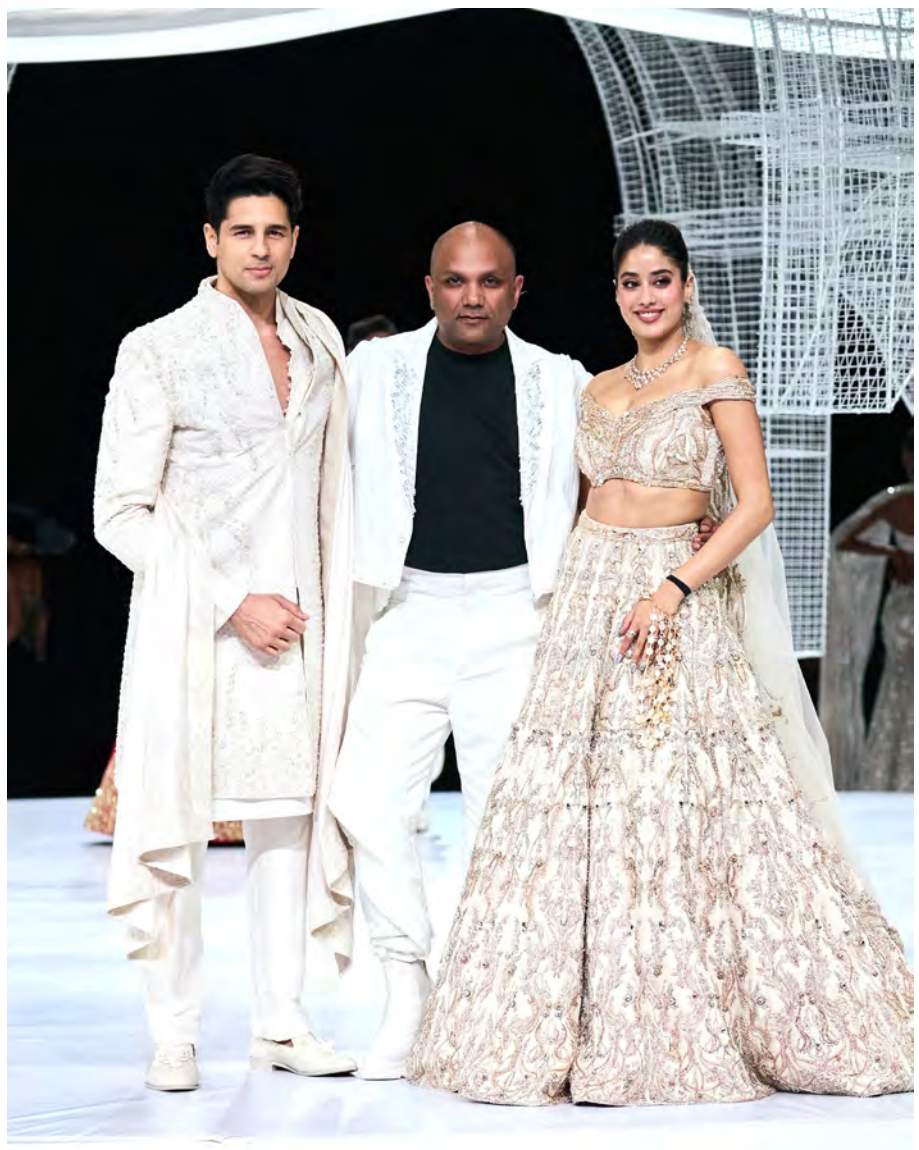
Qualification in NSE is the first step towards participation in the corresponding **International Olympiads of 2026.**

To enroll:
NSEs: https://www.iapt.org.in (Aug 21 - Sep 14, 2025)

For more details: https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in
https://www.iapt.org.in

CBC-48143/12/0005/2526

Gaurav Gupta unveils his bridal couture collection, 'quantum entanglement'



AMRITSAR : Internationally acclaimed couturier Gaurav Gupta unveiled his Indian Couture 2025 collection, titled "Quantum Entanglement," in Mumbai on August 8th, 2025, at the Jio World Convention Centre, marking a historic debut for his bridal couture line, crafted for the sacred moment of the wedding vows. Conceptualised as an immersive exploration of the modern Indian wedding, the experience took 500+ guests on an emotional journey across three interconnected spaces: from cocktail hour to vows to reception, all in a single evening of theatrical fashion storytelling.

Titled "Quantum Entanglement", the collection drew from the theory that two particles remain eternally connected, mirroring the emotional synchronicity of Indian wedding rituals. Marking a bold new chapter in modern Indian weddings with Chivas Luxe Collective Perfumes, Gupta translated this into couture through mirrored silhouettes, dual-toned pairings, and embroidery echoing shared memories.

The showcase opened with Gupta's signature cocktail and reception ensembles, a category he has elevated for nearly two decades. This was not a retrospective but a visionary expansion of codes he has honed over the years. Saree gowns, sculpted lehengas, and intricately engineered gowns inspired by Art Nouveau architecture and glacial planes were envisioned not just for celebration but as ceremonial statements. The colour story flowed from soft blush and champagne gold to graphite, obsidian black, and the house's signature electric blue; each hue chosen for emotional resonance. Garments were crafted with radical precision: brocades handwoven in Banaras over 200 days were embroidered with crystal webs, hand-cut florals, gilded zari, and antique jewellery-inspired detailing. Lace developed in Chantilly, France, was reimagined into futuristic forms. Semi-precious stones, mother-of-pearl inlays, and woven textures were embedded like reborn heirlooms, mapped with temple-like intricacy. From laser-cut 3D florals to handwoven corsetry piping each technique reflected a deliberate fusion of Indian textile mastery and future-facing innovation.

Menswear embraced sculptural sharpness and ceremonial edge, tailored for the modern groom. Classic tuxedos, bandhgalas, and jackets were reimagined with unexpected twists like safety-pin and hand-woven lapels. In obsidian, graphite, and midnight navy, the pieces featured animal-esque embroidery, planet-shaped beads, and orbiting metal pins—cosmic embellishments that brought a mythic, future-facing energy to traditional silhouettes.

The show's crescendo came with a 10-piece bridal segment; marking a bold new chapter in Gupta's design journey. Known for his avant-garde couture, he now reimagines Indian bridalwear through an architectural, emotional, and deeply contemporary lens. "This is a deeply personal reflection on ritual, memory, and reimagination," he shared. Rich Vermilion Red lehengas shimmered with over 60,000 bugle beads, zardozi florals, and embedded Preciosa glass crystals- each placement catching the light like constellations across the body. Pastel creations in blush, sage, and ecru offered a more ethereal expression, featuring 3D embroidery and soft ombré beadwork. The house's iconic cascading lehenga silhouette (first introduced a decade ago) was reborn in gilded Banarasi brocade, sculpted for the bridal aisle in near-mythic proportions.

Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR rule dance floor in 'War 2' song 'Janaab-e-Aali' teaser



Yash Raj Films shared a glimpse of the much-awaited dance face-off between Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR's upcoming film 'War 2'. The song is titled 'Janaab-e-Aali'. The makers of War 2 have shared the teaser of the song 'Janaab-e-Aali', featuring an intense dance face-off between Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR, reminiscent of Hrithik's dance battle with Tiger Shroff in the prequel. In the teaser, Hrithik, as usual, was seen nailing his dance steps effortlessly, while Jr NTR ruled the dance floor with his energetic moves. The makers have decided to release the full song in theatres. 'Janaab-e-Aali's music is composed by Pritam, while the vocals of the song are given by Sachet Tandon and Saaj Bhatt. The lyrics of the song are composed by Amitabh Bhattacharya. The dance choreography is handled by Bosco Leslie Martis.YRF shared the teaser of the song on their official Instagram handle on Thursday.

Earlier, the makers of War 2, starring Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR and Kiara Advani, shared a romantic track, 'Aavan Jaavan', from the film. The superhit 'Kesariya' song team reunited to produce another romantic hit for the Yash Raj Films banner film 'War 2'. Titled 'Aavan Jaavan', the romantic track is sung by Arjit Singh and Nikhita Gandhi while the music is composed by Pritam. The heartwarming lyrics of the song are penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya.The groovy romantic track features superstars Hrithik Roshan and Kiara Advani in their coolest ever selves. The song is filled with romance between the actors as they travel to different locations. Kiara stole the show with her stunning looks in the movie, while Hrithik, as usual, ruled the dance floor with his effortless hook step of the song 'Aavan Jaavan'.As per the trailer of the film, Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR are set to lock horns over their contrasting ideology for patriotism, as both are playing the role of Indian soldiers. 'War 2' is directed by Ayan Mukerji and is slated to release in theatres on August 14, 2025.

How Zee TV actors celebrate Raksha Bandhan

CHANDIGARH: Raksha Bandhan is a day that celebrates the sacred bond between siblings, reminding them of the love, trust, and lifelong support they share throughout their lives. In today's fast-paced world, where daily responsibilities and distances can often keep loved ones apart, Raksha Bandhan is not just a traditional occasion but a festival that allows every sibling to reconnect, cherish old memories, and express their appreciation for one another. It serves as a gentle reminder to pause, tie a rakhi, and celebrate the unique bond that siblings share, regardless of physical proximity or busy schedules. On this special occasion, Zee TV actors like Parineeta Borthakur from Vasudha, Abhishek Malik from Jamai No.1, Bharat Ahlawwat from Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, Vandana Pathak from Tumm Se Tumm Tak and Arya Babbar from Jagriti - Ek Nayi Subah open up about the heartwarming bonds they share with their siblings.

Parineeta Borthakur, who essays the role of Chandrika in Zee TV's Vasudha said, "My cousin brother has always been my biggest cheerleader and strongest support. Our bond is filled with laughter, playful fights, and long-standing traditions that have only grown more special over the years. One memory that always makes me smile is from when we were younger and had to travel long distances with our family by train. While I'd get restless or bored, he'd always find a way to keep me entertained, whether it was making up silly stories, sharing secret snacks from his bag, or inventing games out of thin air. We'd sit by the window, talking for hours, watching the world go by. Moments with him are always filled with love and warmth. This Raksha Bandhan, I'm looking forward to meeting him in person, celebrating together with sweets and laughter, and tying a rakhi that's as personal and meaningful as the bond we share."



Abhishek Malik, who essays the role of Neel in Zee TV's Jamai No.1, shared, "My sister has always been my biggest inspiration and guiding light. She's not just someone I admire, but someone who has truly helped shape the person I am today. She's like a second mother to me. In fact, even today, the moment anything happens, she's the first person I call. Since childhood, we've shared an unspoken bond that even our parents often noticed and appreciated. We've always been drawn to the same things, shared the same curiosity, and found comfort in just being around each other. No matter how far apart we are, every Raksha Bandhan, we make it a point to meet, spend quality time together, and celebrate the day as our own little tradition. Since we are both foodies, we often explore new restaurants around us, ending the day with a meal full of laughter, stories, and sibling love. That is the festive joy I look forward to every year."



Bharat Ahlawwat, who essays the role of Raghav in Zee TV's Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, said, "No words can truly capture how much my sister means to me. She has always been my pillar of strength, standing by me in every situation, guiding me whenever I lost my way, and cheering me on through every milestone. We've always been a team, sharing every joy and challenge together. I feel incredibly lucky to have not just one, but two sisters, one real and one reel, who bring so much love into my life. I still remember a time when she really wanted a new school bag, and I secretly saved up just to buy it for her. Being able to gift her something she truly wanted made me feel proud, it was my little way of taking care of her, of fulfilling her wishes even back then. This Raksha Bandhan, I want to do the same, make her feel as special and cherished as she has always made me feel."



Vandana Pathak, who essays the role of Gayatri Devi in Zee TV's Tumm Se Tumm Tak, said, "There's a certain magic in how my brother and I can go from playful arguments to being each other's biggest supporters. Some of my best memories have been made with him by my side.

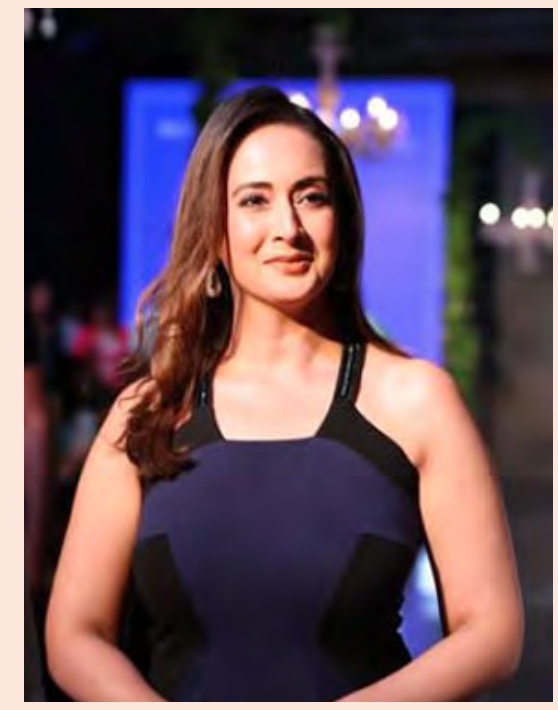
I still remember those carefree summer holidays at Nana-nani's house. We'd spend entire afternoons playing Ludo, Antakshari, and doing painting. Now that he's settled in the US, I find myself missing him a little more each day, holding on tighter to the memories that shaped our bond.

Allu Arjun turns caring dad as he shields daughter from camera flashes during family outing



Tollywood star, Allu Arjun, best known for his larger-than-life roles on screen, turned into a caring dad as he stepped out for dinner with wife Sneha Reddy and daughter Arha on Wednesday night. The trio was joined by actor Lakshmi Manchu and her daughter at a popular Mumbai restaurant. While Arjun kept his look simple in an off-white T-shirt and trousers, Sneha opted for a casual black tee and white pants. As the family were leaving the restaurant, they were surrounded by a crowd of paparazzi. The sudden camera flashes seemed to startle little Arha. In an adorable moment caught on camera, Arjun was seen gently covering his daughter's eyes to protect her from the bright lights. Despite the little chaos, Arjun gave a brief wave to the photographers before quickly escorting his family to their car. Arjun and Sneha, who got married on March 6, 2011, recently celebrated 14 years of togetherness.On the work front, Arjun was last seen in 'Pushpa 2: The Rule,' which turned out to be a massive box office success. Directed by Sukumar and produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Muttamsetty Media, the film starred Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna, and Fahadh Faasil, reprising their roles as Pushpa Raj, Srivalli, and Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat. He will next be seen in an untitled sci-fi action film directed by Atlee, currently being called Project AA22 x A6. The film also stars Deepika Padukone. Further details about the film are still awaited.

"Nobody should be scared...": Preeti Jhangiani on her film 'Udaipur Files'



After facing several hurdles, 'Udaipur Files: Kanhaiya Lal Tailor Murder' has finally received the green signal. The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to stay the release of the film amid a plea filed by one of the accused in the Kanhaiya Lal murder case, Mohd Javed. The movie, which stars Vijay Raaz,Preeti Jhangiani,Kamlesh Sawant and Mushtaq Khan, is now all set to be released this Friday. Interestingly, on Thursday, the makers held a special screening of the film in Delhi. After attending the screening, Preeti Jhangiani told media, "This film is based on a true incident. Nobody should be scared of speaking the truth. I believe this film has shown the truth, showcasing both the positive and negative aspects of every religion. Real human nature and reality have been shown. So, I don't think anyone should have any objection...Watch the film and then form an opinion."The film is based on the 2022 murder of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Rajasthan's Udaipur who was brutally killed by two men in broad daylight.

Hansal Mehta's 'Gandhi' becomes 1st Indian series to be premiered at TIFF

Filmmaker Hansal Mehta's upcoming series 'Gandhi' has become the first Indian series to be selected in Toronto International Film Festival's (TIFF) "very carefully curated Primetime slate."Sharing the update, Hansal Mehta on Thursday took to X and wrote, ""An audacious dream, born of belief and perseverance, now steps onto the world stage. Gandhi will have its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival 2025 as part of its carefully curated PrimeTime slate. The first Indian series ever to be featured at TIFF. In its 50th year, this festival becomes the home for a story that is at once deeply personal and profoundly universal. A moment of pride. A moment of memory. A quiet revolution begins."He also shared actor Pratik Gandhi's still from the show.
Music maestro AR Rahman, the show's music composer, also expressed excitement.On X, he wrote "Glad to announce the world premiere of Gandhi at the 50th Toronto International Film Festival 2025, the first Indian series to be selected in TIFF's prestigious Primetime slate! This series is Produced by Applause Entertainment and Directed by Hansal Mehta."Based on Ramachandra Guha's definitive writings, 'Gandhi' stars Pratik Gandhi in the lead role.Sharing what the audience can expect from the series, Hansal previously said, "When you speak of a historic and iconic figure like Mahatma Gandhi, there is already a great deal of responsibility on you as a filmmaker. Our vision with the series is to make it as true-to-life as possible and supported by Ramachandra Guha's work, we are confident and enthusiastic that we will bring audiences something to remember.

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