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NEWS BRIEFS

Gold and silver prices hit record high this week amid global uncertainty

NEW DELHI: Gold and silver prices continued their upward march this week, scaling fresh all-time high as concerns over US tariffs and heightened geopolitical tensions kept safe-haven demand strong.
According to data from the Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), 24-carat gold closed at Rs 1,09,707 per 10 grams on Friday, registering a sharp gain of Rs 1,670 from Monday's level of Rs 1,08,037. The rally pushed gold prices firmly above the Rs 1 lakh mark throughout September, with rates standing at Rs 1,04,075 on September 1.

No ITC reversal needed on post-sale discounts: CBIC

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued a clarification on how secondary or post-sale discounts will be treated under the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The move comes after several representations were received seeking clarity on whether such discounts affect tax liability and input tax credit (ITC).
According to the circular, CBIC said that when a supplier issues financial or commercial credit notes for discounts, the recipient will still be eligible to claim full input tax credit.

Union MoS Savitri Thakur visits flood-hit Himachal, reviews progress of relief work

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur on Saturday interacted with Himachal Pradesh families hit by natural disasters and reviewed relief works.
She listened to the concerns of the affected families who lost homes and livelihoods in the recent natural disasters, including floods, landslides, and cloudbursts, according to an official statement.
The Minister inspected several locations along the Kullu–Manali route, covering Vaishno Mata Temple, Sabzi Mandi (Bandrol), Raison, Dohlu Nala, Fozal Nala, Duada Vihal, Jatehar Vihal (Patlikuhal), Nalsu Nala, Manalsu Nala, Solang, Palchang, Samahan, Bahang and the 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th Mile areas situated on the banks of the Beas River.
These regions had suffered extensive damage to road connectivity due to heavy rainfall and landslides. With the continuous efforts of the Central Government and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), repair and reconstruction of damaged roads are being undertaken on a war footing.
During the visit, she interacted with affected families, listened to their concerns, and reviewed the progress of ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures. Earlier last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Himachal Pradesh to review flood and rain-related damage and announced a Rs 1,500 crore relief package.

Need to build strong bridge of trust between people of Manipur's Hills, Valley: PM Modi

AGENCY
IMPHAL, SEPT 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said a strong bridge of "trust" must be built between the people of the Hills and the Valley in Manipur.

Addressing a public meeting at Imphal's Kangla Fort during his first visit to the state after ethnic violence broke out between Kukis and Meiteis in May 2023, Modi said his government was committed to "healing wounds, restoring confidence, and ensuring no family is left behind".

"Manipur is the 'ratna' adorning the crown of 'mother India'. Any form of violence here is condemnable. It is not only unfortunate but also a grave injustice to our ancestors and our future generations. Together, we must take Manipur forward on the path of peace and development," he said.

While the people of the Meitei community live in the Imphal Valley, the Kukis reside in the adjoining Hills.

The Prime Minister stressed that peace in the state was non-negotiable and could only be achieved through dialogue and unity.

"Manipur has immense potential, but violence weakens our social fabric. Only peace and harmony can restore the state's rightful place as India's eastern crown jewel," he said.

Modi said the Centre had approved the construction of 7,000 new houses for those affected by the conflict, alongside a special package of about Rs 3,000 crore.

"Restoring normalcy in the lives of those who endured the heat of violence is our top priority," he said.

From the function, the Prime Minister inaugurated 17 development projects worth Rs 1,200 crore.



Modi said Manipur's growth trajectory was transformed under his government.

"Before 2014, Manipur's growth rate was less than 1 per cent. Today, the state is advancing much faster. The 21st century belongs to the East, to the North-east, and that is why the Centre has continuously prioritised Manipur's development," he said.

Modi recalled that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had described Manipur as the gateway to India's Independence.

"This soil witnessed the INA unfurling the Tricolour for the first time, and has given many martyrs to the nation. Our government is moving forward inspired by their sacrifice," he said.

The Prime Minister said women's empowerment was one of the state's strongest traditions, citing the famous all-women market Ima Keithel as a "shining example".

"Mothers and sisters here have always been at the forefront of the economy. I consider women's power the driving force of India's development and self-reliance, and Manipur embodies this spirit," he said.

Lauding the role of soldiers from the state in national security, Modi said, "In India's successful Operation Sindoor, the valiant sons of Manipur played a key role." He said the government was working to make people's lives easier by reducing GST on essential items and services, which would lower the prices of cement, food and hotel stays, and boost local businesses such as taxi services, dhabas and guest houses. The Prime Minister's visit comes amid repeated criticism by opposition parties for not visiting the violence-ravaged state, even as 260 people died and thousands were rendered homeless.

Pb CM announces to make all flood affected villages free from Silt and debris in 10 days

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, SEPT 13

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday announced to embark Mega Rehabilitation and Cleanliness Drive worth Rs 100 crore in Flood-Affected Areas across the state.

Interacting with the media persons, the Chief Minister said that as Floodwaters have now receded from many areas, but a large amount of silt and dirt still remains across villages and towns. He said that to restore normal life, it is essential to clean these areas for which the state government is launching a mega cleanliness drive in all 2,300 affected villages and wards. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that every village, the state government has constituted teams with JCB machines, tractor-trolleys, and labor adding that these teams will remove silt and debris from each village and carry out complete cleaning drive.



The Chief Minister apprehended that as several animals have also lost their lives so these teams will properly dispose off them, after which cleaning, fogging will be carried out in every village to ensure that the spread of diseases is checked. He said that the state government has allocated 100 crore for this entire campaign adding that out of this, 1 lakh is being released to every affected village as initial funds to start the work. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that any further requirements will also be covered from this fund adding that the state government will bear the full cost of cleaning.

Setting the deadline, the Chief Minister said that by September 24 all villages will be made silt and debris free by cleaning them and October 15 repair work at public places will be completed. Similarly he said that by October 22 the cleaning of ponds will be finished adding that The government has already made all the necessary arrangements. However, Bhagwant Singh Mann solicited the participation of NGOs, youth clubs, and other organizations in this noble cause Just as everyone had united and fought against this disaster together. The Chief Minister said that Alongside, it is equally important to ensure that no disease spreads after the floods and that anyone with health-related problems immediately receives medical care. For this purpose, he said that the state government will set up medical camps in all 2,303 flood-affected villages adding that In 596 villages, where Aam Aadmi Clinics already exist, medical camps, facilities, and medicines will be available there. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that in the remaining 1,707 villages, these medical camps will be set up at community spaces such as schools, dharamshalas, anganwadi centers.

Dr. L. Murugan visits flood-affected areas in Rupnagar district

GOURAV GOEL
RUPNAGAR, SEPT 13

Dr. L. Murugan, Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, undertook an extensive two-day visit today to the flood-affected areas of Rupnagar district in Punjab and conducted an in-depth review of the prevailing conditions. He visited several villages including Shahpur Bela, Hariwal, Bhanu Pali, Bela Dhyani and Nangal and directly interacted with farmers, rural residents, local citizens and administrative officials. Observing the impact of the floods on agriculture, transportation, drainage, and daily life, he walked through waterlogged areas, traveled by tractor and boat, and personally assessed the ground realities while listening to the grievances of the affected families.



Dr. Murugan inspected the damaged crops in the fields, including maize, paddy, and other produce. He reviewed the hardships caused by waterlogging and silting. Farmers explained that standing water in their fields was severely affecting cultivation, irrigation channels were blocked, and key roads had been washed away, disrupting the supply of essential goods. They expressed concerns that without timely relief efforts, the next crop cycle could also be at risk.

Listening attentively, Dr. Murugan assured them, "Your hardships are our priority. The Union government stands with you. We will coordinate with local administration to take necessary steps to ensure that relief efforts face no hurdles. We will extend every possible assistance to help you return to normal life as soon as possible."

Villagers requested the construction of a strong bridge connecting the villages to main roads so that transportation is not hampered during disasters in the future. They highlighted that broken roads were not only obstructing agriculture but also affecting medical aid, essential supplies, and day-to-day services. Dr. Murugan took their demands seriously and assured that the government would initiate the necessary processes and take steps toward addressing the issue. He emphasized that infrastructure development and long-term solutions would be prioritized to prevent such difficulties in the future.

Dr. Murugan praised the Prime Minister's announcement of 1,600 crore financial assistance for Punjab as a commendable step. He added that high-level teams, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are actively assessing the flood situation.

Players should aim to win medals in the Olympic Games- CM Nayab Singh Saini

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
PANCHKULA, SEPT 13

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that players should set their goal of winning medals at the Olympic Games. He said that Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi has set a target of establishing India as a sports superpower in the 2036 Olympic Games, and the state government has already begun preparations in this direction.

The Chief Minister was addressing players from across the country at the inaugural ceremony of Yonex-Sunrise Ashwani Gupta Memorial All India Sub-Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2025 at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Sector-3 Panchkula today. On this occasion, the Chief Minister declared the Badminton Tournament open and announced to give Rs 11 lakh to the Sports Promotion Society, Panchkula from this discretionary fund.

Former Speaker of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha and Chairman of the Sports Promotion Society, Panchkula, Sh Gian Chand Gupta; Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Sh Alok Mittal; Commissioner and Secretary, Finance Department, Mohammed Shayin ; Deputy Commissioner, Sh Satpal Sharma, Deputy Commissioner of Police Shristi Gupta, City Magistrate Jagriti, Joint Secretary, Haryana Badminton Association Sh Jatinder Kumar Mahajan, Vice President Sh P.D Verma, , Vice President of Badminton Association of India Sh Ajay Kumar Singhania, President, Sports Promotion Society Panchkula Sh D.P Soni, Sh N.D Sharma were also present.



Welcoming around 2,000 players from different states to Haryana, Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini said that victory and defeat are part of the game, but your passion and sportsmanship are what makes you a great player. He added that the players' goal should not be limited to the Asian Junior Badminton Tournament, but should extend to winning medals for India at the Olympic Games.

Describing Haryana as a sports hub, the Chief Minister said that players from the state have brought laurels to both the country and Haryana by winning medals at international competitions. He said that about 11 years ago, a vision for sports was formulated in Haryana, under which players have been encouraged with the mantra 'Khele Haryana–Badhe Haryana' and extensive sports infrastructure has been developed. Whether it is stadiums, indoor halls, or residential sports academies, the government has ensured the establishment of modern sports facilities in every district of the state.

He informed that the state government has set up sports nurseries to nurture talent from an early age, due to which Haryana is known as the 'nursery of sports. Financial assistance and professional training are being provided to budding players through these nurseries. At present, 1,489 sports nurseries are operational in the state, where 37,225 players are receiving training. In these nurseries Players aged 8 to 14 years are given Rs 1,500 per month, while those between 15 and 19 years receive Rs 2,000 per month.

Referring to the achievements of Haryana's sportspersons, the Chief Minister said that whether it is the Olympic Games, Asian Games, or Commonwealth Games, players from Haryana have made the nation proud by raising the tricolor on every stage. He highlighted that out of the six medals won by India at the Paris Olympics 2024, five were secured by Haryana's players. Similarly, in the Tokyo Olympics 2020, four out of the seven medals for India came from Haryana. He added that the state's performance in the Asian Games has also been highly commendable.

The Chief Minister said that the state government has implemented the 'Haryana Utkrisht Khiladi Seva Niyam, 2021' to ensure secure employment for outstanding sportspersons. Under this, 550 new posts have been created in the Sports Department. In addition, 224 players with commendable performances at the international level have been provided government jobs.

GST exemption on health insurance premiums hailed as game-changer for consumers and industry

CHANDIGARH: The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, has announced a major reform by exempting health insurance premiums from Goods and Services Tax while allowing insurers to utilise input tax credits. The move is being widely seen as a dual benefit measure that makes health insurance more affordable for consumers while supporting the growth of the insurance sector.
Sitharaman said the Council's decision reflects the government's commitment to making healthcare and financial protection more accessible. "Health insurance is an essential safeguard for families, and reducing the tax burden on premiums will encourage greater participation, especially among the middle class and senior citizens," she noted after the meeting.
Welcoming the announcement, Rakesh Jain, CEO of Reliance General Insurance, called it a landmark step. "The GST Council's decision to exempt health insurance premiums while allowing insurers to utilise input tax credits is a landmark step that combines consumer benefit with industry growth. This reform will make health protection more affordable for millions of families, senior citizens, and small businesses who often find premiums to be a stretch. By lowering the cost of entry, it encourages more individuals to seek coverage earlier, thereby strengthening the risk pool and improving the long-term resilience of the insurance sector. Insurance is not just a financial product but a safeguard for households against rising healthcare costs and unforeseen emergencies, and this measure will help embed it more deeply into financial planning. We view this as a forward-looking reform that creates a win-win scenario for both consumers and insurers, and one that will contribute meaningfully to the journey of building a healthier and more financially secure India," he said.
Industry experts believe the reform will not only boost insurance penetration in India but also create stronger financial resilience across households at a time when healthcare costs continue to rise.

YUGMARG
Nation
CHANDIGARH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
PAGE 2

Former sarpanch Shakti Singh elected president, announces Rs. 21 lakh for Gujjar Bhavan construction



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: A meeting of the Gujjar community was held at Bharat Sevak Nagar Community Hall in Jagadhri to discuss the construction of a Gujjar Bhavan. During the meeting, a 21-member committee was formed to identify land for the project and oversee the construction. In the unanimous decision, former sarpanch Shakti Singh Jaydhari was elected as president, while Gulshan Ismailpur was chosen as vice-president. Soon after taking charge, Shakti Singh announced a contribution of Rs. 21 lakh for the building's construction. Vice-president Gulshan Ismailpur also pledged to provide sand and gravel materials for the project. Several community members including Jagdish Panwar, Bhupender Jayrampur, Yashpal Singh, Pankaj (sarpanch, Begumpur), Mohan Verma Jayrampur, Sachin Bhilpura, Nitin Tapu, Bhupender Ghoda Pipli, Ankush Devghar, Sushil Kolivala, Vinod Telipura, Pradeep Jayrampur, Ravish Pappu Ballewala, Kripal Singh, Vinod Telipura and Baldev Panwar were present on the occasion.

NEWS BRIEF

Mahakavi Bhai Santokh Singh Memorial Award to Biba Balwant

VERMA
GURDASPUR: This year's Mahakavi Bhai Santokh Singh Memorial Award is being given to Biba Balwant, a famous poet associated with Gurdaspur. Kuldeep Singh Bedi, President of Mahakavi Bhai Santokh Singh Memorial Committee (Regd.), Jalandhar said that the event to be held at Press Club, Jalandhar on September 21 at 11.30 am will be presided over by story writer Colonel Jasbir Bhullar. Dr. Ravinder and Dr. Navroop Kaur will address about Biba Balwant's poetry. It is worth mentioning that Biba Balwant, besides being a renowned poet, has also earned fame in the fields of drama, films, painting and photography. 8 books of her poems have been released, out of which 2 have been translated into English and one has been translated into Hindi.



CM Yogi hails RMLIMS, Lucknow, as one of the top-3 medical institutes in UP

AGENCY
LUCKNOW, SEPT 13



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the Foundation Day celebration of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow on Saturday and lauded the RMLIMS for emerging as one of the top three medical institutes in the state. Speaking at the event, CM Yogi said, "Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences has established itself as one of the top-3 medical institutes in the state. This shows that our direction is right, our leadership is right." Reflecting on the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, he highlighted the initial lack of preparedness in Uttar Pradesh. "When the biggest pandemic of this century, Corona, struck, I felt that we in Uttar Pradesh were not initially ready for a pandemic like this. Our generation had seen such a pandemic for the first time. When the first Corona patient came before us, there were no labs for COVID-19 testing," he said. He further elaborated on the state's response, stating, "We collected their samples and sent them to Safdarjung, AIIMS Delhi, and NIV Pune. Gradually, we developed the facilities here. Uttar Pradesh also established some models. Virtual ICU can also function. SGPGI, KGMU, and RML did this successfully." On Friday, on the occasion of the 17th death anniversary of Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Haryacharya Ji Maharaj, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid heartfelt tributes during a commemorative event held in the sacred city of Ayodhya Dham. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister highlighted the revered saint's contributions to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi movement and the spiritual legacy of Sanatan Dharma. "It is a great privilege to come to the holy land of Ayodhya Dham and pay my respects to this sacred soil," said Yogi Adityanath. He talked about the recent visit of Mauritius Prime Minister Navin Chandra Ram Gulam with a high-level delegation to Ayodhya, noting their darshan of Ram Lalla at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple.

Storm water drain work to be completed soon, waterlogging issues to end: Mayor Suman Bahmani

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, SEPT 13



The city's largest storm water drain project, stalled for the past five years due to hurdles from the Railways Department, is finally set to be completed. The Rs. 11.84 crore project had been delayed at Chandpur ROB near Gulab Nagar because of private land disputes and the railway line. Around 270 metres of RCC pipeline installation was pending, of which 70 metres falls under the Railways' responsibility and the rest under the Municipal Corporation. Although the Municipal Corporation had already deposited the required amount with the Railways for laying the pipeline beneath the railway line, the work had not commenced. During a recent visit to Yamunanagar, Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Veeranna Somanna, was briefed about the issue by Mayor Suman Bahmani, former minister Kanwarpal Gurjar, and district president Rajesh Sapra. Minister Somanna directed Ambala DRM Vinod Bhatia to expedite the work. He assured that the tender has been floated and construction will begin soon. Mayor Bahmani informed that the storm water drain, part of the AMRUT scheme, was inaugurated on February 24, 2019. Once completed, it will divert water from the major Jagadhri drain towards the ditch drain on the old NH-73, bypassing residential colonies. Of the 4,500-metre-long drain, 95 percent of the work has already been completed. She added that the completion of this pending stretch will resolve the long-standing problem of waterlogging in several colonies including Professor Colony, Model Town, Shakti Nagar, Tagore Garden, Lajpat Nagar, Vijay Colony, and Jaswant Colony.

Doon Public School celebrates Hindi Diwas with zeal, winners honored with medals and certificates



CHAMANLAL
KARNAL: Doon Public School, Karnal celebrated Hindi Diwas with great enthusiasm and dignity in association with Arya Samaj Karnal. The event was graced by several eminent personalities of Arya Samaj, including Anand Singh Arya (President, Arya Kendriya Sabha), Satyendra Mohan Kumar (Patron & Program Chairperson), Swatantra Kukreja (Provincial President), Ajay Arya (District President), Roshan Arya (Secretary), Harendra Mohan Chaudhary (Vice President), Shashi Arya (Vedic Scholar & Master Trainer), Om Prakash Arya (Treasurer), social worker Anil Arora, Mata Savitri Arya, Ved Mitra Arya, Ved Khurana (Vice President), Datav Kamboj, Deepanshu, Rajesh Kumari, among others. School faculty members including Sarika Dhall, Rajni Bhalla, Seema Taya, Poonam Mehta, Manisha Nanda, Mamta Ahuja, Mamta Raheja, Indu Puri, Tannu Chugh, Shivali Walcha, Jyoti Sharma, Pushpanjali, Kavita Gandhi, Gunjan Chhabra, Khushboo Bhatia, Pooja Bhatia, Sunita Gulati, Jyoti Kukreja, Vishu Midda, Mamta, Nisha, Komal, and Gurpreet Kaur also participated in the celebration.

Success story – Bhusli's Suman Dangi turns plastic waste into food and livelihood, inspires change in community mindset



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Suman Dangi, a resident of Bhusli village in Karnal district and a member of the Ekta Mahila Self-Help Group, has transformed plastic waste into a tool for social change. Her unique initiative has not only contributed to the city's cleanliness but has also helped feed the needy while securing her own livelihood. At the Atal Kisan Mazdoor Canteen, where she works, Suman launched a novel exchange model: for every 500 grams of segregated recyclable plastic, people receive a hot, nutritious meal. What began as a small idea has now collected over 1,500 kg of plastic and distributed more than 3,000 meals. Her initiative is closely aligned with the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), showing how a local effort can drive both environmental protection and social welfare. Her journey was not easy. Struggling with financial hardship just a few years ago, Suman joined the self-help group to support her family. Concerned by the growing plastic waste in her surroundings, she decided to act. With a Rs. 50,000 loan from Jannat Mahila Cluster Level Federation, she launched her plastic-for-food exchange program. Soon, people began segregating and bringing plastic, leading to cleaner surroundings and access to food for those who could not afford it.

Hindi Diwas celebrated with zeal at Cambridge School, Morinda



RADHE SHYAM SHARMA
MORINDA: Cambridge School, Morinda celebrated Hindi Diwas with great enthusiasm, paying tribute to Hindi as the 'Matra Bhasha' and the soul of India's culture and identity. The day saw spirited participation from students of Grades I to VIII through a variety of creative and engaging activities. Students of Grade I recited short Hindi poems with expressive hand movements, props, and costumes, spreading the rhythm and charm of Hindi verse. Grade II narrated simple moral stories using handmade puppets, while Grade III wrote and decorated impactful slogans such as "Hindi Hamari Shaan Hai", showcasing their pride in the national language. Students of Grade IV engaged in a lively Tongue Twister challenge and Word Building Chain game, while Grade V designed thought-provoking posters on themes like "Hindi ka Mahatav" and "Hamari Matra Bhasha". A vibrant Hindi Quiz was organized for Grade VI covering grammar, famous writers, idioms, proverbs, and synonyms.

National executive meeting of All India Aggarwal Organisation to be held in Panchkula on October 5



SHANTI GAUTAM
BADDI: The Himachal Pradesh State President of the All India Aggarwal Organisation, Sumit Singla, held discussions on the organisation's upcoming plans at the residence of National General Secretary Rajesh Bharukha in Surat. Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Bharukha announced that the national executive meeting of the organisation will be held on October 5 at Red Bishop Resort, Panchkula. He said that under the leadership of Chairman Pradeep Mittal and National President Dr. Sushil Gupta, the meeting will deliberate on strengthening units across northern states, including Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh and Haryana, to further unify the Aggarwal community. Bharukha added that the significant meeting in Panchkula will witness participation from state presidents of 25 states along with eminent members of the community. He, along with Haryana State President Suresh Garg, also informed that the blueprint for the construction of "Aggar Math" in the scenic valleys of Morni Hills near Panchkula will be finalised during the session. Expressing gratitude to the national leadership, Himachal Pradesh President Sumit Singla said that efforts are being made to unite the Aggarwal community in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Chandigarh.

Heavy rains reduce paddy yield in Indri, farmers suffer losses as private buyers purchase at low prices



MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI: Continuous rainfall in the Indri region has severely affected paddy production this year, leaving farmers in financial distress. The arrival of paddy in the Indri grain market has declined significantly, while private buyers from outside are purchasing the crop at low rates, adding to farmers' woes. Local farmers Rajinder, Karamchand Kamboj, Surender Kumar and Karam Singh Numberdar said that excessive rains damaged their crop badly. "Earlier, the 1509 variety of paddy used to yield 22 to 25 quintals per acre, but this year it has fallen to just 15 to 16 quintals," they said, adding that despite their hard work, the market system is failing them as they are not getting a fair price for their produce. Sumer Chand, president of the Kachcha Arhtiya Association, said that currently the 1509 variety of paddy is being purchased at around Rs. 3100 per quintal, while the Super 52 variety is fetching between Rs. 2500 and Rs. 2600 per quintal. He pointed out that most of the purchasing in the mandi is being done by outside private buyers. "The arrival of paddy has reduced due to heavy rains, but the purchase process in the mandi is continuing smoothly," he added.

19,247 cases settle in Patiala National Lok Adalat

RAKESH JINDAL
PATIALA, SEPT 13



The National Lok Adalat, covering all categories of cases except non-compoundable criminal matters, was successfully organized across District Patiala on September 13, 2025, under the guidance of Ms Harinder Sidhu, District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), and under the supervision of Sh Harjeet Singh, Additional District & Sessions Judge. As many as 47 benches were constituted in the district, including 28 in Patiala, six in Rajpura, five in Nabha and six in Samana. A special bench was set up in the Revenue Court, Patiala, for settlement of mutation and partition cases, while another was formed at the Women Cell, Patiala, to resolve matrimonial disputes through mutual settlement before registration. In all, 36,230 cases were taken up, of which 19,247 were amicably settled through compromise, involving a settlement amount of Rs. 77.78 crore. Harjeet Singh, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Patiala, along with Ms Amandeep Kamboj, Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Secretary, DLSA Patiala, and Ms Ekta Sahota, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Patiala, visited the benches and encouraged litigants to seek amicable solutions. On the occasion, Sh Harjeet Singh highlighted the benefits of Lok Adalats, noting that their awards are final and binding with no provision for appeal, and any court fee paid is refunded. He said Lok Adalats provide swift and cost-effective justice, reduce pendency, and promote harmony by encouraging compromise, thereby saving time and money while reducing animosity between parties.

Naveen Jindal Yashasvi Scholarship Scheme shaping bright futures: Rajesh Singla

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, SEPT 13



Haryana Pradesh General Secretary of Agrawal Vaishya Samaj, Rajesh Singla, said that Kurukshetra MP and renowned industrialist Naveen Jindal's remarkable work in social service continues to inspire many. Through his personal funds, Jindal has been running several welfare projects directly benefiting people in the region.

Singla highlighted that Jindal's contribution in healthcare, public awareness of government schemes, and education has been highly commendable. In healthcare, three modern medical vans staffed with experienced doctors have provided doorstep treatment to lakhs of patients, particularly in remote rural areas. Along with this, the organization of daily Naveen Sankalp Camps has helped villagers access government schemes, receive documentation assistance, and gain awareness of various welfare benefits. Speaking on education, Singla said that Jindal's initiatives are transparent and inspiring. He noted that Shallu Jindal, wife of the MP, has a dream that no child in the Kurukshetra parliamentary constituency should be deprived of higher education due to lack of resources. To fulfill this vision, Naveen Jindal launched the Naveen Jindal Yashasvi Scholarship Scheme from his personal funds. This scheme, aimed at students from economically weaker backgrounds, has become a boon for those aspiring to pursue higher studies. Hundreds of students have already received financial support under the scheme, easing the burden of their educational expenses. Beneficiaries are now progressing in fields like engineering, medicine, management, law, science, and other professional disciplines. Singla expressed confidence that the scheme will set an exemplary model in the coming years.

Baba Gandha Singh Public School Barnala organises workshop for teachers by CBSE



KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA: A two-day capacity building program on English Language and Literature by CBSE began with great enthusiasm at the renowned educational institution Baba Gandha Singh Public School Barnala. The program began with a candle lighting ceremony, after which the school Principal, Dr. Sandeep Kumar Lath and Vice Principal, Madam Suman warmly welcomed CBSE Resource Persons Shri Sant Kumar Sharma and Mrs. Mary Antony Singh. The first day of the workshop focused on strengthening the skills of English teachers through group discussions and practical demonstrations, where the resource persons shared effective strategies to make classroom teaching more interesting. 60 teachers from various schools including teachers from Baba Gandha Singh Group of Schools participated and benefited from this training activity. This enriched the teachers with innovative ideas to improve their teaching practices.

YS School Barnala scholars excels at Zonal U-17 Powerlifting and Weightlifting Matches



KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA: YS School Barnala has always believed in shaping scholars into confident, capable, and well-rounded ndividuals. Along with excellence in academics, confidence-building, stage presence, and public speaking, the school also provides strong encouragement and engagement in the field of sports. This balanced approach helps every scholar discover their true potential. Carrying forward this tradition of all-round excellence, our scholars made the school proud at the Zonal U-17 Powerlifting and Weightlifting Matches. In Powerlifting, Scholar Ekamjot Singh Virk (10C) secured 2nd position, Scholar Prabhdeep Singh Bajwa (10B) also won 2nd position, and Scholar Pushkar Vishwakarma (10B) earned 3rd position. In Weightlifting, Scholar Prateek Dhillon (10B) brought laurels to the school by winning the 1st position. YS School Barnala heartily congratulates these achievers and their proud parents on this success.

Dirty water supply troubles residents in Mohdi village, demand raised for clean drinking water



NITIN SINGLA
BILASPUR: Residents of Mohdi village under Bilaspur block are facing severe inconvenience due to the supply of contaminated drinking water. Villagers complained that the water being supplied from the Public Health Department's tubewell is foul-smelling and unfit for consumption. Village Sarpanch Mahender Singh said the supply has been affected by technical faults and leakage in the pipelines, which is causing dirty water to reach households. He warned that the absence of clean drinking water could seriously impact the health of children and the elderly. Villagers Rajpal, Jasbir, Ranbir, Rajbir, and Rajkumar jointly reported the matter to the Junior Engineer (JE) of the department and demanded an early resolution. They said the issue has persisted for several days, forcing people to use contaminated water. The JE assured the villagers that the problem would be resolved on priority, and the tubewell as well as the supply lines would be repaired soon. The residents expressed hope that the department will take prompt action to ensure clean and safe drinking water, bringing much-needed relief to the community.

One-day in-house training camp held at Maharaja Agrasen School



NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: A one-day in-house training camp was organized at Maharaja Agrasen Senior Secondary Public School, Gumthla Rao. The main theme of the camp was life skill management in classrooms. The training was conducted by CBSE resource person Ruby Dalal. The programme was inaugurated by school manager Dr. Sudesh Bansal by lighting the ceremonial lamp. During the session, teachers were explained through various examples how to demonstrate life skills in the classroom. Ruby Dalal emphasized that classrooms should be developed into an environment where students can solve their problems and showcase their talents effectively.

Yugmarg
CHANDIGARH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
Haryana
PAGE 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Arrival of paddy begins at grain market, farmers troubled as PR variety remains unsold

YAGYADUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: With improving weather, the grain market has seen a gradual increase in paddy arrivals. On Saturday, 1000 quintals of the 1509 variety and 800 quintals of PR variety arrived. Farmers including Ishwar Sharma, Rajiv Goswami, Buta Singh, Mandeep, and Krishna Kumar said that while their paddy is ready for sale, the PR variety remains unsold, causing difficulty. Farmers are forced to either dry the paddy themselves or store it in the market, increasing their burden.
Market Committee Secretary Chandra Singh said authorities have been informed and preparations for procurement are complete. The purchase of PR variety is expected to start soon. He advised farmers to bring only dry and clean paddy to the market and avoid harvesting wet crops prematurely. This ensures both reports are clear, concise, and ready for publication.

Service fortnight to mark PM Modi's birthday from Sept 17 to Oct 2: MLA Yogendra Rana

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: BJP has begun preparations to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17 as the beginning of a Seva Pakhwada (service fortnight), which will continue till October 2, Gandhi Jayanti. During this 15-day campaign, a wide range of social service and welfare programmes will be organised across the country.

Addressing a workshop held in Assandh constituency on the theme of Seva Pakhwada, MLA Yogendra Rana said that the initiative was a powerful medium to strengthen both society and the organisation. He added that during this fortnight, activities such as blood donation camps, cleanliness drives, health camps, documentary screenings on the life of PM Modi, morning processions, book exhibitions, distribution of essentials to the poor, sports and painting competitions, the Modi Vikas Marathon, and tree plantation drives will be conducted. The campaign will also focus on spreading the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat.

Rana called upon BJP workers to actively participate in the programme, saying, "Seva Pakhwada is an embodiment of the principle Seva hi Sangathan, Seva hi Dharma (service is organisation, service is duty). Inspired by the life of Prime Minister Modi, every worker should commit themselves to this cause."

Karnal district BJP president Praveen Lathar, district in-charge Bharat Bhushan Juyal, district convenor Yashpal Thakur, mandal president Sulinder Kadyan, along with senior leaders Jay Bhagwan, Vijay Rana, Himanshu Chhabra, district secretary Deepak Saini, former Mahila Morcha president Meenakshi Bhinder, district social media head Babbu Manjura, and office bearers from all mandals attended the event.



MLA inaugurates new E-Library at Jundla village

Following the workshop, MLA Yogendra Rana inaugurated a newly built E-Library at Jundla village. He said the facility would prove to be a significant step in shaping the future of rural children and youth by providing access to modern technology and digital resources.

"With this initiative, students in villages can now prepare for competitive exams, pursue general studies, and access online learning resources without needing to move to big cities," Rana said, stressing that education was the strongest medium to realise the dreams of youth.

He added that programmes like Seva Pakhwada and facilities like E-Libraries not only benefit society but also inspire youth to contribute towards the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat.

Excise department accused of ignoring rules to benefit liquor contractors

RK KASHYAP
CHHACHHRAULI, SEPT 13



The excise department has come under criticism for allegedly overlooking its own policies to ensure hefty profits for liquor contractors. Several liquor vends along the National Highway are reportedly operating in violation of excise norms, with the department accused of turning a blind eye.

In areas including Kalesar, Hathnikund, Pratap Nagar, Malikpur Khadar, Balachaur, Arayiawala, Kishanpura and Chuharpur Kalan, newly auctioned vends have been set up without meeting mandatory requirements. As per the rules, liquor outlets should be located at least 250 metres away from the National Highway, but most of them are operating within 100 metres. Allegations of collusion between contractors and officials have also surfaced, with locals claiming that excise rules are being openly flouted for profit.

In Chhachhrauli, liquor shops near Ganouli Gate and Ganouli village have also been opened close to religious places, in violation of regulations.

Responding to the matter, District Excise Officer Alok Pasi acknowledged that complaints had been received earlier as well. He said field staff had been asked to submit reports on such violations and assured that strict action would soon be taken against liquor vends failing to comply with rules.

CM orders repair of damaged roads in Kaithal, DC assures swift action

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has directed officials to immediately repair damaged roads across Kaithal district. Reviewing the situation through a video conference, the CM specifically mentioned several stretches including Maharaja Agrasen Chowk to Bijli Ghar Chowk in Dhand, Baupur to Punjab border in Guhla, Kaithal–Karnal road, roads in sectors 18 to 21 of Kaithal city, roads under the Municipal Council, Amargarh Gamri and Franswala roads, and the Poondri–Rajaond road in Pai. He instructed that roads requiring minor repairs be fixed at once, while those needing reconstruction should be retendered and rebuilt.
Deputy Commissioner Preeti informed the CM that inspection of these roads is underway. She said repairs on Franswala road have already been completed, work on Kaithal–Karnal road will begin soon, and tenders for sector roads have been floated. She also assured that all 31 wards of Kaithal city will have their roads surveyed and repaired as required.
Following the review, DC Preeti convened a meeting with officials even on Saturday, issuing strict directions for speedy repairs, regular inspections, and quality monitoring of roadworks. She emphasized that there must be no compromise on construction standards, and accountability will be fixed if lapses are found. She also stressed that beautification of roadsides should be ensured along with construction.
The DC further instructed officials to prioritize repair of waterlogged roads in Guhla and ensure quick action on all tenders, so that residents are not inconvenienced.

Dr. Ashish Aneja honoured with Seva Ratan Samman 2025

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, SEPT 13

In the sacred memory of late Professor Ram Ratan Sharma, Manav Mitra Mandal organised a student encouragement and service felicitation ceremony, where eminent personalities engaged in social service and education were honoured.

During the event, students participated in a Ramayan chopai recitation competition, and the organisation distributed cash prizes and study material to children. The ceremony was presided over by Chief Minister's secretary Kailash, with Rajesh Kaushik conducting the proceedings. Organisation president Bhartendu expressed gratitude to all the attendees, while Kailash emphasised the importance of instilling values in children.



On this occasion, Dr. Ashish Aneja was conferred the Seva Ratan Samman 2025 for his outstanding work in the field of healthcare, particularly in raising awareness and providing treatment for diabetes. He has also been recognised with the Fellowship in Diabetes Award for his medical contributions.

Over the past few years, Dr. Aneja has organised more than 600 camps across different locations for employees and the general public, where patients received free checkups for blood pressure and blood sugar, along with free medicines. He has also made available expensive diagnostic tests—such as neuropathy, brain and spinal scans, liver scans, spirometry, BMD, ECG, and cancer screenings—free of cost. In addition, he has authored two books on bacteria and viruses.

Expressing gratitude after receiving the award, Dr. Aneja said he would continue to dedicate himself to social service and healthcare initiatives.

Would you like me to prepare a separate box item in the news for the details of Dr. Aneja's healthcare camps.

BJP will leave no stone unturned in honouring its old workers: Lathar

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, SEPT 13

BJP will leave no stone unturned in honouring its senior workers. BJP will go door to door to honour senior workers associated with the family by giving them shawls and expressing gratitude towards them. District President of the party Praveen Lathar and District Spokesperson Shiv Nath Kapoor while giving the above information said that today BJP is the biggest party in terms of workers and if BJP is in power for the third time in the country and state, it is because of its loyal workers and well-wishers associated with the ideology of the party.

Praveen Lathar and Shiv Nath Kapoor said that today BJP's family has grown due to large number of people joining influenced by the ideology of the party, but those colleagues associated with the party ideology who may not be active now due to ill health and family responsibilities, but their contribution cannot be forgotten, therefore we will leave no stone unturned in honouring them.



Today Praveen Lathar, Shiv Nath Kapoor, Rajbir Sharma, Mukesh Bharti, Rajpal Singh, Madan Lal Gurjar and Advocate Naveen Kapoor visited the residences of senior party and organization colleagues Suraj Prakash Dua, Surendra Bhatia, Sardar Swarn Singh, Mulakh Raj Ahuja and Balbir Singh Fauji and presented them with shawls to express their gratitude.

Hindu society is proud of saints like Gita Manishi Gyananand Ji: Shiv Nath Kapoor

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL/TARAORI: Gita Manishi Mahamandleshwar Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj has made a historic effort by inaugurating Gita Mahotsav this year in Indonesia across the seven seas and by presenting Shrimad Bhagwat Gita to the in-charges of the Parliament Council of Indonesia, which makes every Indian proud.



President of Shri Sanatan Dharma Mandir Sabha and BJP leader Shiv Nath Kapoor said that India is proud of its saints who are flying the flag of India's pride and Sanatan Dharma all over the world, but Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj who has dedicated his entire life to the door-to-door campaign of the book Shrimad Bhagwat, adorned with the words of Lord Shri Krishna, this resolution of Gita Manishi Ji is certainly no less than a favor for the entire humanity. Shiv Nath Kapoor said that if this campaign of Gita Manishi Mahamandleshwar Gyananand Ji Maharaj becomes the resolution of every person, then certainly it can prove to be a significant contribution towards the "Kutumba Prabodhan" campaign and social harmony.

Talent hunt and freshers' party organised at Guru Nanak Girls College



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: Guru Nanak Girls College, Yamunanagar, witnessed a vibrant celebration on Saturday with the grand organisation of a talent hunt and freshers' party. The event was inaugurated by College Director Dr. Varinder Gandhi and Principal Dr. Sukhwinder Kaur with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Former Principal Prof. Narinder Pal Kaur and Prof. Dr. Seema Saini also graced the occasion with their presence.
The first segment featured a talent hunt competition where the newly admitted students showcased their creativity and confidence through dance, mono acting, singing, speeches, poetry recitation, painting, quiz, and instrumental performances. Prizes were awarded to the top performers, including Pragati (painting), Niharika (dance), Ruchika (mono acting), Mahi Kapil (Sanskrit shlok recital), Kumud, Srishti, and Tejaswini Rana (quiz), Gurnoor (speech), and Komal (poetry).
The second segment of the event was the freshers' party, highlighted by ramp walks and colourful cultural performances. Titles were conferred upon students, with Ms Fresher awards going to Darpan Sharma (UG Arts - Mass Communication), Jaskiran (Commerce), Laxmi Rawat (Science), and Isha (Education).

Dr. Kanika Kumar stresses sharing issues to combat mental stress

YAGYADUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: A detailed lecture on mental health was organised at MPM Sanatan Dharma Girls College under the National Task Force. Dr. Kanika Kumar, psychiatrist from the Health Department, Panchkula, spoke to students about suicide prevention, mental stress, substance abuse, loneliness, gender discrimination, and inferiority complexes. She highlighted the rising cases of suicide, particularly among women, and urged students to openly discuss their issues with others to manage stress effectively. Gangaram, counsellor from the Health Department, Panchkula, informed students about the Tele-Mental health website and provided the helpline number 18008914416. Students actively participated by asking questions and clarifying doubts. College Principal Mohini Garg emphasised that open discussion about personal issues is essential to cope with growing mental health challenges.



Karnal college releases book on intellectual property rights and social media impact

CHAMAN LAL
KARNAL: Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Karnal, released the Book of Proceedings titled "Intellectual Property Rights and the Impact of Social Media on English Language" in a ceremony attended by Governing Body President Sardar Kanwarjeet Singh and Principal Dr. Chuhar Singh.



Edited by Dr. Devi Bhushan, Head of the English Department, the book features 26 chapters contributed by eminent scholars including Dr. Deepak, Dr. Amarjeet, Prof. Rabia Virk, Dr. Sumit Kumar, Dr. Poonam Chaudhary, Dr. Arti Goyal, Dr. Prerna, Dr. Arshiya Garg, Dr. Sheetal, Dr. Priyanka, and Dr. Saroj Sobti.
Principal Dr. Chuhar Singh said the book will serve as a valuable resource for students and researchers, emphasizing the relevance of English language and intellectual property rights in today's context. Sardar Kanwarjeet Singh hailed the publication as a significant academic achievement for the college.
Dr. Devi Bhushan noted that the book not only enriches academic knowledge but also reflects ongoing linguistic and cultural changes in society.

Hindi is the soul of India: Professor Randhir Singh

CHAMAN LAL
KARNAL: Guru Brahmanand Kanya College, Anjanthali, organized a grand Hindi Festival under the aegis of the Hindi Sahitya Parishad to celebrate Hindi Diwas and honor the national language. The event featured poetry recitations, patriotic songs, and speech competitions.



The program was inaugurated with a lamp lighting ceremony by the Chief Guest and keynote speaker, Professor Randhir Singh, Head of the Hindi Department, Dayal Singh College, Karnal, along with Principal Dr. Balveer Singh, Hindi Department Head, and President of Hindi Sahitya Parishad, Dr. Usha Rani. Principal Dr. Balveer Singh welcomed the chief guest with a bouquet and highlighted Hindi as the symbol of India's culture, national pride, and identity, noting that the language has transcended national boundaries to gain global recognition.

In his address, Professor Randhir Singh described Hindi as a rich and evolving language. He emphasized that while it is important to learn other languages, one must never neglect their mother tongue. He highlighted Hindi's journey, noting its absorption of Arabic, Persian, and English vocabulary over the centuries, and said that in today's era of information revolution, Hindi is gaining even greater strength. Professor Singh also stressed the role of Hindi in promoting human values and the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam through Indian culture and arts. He referred to research by Dr. Jayanti Prasad Nautiyal, which shows that every sixth person in the world speaks or understands Hindi, making it one of the most widely spoken languages globally.

ISA Steel Conclave 2025 Spotlights AI, Green Finance, and Raw Material Security for Sustainable Growth

HISAR: A two-day Steel Conclave 2025, in its 6th edition, concluded to spotlight the steel sector's growth using artificial intelligence in the value chain, financing for green transition and increasing raw material availability.
The grand event was organised by the Indian Steel Association with the theme "Steel for Aatmanirbhar Bharat: Driving Sustainability and Growth". Steel industry stakeholders, Union ministers and policymakers shared their insights to ensure the sustainable growth of the steel sector with adoption of technology and reduction of carbon footprint.



Panel discussions and release of steel industry related reports added gravity to the event. The ISA Steel Conclave was supported by the Ministry of Steel and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. In his welcome address, Shri Naveen Jindal, President of the Indian Steel Association and Chairman of Jindal Steel Ltd., said, "Our emphasis on reducing dependence on coking coal, empowering MSMEs, and making Indian steel smarter, greener, and globally competitive underlines both the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead. By exploring alternative raw materials and innovative technologies, we can overcome supply vulnerabilities while opening new avenues for sustainable production. At the same time, strengthening MSMEs through better access to finance and skills will not only build resilience but also drive inclusive growth across the sector."

Bayer launches unique pest spectrum insecticide Camalus

HOSHIARPUR / PATIALA - Bayer, a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of agriculture and healthcare, announces the launch of Camalus, a unique pest spectrum insecticide designed specifically for Indian horticulture farmers. Camalus brings a dual mode of action with a unique pest-spectrum control of chewing and sucking pests, which is a need gap in horticultural crop cultivation.
Indian vegetable farmers, especially smallholders, face growing combined pressure from chewing and sucking pest infestations, which often require frequent spray cycles. This, combined with the declining effectiveness of existing products leads to a need gap. Camalus addresses this gap with an innovative dual-mode of action that stops pests from feeding quickly and protects the plant from within, both through the roots and leaves. It offers long-lasting protection, reducing the need for repeated sprays-helping farmers save on time, input costs, and labour. Vegetable growers, particularly those cultivating tomato, brinjal, chilli, cabbage, and okra, will find Camalus a powerful solution when used in the early crop stages.
Speaking on the launch, Mohan Babu, Cluster Commercial Lead, Crop Science Division of Bayer in India, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka said, "Vegetable crops are central to meeting India's nutritional security needs and hold immense potential to strengthen the country's position in the global export economy. As vegetable consumption rises, ensuring crop productivity and quality becomes even more critical. At Bayer, we are committed to supporting Indian farmers with innovative and sustainable solutions. With Camalus, we bring a next-generation insecticide that not only strengthens pest management but also contributes to building resilient, high-quality vegetable value chains for India and the world.

Corteva Agriscience Launches Zorvec Entecta- A New generation Crop protection solution for Grapes & Potatoes



CHANDIGARH : Corteva Agriscience today announced the launch of Zorvec Entecta®, a revolutionary new fungicide set to transform the cultivation of both grapes and potatoes in India. Building on the globally successful Zorvec® technology, this advanced solution offers growers protection against devastating diseases like Downy Mildew (Plasmopara viticola) of Grapes and Late Blight (Phytophthora infestans) of potatoes, leading to healthier crops, thereby higher yields, and superior quality produce.
Zorvec Entecta® delivers a unique combination of advanced chemistry and powerful performance. Its active ingredients provide strong and reliable control against oomycetes plant diseases. This innovative solution offers growers unmatched consistency and control, providing powerful, long-lasting protection even under challenging climatic conditions. Its industry-leading rain fastness means it's secure and protected from wash-off just 20 minutes after application, giving growers confidence in their investment. Furthermore, due to its systemic mobility (xylem systemic), Zorvec Entecta® provides exceptional protection for new growth and leaves as they grow. It mobility within the plant, ensuring uniform coverage and strong defense protection of both treated and newly emerging foliage, which is vital for robust crop establishment and sustained growth. The product combines two powerful active ingredients that work together synergistically in two different ways, making it an excellent tool for managing disease resistance and ensuring its effectiveness over time. Additionally, Zorvec Entecta® has a favorable environmental profile, highlighting Corteva Agriscience's commitment to sustainable agriculture.

Nuvoco Launches First-of-its-Kind 'Mera Bharosa ZERO M IWC+' Campaign

PANIPAT : Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group by capacity, has launched its "Mera Bharosa Nuvoco ZERO M" campaign, appointing 300 dealers as brand ambassadors for its flagship product from the Modern Building Materials (MBM) business vertical – Nuvoco ZERO M IWC+.
Nuvoco's MBM business is a vital part of its 360-degree construction ecosystem, offering high-performance finishing solutions. Catering to a fast-growing market, MBM includes Construction Chemicals, Multipurpose Bonding and Waterproofing Agents, Wall Putty, Tile & Stone Adhesives, Tile Grouts, Ready-Mix Dry Plaster, Block Joining Mortar, Dry Bag Concrete, and Cover Blocks under the ZERO M brand.



A striking feature of the campaign is the installation of large, life-sized cutout standees at select dealer stores across regions. Each standee features a trusted dealer alongside a ZERO M IWC+ waterproofing container, accompanied by the tagline: "GHAR KE WATERPROOFING KE LIYE MERA BHAROSA – NUVOCO ZERO M." These dealers represent Nuvoco's most valued channel partners, carefully shortlisted based on their performance, credibility, and long-standing association with the brand. The campaign reinforces Nuvoco's belief that its dealers are its strongest brand ambassadors.
This collaboration delivers tangible value to dealers by elevating them as trusted local influencers and recognising their role in educating customers while building the brand through advocacy. The campaign also addresses a pressing industry challenge — the tendency to treat waterproofing as an afterthought. Given India's diverse climatic conditions and evolving construction practices, early-stage waterproofing is crucial.

YUGMARG

CHANDIGARH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Opinion

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.

Marie Curie

EDITORIAL

India faces a new demographic challenge

For long, policymakers took comfort in the fact that India's large population of youth gave it a distinct demographic advantage. However, this narrative is changing. The country may well be staring at a serious demographic challenge because of the steadily declining fertility rate. Latest data shows that it has now fallen below the replacement level. This means that the country will turn into an ageing society in the next three decades. The latest Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report reveals that India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined to 1.9, which is well below the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman. For the first time, rural India's TFR has touched the replacement rate of 2.1, while urban India's rate is even lower at 1.5. Clearly, a quiet demographic transformation is underway. A report in the medical journal, The Lancet, has projected that India's TFR — the average number of children born to a woman — will fall to 1.29 in 2050. One in five people in India will be above the age of 60 in 2050. This reflects a demographic shift with profound implications for the country's health, fiscal, and gender policies. In 2023, the UN Population Fund's (UNPF) India Ageing Report projected that the number of elderly will more than double from 149 million in 2022 to 347 million by mid-century. This poses a challenge to policymakers. With a lower number of births, the youth population will keep shrinking.

There are multiple reasons for the falling fertility rate. Rising urbanisation, growing costs of raising children, women's education, and availability of contraceptives have altered the traditional family dynamics in India. Women's increasing participation in the workforce is leading to delayed marriages, thereby reducing the reproductive window. Besides, fewer children and a focus on higher education ensure upward mobility. While this decline is a sign of progress, especially in terms of healthcare and gender empowerment, it carries complex implications for economic growth. As the size of the youth population falls, the number of older adults will surpass the young. India will need to reassess its social-security focus and make investments to provide the growing number of older adults with improved access to healthcare, income security, and social safety-nets. India's fertility numbers fell from nearly 6.2 in 1950 to just under 2 in 2021. The combination of declining fertility rates and longer life expectancies presents a complex situation, necessitating provisions for social security and healthcare for the increasing elderly population. There is also a need to generate employment opportunities that effectively utilise the skills of this demographic. Global experience suggests that once fertility rates fall below the replacement level, it is almost impossible to set them back. India's declining fertility rate is broadly in tune with the global trend. Experts have warned that the TFR could touch a worrying level of 1.04 by 2100.

India's digital revolution: A decade of transformation and the road ahead



RAO INDERJIT SINGH

Over the past decade, India has undergone a digital revolution that is nothing short of extraordinary. What began as a series of targeted technological interventions has now evolved into a sweeping transformation, touching nearly every aspect of Indian life — economy, governance, education, healthcare, commerce, and even the lives of farmers and small entrepreneurs in the remotest corners of the country.

This journey has not been accidental. It has been carefully stewarded by the Government of India through a combination of bold policymaking, cross-ministerial collaboration, and a commitment to inclusive growth. While the line ministries - such as the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Ministry of Agriculture, and others—have executed large-scale projects on the ground, NITI Aayog has served as the policy engine, fostering convergence, driving thought leadership, and nudging the system toward scalable, citizen-first innovations.

A major inflection point came with the rollout of the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity. With over 55 crore bank accounts opened, millions who were previously excluded from the financial system suddenly gained access to banking and direct benefit transfers. In a small village in Odisha, a single mother was able to receive welfare benefits directly into her bank account, bypassing middlemen for the first time. Her story is echoed by millions across India. This massive financial inclusion movement, supported by the Ministry of Finance and enabled by Aadhaar and mobile penetration, laid the groundwork for what came next: a fintech explosion.

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India under the guidance of the RBI, revolutionised the way Indians transacted. What began as a novel way to send money to a friend quickly became the lifeline of small businesses, vegetable vendors, and gig workers. Today, India records over 17 billion UPI transactions each month, and even roadside vegetable sellers accept digital payments with a simple QR code.

At the same time, the backbone of India's digital infrastructure was being built—quietly and persistently—under MeitY. Projects like BharatNet brought broadband to over two lakh gram panchayats, while India Stack created the architecture for paperless, presence-less, and cashless services. DigiLocker allowed students to access their certificates digitally, and e-Sign enabled remote authentication for important documents. DigiYatra is a pioneering initiative that enables seamless, paperless, and contactless air travel using facial recognition technology. It ensures faster check-ins, enhanced passenger experience, and improved airport efficiency, all while safeguarding data privacy through decentralised identity management. This marks a major step in making Indian aviation future-ready and passenger-centric. These weren't just apps—they were building blocks of a digital republic.

Digital governance also took a leap forward with the launch of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Designed to bring transparency and efficiency into public procurement, GeM has connected over 1.6 lakh government buyers with more than 22 lakh sellers—including a growing number of women entrepreneurs and MSMEs. For a small handicraft seller from Rajasthan, this meant access to government contracts that were previously unimaginable.

The agriculture sector, often seen as resistant to change, too began embracing digital tools. Platforms like PM-Kisan ensured that income support reached farmers directly. e-NAM connected agricultural mandis across states, enabling farmers to get better prices for their produce. The digital Soil Health Card helped them understand what crops to grow and what nutrients to add to their land. In rural Jharkhand, CSCs (Common Service Centres) run by local entrepreneurs became digital lifelines—offering everything from telemedicine to banking and skilling programmes.

The pandemic was a stress test for India's digital public infrastructure—and it passed with flying colours. With schools shut, platforms like DIKSHA and SWAYAM ensured that learning didn't stop. Children in Ladakh and Kerala could access the same content, curated by teachers across India. Simultaneously, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission took shape, allowing citizens to access their health records through a digital ID and creating a seamless experience across hospitals and states.

Commerce, too, witnessed a quiet revolution. The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), an initiative of DPIIT, is now enabling small kirana shops and handloom weavers to compete with large e-commerce giants. By unbundling the functions of digital commerce, ONDC is levelling the playing field, ensuring that small businesses can access logistics, payments, and customer feedback systems with ease.

The convergence role that NITI plays—bringing ministries, states, startups, and industry together—has ensured that digital public goods are interoperable, inclusive, and scalable. As India moves toward its $5 trillion economy goal, new frontiers are emerging: AI-enabled governance, decentralised commerce, and multilingual, mobile-first digital services that can reach the last person in the line.

But this is not just a government success story. It is the story of a nation—of millions of citizens who adopted change, entrepreneurs who built on digital rails, and local leaders who reimagined service delivery.

India's digital decade is not just about technology—it's about transformation. And the story is only just beginning.

BY:-Rao Inderjit Singh

Trump says tariffs on India caused "rift", admits he could not solve Russia-Ukraine war

US President Donald Trump stated in a Fox News interview that US tariffs on Indian goods caused a "rift" with India and admitted that the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which he had expected to be the easiest to resolve, remains unresolved.

"India was their [Russia's] biggest customer, I put 50 per cent tariff on India buying oil from Russia. That is a big deal and causes rift with India. Remember this, this is Europe problem more than our problem," Trump said.



Before discussing the tariffs on Indian goods, the US president admitted he has not been able to solve the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which he thought would have been the easiest.

"I thought easiest would be Ukraine and Russia... It takes two to tango. When Putin wants to do it, Zelensky didn't. When Zelensky wants to do it, Putin didn't. Now Zelensky wants to and Putin is question mark. We'll have to come down very strong. Only one. This is -- I've always had a great relationship with Putin, this is the only war that I have not solved," he added in his Fox news interview.

Trump further explained how he plans to "come down very strong" in regards to mitigating the Ukraine-Russia conflict. "It will be hitting hard with sanctions to banks and having to do with oil and tariffs also. I've already done it, I've done a lot," he said.

During the interview, he also reiterated his record in resolving other conflicts. "I solved seven wars, seven. I did so many including Pakistan and India.... Some were unsolvable. Congo and Rwanda, I solved it. Millions of people killed. I solved wars that were unsolvable," Trump said.

A White House statement highlighted how Trump defended his America First trade agenda, saying,"We've been successful because of the tariffs. It's given us a great power to negotiate with other countries that took advantage of us -- tremendous power. Also, it has brought billions of dollars into the country.

NASA expels Chinese nationals over espionage fears

NASA has announced new restrictions barring Chinese nationals holding US visas from accessing its facilities, research programs, and internal networks.

The move highlights Washington's growing concerns over safeguarding America's space leadership as competition with Beijing intensifies, as reported by The Epoch Times.



According to The Epoch Times, individuals of Chinese nationality who had been contributing to NASA projects as contractors or researchers were notified on September 5 that their access was terminated. Many reportedly found themselves abruptly locked out of digital systems and barred from both in-person and virtual meetings tied to their work.

NASA press secretary Bethany Stevens confirmed the policy shift, stating that the agency had taken "internal action" to limit both physical and cybersecurity risks. She emphasised that the restrictions were necessary to protect sensitive operations.

The decision follows heightened scrutiny of Chinese nationals across US technology sectors, with multiple espionage cases in recent years tied to the Chinese Communist regime, according to The Epoch Times.

It remains uncertain whether a specific security breach prompted NASA's move. When asked for further clarification, the agency referred The Epoch Times to comments made by acting administrator Sean Duffy on Fox Business. Duffy stressed that the United States must lead what he called a "second space race," warning that China's lunar ambitions are driven by military objectives rather than peaceful exploration.

US defence officials have voiced similar concerns. General B Chance Saltzman, head of the Space Force, earlier cautioned that Beijing's space program is tightly linked to its military strategy. Meanwhile, China has accelerated efforts, including testing its Long March-10 moon rocket in August, as it aims to land astronauts on the lunar surface by the decade's end, as reported by news agency.

POEMS

Cross

To mourn an impossible life—
we have become objects of a King

we will never see.
All water has become black.

The Ganga River reaches the ocean—
all ocean has become the Ganga.

The boats we took are haunted,
spirits crisscrossing the far shore to here

unaware of hope or pain,
instead feeling the sharp prick of thirst.

Were I to wear a dress could you guess the color?
Yes, you, whose tongue Demerara sweetens.

What, did you think you were not complicit?
I have already said

By Rajiv Mohabir

Meghadūta of Kalidas to Scary Cloud Bursts

Ashadhasya prathamadivase meghamashlishta sanum vaprakridaa parinata gajaprekshaniyam dadarsha.



ANUJ TYAGI

Legendary Sanskrit poet K lid sa, in his timeless epic Meghad ta, personified clouds as symbols of optimism, love, and affection. For centuries, the 120 stanzas of this masterpiece have inspired generations across the subcontinent, capturing the joy felt when the first monsoon clouds appear on the horizon. K lid sa's Yaksha, separated from his beloved wife and city, finds solace in the promise carried by the drifting clouds.

His joy reflects the age-old association of clouds with hope, nature, and renewal.

Yet, in recent weeks, these very clouds have carried devastation. Particularly across North India, they have unleashed floods, landslides, and destruction that left millions fearful. Honest introspection is needed to ask whether the clouds themselves have changed, or whether it is we who have altered the balance of nature.

The series of incidents this year paints a telling picture. Beginning with the cloudburst at Harsil-Dharali in Uttarakhand during the first week of August, and followed by widespread devastation in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Punjab, the pattern is clear. Natural extremes combined with unplanned human activity have multiplied the scale of destruction. Himachal Pradesh alone has lost more than 350 lives and suffered financial damages of around Rs. 4,000 crores, according to the state disaster management department. The ripple effects have been equally painful. Damaged roads/highways and inadequate storage forced huge quantity of apple to be rotten and compelled apple growers into distress sales, since perishable produce cannot be stored for long in these regions. In Punjab, where water has only recently begun to recede, assessments of losses are still underway, though ground reports already show the enormity of the crisis.

For families in an agrarian economy, such losses are never just financial. They stretch into education, nutrition, health, and even the emotional well-being of households. In Delhi too, thousands continue to suffer from the flooding of the Yamuna River. The combined impact at the national level, measurable and immeasurable, is staggering.

Encroachment on water bodies has deepened this crisis. Nature's fury has been amplified not only in the fragile Himalayan belt but also in coastal metros like Mumbai and Chennai, in the semi-arid towns of Rajasthan and Gujarat, and in villages across the Punjab plains. Aggressive cloud activity is not an isolated event. Global scientific studies have concluded that climate change is a reality, and India is already experiencing more frequent episodes of extreme weather. Respite is unlikely in the near future, which means a comprehensive strategy must be evolved to address this challenge.

There can be no ready-made or copy-paste solutions. The issue is too complex, affecting millions of lives and bound up with both economic and socio-religious realities. In the Himalayan states of Uttarakhand, Himachal, and Jammu & Kashmir, development and employment generation are not only economic goals but also touch deep religious/cultural sentiments. Moreover, highways and hydro-power projects are a strategic necessity for the country. What is required, therefore, is an honest trade-off between development and environmental preservation.

From a common person's perspective, two culprits stand out. First, rampant deforestation caused by illegal tree cutting. Second, the more critical menace of illegal mining in riverbeds and encroachment of water bodies. This problem has reached every corner of India-mountains, villages, towns, and cities alike. Hardly a river, pond, or lake remains unaffected. It is a national concern that cannot be addressed, without active involvement of society, by the Government alone. Newton's third law of action and reaction not merely confined to physics, it's a universal law equally applicable here and clearly visible in the fury of nature. Unfortunately, in this case, it is often the innocents who pay for the misdeeds of few, as nature does not distinguish among the individuals. So, the role of society become critical.

The monsoon remains the subcontinent's most precious gift, the single greatest catalyst for India's growth. While agriculture has advanced beyond the old description of a "gamble on monsoon," good rains are still irreplaceable. A healthy monsoon directly uplifts rural incomes, stimulates demand for agricultural inputs and consumer goods, and strengthens industrial output and balance sheets. Farmers, labourers, businessmen, bankers, and shareholders all feel a common joy when the skies darken with rain clouds; much like K lid sa's Yaksha did sixteen centuries ago.

As the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization notes, favourable rains are expected to boost global wheat and rice production this year. For India, the lesson remains clear. We must cherish the monsoon for the prosperity it brings, while also confronting the ecological imbalances that turn this gift into a threat. Only then can the clouds of K lid sa's vision remain messengers of hope and affection, rather than harbingers of destruction.

PS: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s expects rise in global wheat and rice production this year owing to favourable climatic conditions.

(Anuj Tyagi works in Food Corporation of India; Views expressed are personal)

YUGMARG
Himachal
CHANDIGARH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
PAGE 5

Shrimad Bhagwat Katha concludes at Oyal Haroti Sai Temple

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: The conclusion (rest day) of the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha organized under the guidance of Guru Dinesh Sai Ji at Sai Mandir located at Oil Haroti of Sub Division Gagret was completed in an atmosphere of devotion and reverence. A large number of



devotees attended the last day of the Katha and were overwhelmed by listening to the Leelas of Lord Shri Krishna. Baba Bal Ji Maharaj was specially present on this occasion and he blessed the devotees. The importance of the program increased further with the presence of Baba Bal Ji Maharaj.

NEWS BRIEF

Lecturer association will meet School Education Board Chairman Dr. Rajesh Sharma



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: In a press statement issued here, the provincial media secretary of the State School Lecturer Association, Rajan Sharma, said that a delegation of Himachal Pradesh School Lecturer Association will soon meet the Chairman of the Education Board, Dr. Rajesh Sharma, under the leadership of the State President of the Lecturer Association, Ajay Negi. Chief Media Secretary Rajan Sharma said that the Chairman of the Education Board will be informed about the pending demands of the Lecturer Association, which are related to the Education Board. The State President of the Association, Ajay Negi, Chief Protector, Lokendra Negi, General Secretary, Inder Singh Thakur, Chairman, Surinder Pundir, Working President, Deep Singh Khana, Chief Advisor, Rajesh Saini, West, Vice President, Om Prakash, Chief Advisor, Chandradev Thakur, Finance Secretary, Surjeet Sisodia, Chief Web Secretary, Bhupesh Negi, Vijay Arya.

Cloudburst wreaks havoc in Bilaspur, 577 roads closed across state

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, SEPT 13

A cloudburst this morning caused widespread destruction in Gutrahan village of Namhol sub-tehsil, Bilaspur district. Several vehicles were buried under debris while farmlands and roads suffered heavy damage.

Officials said two vehicles were completely buried and five others damaged before being removed from the site. The Namhol-Dabar road remains blocked due to accumulated debris. Villager Kashmir Singh reported severe losses to his fields. “The water flow got diverted towards the road, otherwise the entire village could have faced a major disaster,” he said.

The impact of continuous rains is being felt statewide. In Ghumarwin, the Sir Khad rivulet has swelled to its highest level this monsoon season. Landslides triggered by heavy downpours disrupted traffic on the Bharmour-Pathankot highway near Tunnuhatti, Lahad and Mahla, leaving long queues of stranded vehicles.



National Highway division Executive Engineer Meet Sharma confirmed that falling trees and debris have slowed vehicle movement considerably.

As of 10 am today, 577 roads, including three national highways, were blocked in Himachal Pradesh. District-wise closures include 174 in Kullu, 166 in Mandi, 48 in Shimla, 45 in Kangra, 44 in Chamba and 28 in Sirmaur. Alongside, 389 electricity transformers and 333 water supply schemes have also been affected.

The Meteorological Centre Shimla has forecast rain across many parts of the state until September 19. A yellow alert has been issued for heavy rain and thunderstorms on September 13 and 14.

Palampur recorded the highest rainfall last night at 86 mm, followed by Murari Devi (69.2 mm) and Kangra (58.2 mm).

The monsoon toll in Himachal Pradesh has been grim, as per government sources. Since June 20, the state has recorded 386 deaths, 451 injuries and 41 missing persons. Of the fatalities, 168 occurred in road accidents.

Government estimates put property losses at Rs 4,465 crore, with 538 concrete and 834 kutcha houses fully damaged and thousands more partially impacted.

Despite intermittent sunshine in Shimla, the weather department has warned of continued heavy rain in several regions, urging travelers and locals to remain cautious.

PM Modi himself is concerned about the disaster in Himachal: Savitri Thakur



ASHISH SHARMA
KULLU, SEPT 13

Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Savitri Thakur has said that the disaster in Kullu-Manali of Himachal Pradesh has caused a lot of damage and the tourism and horticulture here have suffered a lot. She was talking to journalists in Manali today. Savitri Thakur said that the PM Narendra Modi himself is concerned about this disaster and the central government is working with full commitment for the rehabilitation and assistance of the affected families. The Minister of State said that along with the disaster affected areas of Old Manali, villages like Solang, Palchan, Samahan and Bahang were also visited and the situation was reviewed. Here, life has been affected due to cloudburst and sudden floods. The Border Roads Organisation is engaged in the construction and improvement of roads in these areas, so that people can get quick relief and traffic can be restored smoothly. She said that the farmers have suffered a lot in this disaster and farming has been destroyed. She said that the people here are dependent on tourism and horticulture and we will try to ensure that the farmers get a fair price for their produce. Savitri Thakur said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is very sensitive towards Himachal Pradesh and the central government is helping the state government in every possible way. She said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of those who died in floods and natural calamities and Rs 50,000 to the seriously injured.

Jal Shakti Vibhag suffer Rs. 4000 crore loss during last three years: Deputy CM

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, SEPT 13

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri met the Union Minister of Water resources C.R. Patil at his residence in Delhi on Friday and reported losses the Jal Shakti Vibhag suffered during the last three years amounting to approximately Rs.4000 crores. Agnihotri urged the Union Minister to extend a generous hand towards Himachal in view of the huge Natural Calamity the State has faced during the monsoons. He stated that the losses suffered by the State were unprecedented and the heavy brunt has been faced by the State's Jal Shakti Vibhag. He briefed the Union Minister that the this



year alone the Jal Shakti Vibhag has suffered losses of Rs. 1291.51 crores. He urged to release funds to the tune of Rs. 1227 crores was required for completion of the ongoing schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Agnihotri advocated to get released the funds under Post Disaster need Assessment (PDNA), keeping in view the grave situation being faced by Himachal Pradesh due to flash floods and heavy disaster. He also stressed for relaxing the norms under PDNA so as to expedite the restoration work and also insisted for release of central assistance for ongoing irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY) on priority. The Union Minister was apprised that till date only Rs.100 crore have been received out of Rs. 697 crore approved for water supply Sector for the year 2023, though the losses faced were to the tune of Rs. 2132.70 crores in the year 2023 itself. This is hampering the progress of restoration works, he remarked.

Nahan stray dogs neglected: No vaccination or sterilization for 18 months

AGENCY
NAHAN, SEP 13

The plight of stray dogs in the Nahan Nagar Palika area reflects glaring neglect, with neither vaccination nor sterilization drives conducted for the past one and a half years. This inaction has left hundreds of dogs vulnerable to diseases, while residents face growing safety concerns. Despite the Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules mandating annual sterilization and vaccination of stray dogs, the municipal council has failed to comply.

The rules also require tagging treated dogs and maintaining records of their numbers. Shockingly, in 2024- 25, only nine dogs were registered with the Municipal Council. In the current year, out of 21 applications for registration, only two have been processed. The situation is alarming, as many stray dogs in the town show visible signs of illness. Animal welfare groups argue that timely sterilization could help control aggressive behavior and population growth. However, the Nagar Parishad has not even conducted a proper survey to assess the number of stray dogs. According to non-governmental estimates, there are several hundred strays in the town, most left to wander the streets without health checks.

Records reveal that the last sterilization drive was carried out in March- April 2024, covering just 65 dogs. Since then, no initiative has been taken.

Meanwhile, many pet owners in the town are keeping dogs without registering them, further violating ABC norms. Senior Executive Officer of Nagar Parishad, Sanjay Kumar, admitted the lapse but informed that the council recently passed a proposal on August 26 to resume vaccination and sterilization in coordination with the Veterinary Department. “The drive is likely to begin by the end of September or the first week of October,” he said. Until then, the streets of Nahan remain dotted with unmonitored stray dogs, posing both health risks and safety concerns.

Ankit Kumar, NSS volunteer of Govt College Chowkimaniyar, selected for state level camp



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: It is a matter of pride for Government College Chowkimaniyar that Ankit Kumar, a dedicated volunteer of National Service Scheme (NSS) of the college, has been selected for the state level selection camp for the Pre-Republic Day Parade 2026. This camp is an important opportunity for NSS volunteers, where students showcase their leadership skills, discipline and dedication towards social service. Volunteers who perform best in this camp are selected for future national level programs. Ankit Kumar has taken active part in various activities in the college like awareness campaigns, cleanliness drives, tree plantation programmes and social mass gathering initiatives. His constant dedication, leadership skills and discipline have brought him to this achievement. College Principal Dr. Balvinder Singh Rana, Program Officer Dr. Ram Singh, Prof. Kavita Koshal, Dr. Ram Kumar Negi, Dr. Sagun Dogra and Prof. Naveen Sharma congratulated Ankit Kumar on this achievement. They expressed confidence that Ankit will bring laurels to the college and the region by performing well in the state level camp as well.

Talent hunt ‘Darpan 2025’ begins at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government College, Bangana



JOGINDER DEV ARYA
BANGANA: A two-day event titled “Pratibha Khoj – Darpan 2025” commenced today at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government College, Bangana, with great enthusiasm. The programme was presided over by convener Prof. Anu Lakhanpal, while Principal Dr. Ramesh Thakur graced the occasion as the chief guest and inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The proceedings were conducted by Vaidehi Sharma and Tanu Thakur. On the first day, various competitions including debate, speech, and quiz were held. In the debate competition, Vaidehi Sharma (B.A. II year) secured the first position, Tanu Thakur (B.A. II year) stood second, and Diksha Sharma (BCA V semester) came third. In the speech competition, Kiran Kanet (B.A. I year) bagged the first position, Riya Sharma (B.Sc. II year) second, and Kalpana (BCA final year) third. Addressing the gathering, Principal Dr. Ramesh Thakur said that every student has some innate talent that needs recognition and a platform for expression. He announced that the first position holders will get an opportunity to participate in the upcoming Himachal Pradesh University Youth Festival. The event was attended by Vice Principal Rekha Sharma, Prof. Anu Lakhanpal, Prof. Kiran Kumari, Dr. Vinod Kumar, Dr. Reena Devi, Prof. Sikandar Negi, Dr. Kuldeep Singh, Prof. Arvind Ratna, Prof. Ranjana, Prof. Prashant, Prof. Rajinder Singh, Aarti, along with other faculty members and staff.

Under PM Modi’s guidance, we are committed to restoring normalcy at the earliest: Shantanu Thakur



DINESH AGARWAL
KULLU: Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur visited Gushaini, Tirthan and Sainj areas in the Banjar Assembly constituency to review the situation in flood-affected regions. He said that he assessed the damage caused by the natural disaster and listened to the grievances of the affected families. “Himachal has been severely impacted by floods. The patience shown by the people during this difficult time is truly inspiring. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to restoring normalcy at the earliest,” he said. The minister informed that between June 20 and September 12, a total of 386 people lost their lives, 451 were injured, and 41 remain missing. During this period, 168 people died in road accidents. The state has seen widespread destruction with 538 permanent houses and 834 temporary houses completely damaged, while 1,878 permanent and 4,005 temporary houses were partially damaged. “This is an irreparable loss for Himachal Pradesh,” he added.

BJP asked for CBI-ED investigation into KCC bank scam



SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: Led by former MLA Arun Kumar, the Nagrota Bagwan BJP has levelled serious allegations of massive irregularities in the Kangra Central Cooperative Bank (KCC). The former MLA alleged that a private hotel in Palampur was given inflated benefits of about Rs. 24 crore under the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme - all made possible under political patronage. He said when the said hotelier was already declared an NPA, why was he repeatedly given loans? This is a mockery of transparency and a criminal act. He demanded immediate registration of FIR against the persons and officials responsible and sought an independent investigation by the CBI/ED. He gave a stern warning that if the government does not order a high-level inquiry, the BJP will agitate from the road to the Vidhan Sabha. Those who looted public money will not be spared. He reiterated the demand for complete loan waiver for the families affected by the recent natural calamity in the area. He said the debt burden on disaster-affected families will not be tolerated. Their loans should be waived off immediately.

Bulk Drug Park, Una secures environmental clearance

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: In a landmark development, the upcoming Bulk Drug Park at Una has secured the Environmental Clearance (EC) from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). This clearance has paved the way for the establishment of one of the India’s most significant infrastructure projects in the pharmaceutical sector aiming to reduce dependency of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) a biologically active component of a drug that provides the therapeutic effect, and Key Starting Material (KSM), a fundamental raw material, from other countries. The Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, had launched the scheme for promotion of bulk drug parks in March 2020, with guidelines as notified by the Union department of Pharmaceuticals GoI in July, 2020. The state Industries department prepared and submitted the detailed project report which was appraised by the Project Management Agency (PMA) and subsequently accorded final approval by the Scheme Steering Committee (SSC) in October 2022. A spokesperson of the Industries said that the Bulk Drug Park at Una comprises a total capital cost of Rs. 2,071 crore, with Rs. 996.45 crore as grant-in-aid from the government of India and Rs. 1,074.55 crore from the state government. The project holds an investment potential of Rs. 8,000 to 10,000 crore and is expected to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for 15,000 to 20,000 persons. This project is being implemented by SPV, a global leader in healthcare innovation, named Himachal Pradesh Bulk Drug Park Infrastructure Ltd. (HPBDPIL) which is working under the aegis of the state Industries department.

Congress intensifies efforts to strengthen grassroots in Deoghar, focus on selection of new District President

PRADEEP SHARMA
INDORA, SEPT 13

Under the "Sangathan Srijan 2025" campaign, a significant meeting was held in Deoghar to strengthen the Congress Party’s grassroots organization. The meeting was organized by the Deoghar Nagar Congress Committee at Hotel Baidyanath Bihar under the leadership of Nagar President Ravi Vatsri. Special observers appointed by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) and Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) were



present at the event. The meeting was led by chief observer and MLA from Indora (Himachal Pradesh), Malendra Rajan, along with state observers Ajay Dubey and Suren Ram. The observers held one-on-one discussions with party officials, leaders, and workers to assess the current state of the organization and gather opinions for the selection of a new district president. The observers emphasized that, under the direction of Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi, a nationwide campaign is underway to rebuild the party’s structure and reach every section of society with its ideology. In this context, the process of appointing a new district president in Deoghar is being carried out with transparency, unity, and ideological commitment. Prominent leaders including Dr. Akanksha, Dr. Munnam Sanjay, Prof. Uday Prakash, Dinesh Kumar Mandal, Vivek Mishra, Amit Pandey, Ravi Verma, Awadhesh Prajapati, Shabana Khatoon, Mahesh Mani Dwari, Ratnindra Nath Mishra, Kishore Thakur, Sudhir Dev, Vishal Vats, Ashutosh Parchan, Imtiaz Sheikh, Suman Pauddar and others participated and shared their views.

Major boost for technical education: ITI Ghumarwin to get new building, Rs 6 crore sanctioned

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, SEPT 13

In a significant stride towards strengthening technical education infrastructure, Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Ghumarwin is set to have its own state-of-the-art building. Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training Minister Rajesh Dharmani announced that the state government has approved an initial grant of Rs 6 crore for the project, with a total estimated cost of Rs 15 crore. The funds have been handed over to the



construction agency HIMUDA, and the remaining amount will be provided in phases. The minister made this announcement while addressing public grievances at the Public Works Department Rest House in Ghumarwin. He emphasized that once completed, the new ITI building will offer improved training facilities, equipping youth with practical skills essential for employment and self-reliance. Further bolstering the technical education framework in the region, Dharmani informed that land is being identified for the construction of a new building for Bharari ITI. He assured that once suitable land is finalized, a modern facility will be developed with adequate funding to extend quality technical education closer to students' homes. While interacting with the public, he instructed departmental officers to resolve all issues raised promptly, reiterating that quick redressal of public concerns remains a top priority of the state government.

YUGMARG
Punjab
CHANDIGARH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

11627 out of 13325 cases disposed of during National Lok Adalat in Faridkot, awards worth Rs 9.24 crore issued

FARIDKOT (SURINDER DAMDAMI): As per the guidelines of the Hon'ble National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi, National Lok Adalats were organized all over India today. In this context, following the guidelines of Justice Shri Ashwani Kumar Mishra, Hon'ble Judge Punjab and Haryana High Court and Executive Chairman Punjab State Legal Services Authority Mohali, under the guidance of Shri Dinesh Kumar Wadhwa, Hon'ble Incharge District and Sessions Judge, Faridkot, National Lok Adalat was organized in the courts of the district by Miss Gurpreet Kaur, Chief Judicial Magistrate and Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Faridkot.



NEWS BRIEF

Techfeast 2025 at SLIET Longowal



RAVI GARG
LONGOWAL : As part of the ongoing Techfeast 2025 celebrations, a Fun Cricket Match between the Faculty and Students of SLIET Longowal was organized on September 12, 2025, at the institute's playground. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Manikant Paswan, Director of SLIET, who encouraged both teams with his motivating words and emphasized the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and healthy interaction between faculty and students.
The match saw enthusiastic participation from both sides, drawing cheers and excitement from the audience. It provided a refreshing break from academic routine and showcased the vibrant campus spirit that Techfeast aims to promote.

Prof. Rommy Garg assumes charge as DDO of Government Mohindra College, Patiala



RAKESH JINDAL
PATIALA: The faculty and staff of Government Mohindra College, Patiala, extended a warm and hearty welcome to Prof. Rommy Garg, who assumed charge today as Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) of the college. Prof. Garg, who was serving as Principal of Government College, Sangrur for the past five months, returns to Mohindra College with which she shares her longest professional association. She earlier served as Head of the Department of Botany at the college before her elevation as Principal. The College Council and the Staff Secretary accorded her a rich floral welcome, marking the occasion with warmth and respect. Speaking on the moment, members of the college community expressed their delight at her return, acknowledging her long-standing contribution and deep-rooted connection with the institution.

Dr. Baljit Kaur visits flood-hit Fazilka villages, announces relief measures

FAZILKA, SEPT 13



Punjab's Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister, Dr. Baljit Kaur, visited nearly 20 border villages, including Ram Singh Bhaini in Fazilka district, today to assess flood damage and interact with affected residents.

She assured villagers that, following Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's directions, even farmers with 'kacchi' (unregistered) lands would receive compensation — a historic and unprecedented decision. Dr. Kaur said the district administration has already started special girdawari (damage assessment) work on a priority basis. Demonstrating personal commitment, Dr. Kaur announced a contribution of ?2 lakh to the relief fund to support families immediately. "Our foremost aim is to deliver timely relief to every affected household. We stand firmly with our brothers and sisters in this hour of crisis and will continue efforts until normalcy is restored," she said. She also highlighted restoration measures, noting that repair work on damaged roads and infrastructure has begun and transportation facilities will soon be restored. Relief material distribution, medical camps, and preventive health measures against water-borne diseases are already underway under government supervision. MLA Narinder Pal Singh Sawna added that temporary road repairs are in progress, with permanent upgrades planned in consultation with local residents.

Barinder Kumar Goyal appeals to Governor Gulab Chand Kataria for solution to widening of Ghaggar river





GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA
LEHRAGAGA, SEPT 13

Punjab Cabinet Minister Mr. Barinder Kumar Goyal, during the visit of Punjab Governor Mr. Gulab Chand Kataria to Makraud Sahib today, highlighted the potential flood threat arising from the restrictions on widening the Ghaggar River in Punjab—from Makraud Sahib to Karel—due to Haryana's petition in the Supreme Court and objections raised before the Ghaggar Standing Committee. He appealed for an early resolution of this issue.On the occasion, Governor Mr. Kataria assured that a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana would be convened to resolve the Ghaggar problem, since both states are affected by the river's impact.

Speaking to the media, the Cabinet Minister said that he had requested the Governor's intervention so that Punjab is allowed to widen the river in its territory, while Haryana should channelize it in its area. He added that Rajasthan has already constructed large reservoirs to collect the river's water. The permanent solution to the problem would provide great relief to the people of both Punjab and Haryana.The Minister further stated that, for the first time in history, the Ghaggar River has been flowing above the danger mark for 12 consecutive days. However, owing to the strengthening of embankments by the Punjab Government in 2023, together with the support of the district administration and local residents, the river has not caused damage in Sangrur district.

Crop loss surveys for flood victims to be fair and prompt : Dr. Raj Kumar



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): In recent times, people and farmers across several districts of Punjab have suffered heavy human, financial, and crop losses due to floods. To provide immediate relief to the affected families, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has framed a concrete plan. Under this, compensation of ?20,000 per acre will be given for crop losses in villages, along with surveys to assess other financial damages for which compensation will also be provided. The Chief Minister has directed that surveys and assessments must be completed within 40 days and reports submitted.

MP Dr. Raj Kumar today discussed the matter with concerned Deputy Commissioners, urging them to implement the CM's directions without delay. He also asked Hoshiarpur Deputy Commissioner Aashika Jain to issue strict instructions to officials for conducting completely fair and fast-track surveys in the district. On this occasion, Dr. Raj Kumar informed that he has already released ?50 lakh from his own funds for the repair of Dhussi Dam in Mukerian and Kukkadán Dam in Chabbewal.

Paramedical health worker Faridkot delegation meet Civil Surgeon regarding their demands



SURINDER DAMDAMI
FARIDKOT, SEPT 13

A delegation of Coordination Committee Paramedical Health Workers met Civil Surgeon Faridkot Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kakkar, led by District President of Paramedical Union Sunil Singla, regarding the demands. During this, discussions were held regarding the problems of paramedical workers of Faridkot district. Such as making GPF statements of employees online, making annual promotions on time, salary of NHM employees on time, passing TA DA bills of grade four employees on time and distributing the duties of employees to carry Chandigarh mail and assigning them according to shifts, providing uniforms to drivers and grade four employees on time, paying salaries to outsourced employees on time and ensuring EPF deductions as per rules, etc. Discussions were held on this occasion. Civil Surgeon Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kakkar.

Jagadguru Ramab-hadracharya Ji Blessed National Executive President Gill

VERMA
GURDASPUR, SEPT 13



Paramjit Singh Gill, the National Executive President of the Himalaya Parivar Organization, today received the blessings of the spiritual Jagadguru Ramab-hadracharya Ji. On this occasion, National Executive President Paramjit Singh Gill said that today he was fortunate to be in the holy presence of Jagadguru Ramabhadracharya Ji Maharaj and to receive his blessings. Gill said that Guru Ji's words, thoughts, and divine presence deeply touch the soul. He added that the life of Jagadguru Ji is a unique confluence of devotion, knowledge, and national service.

Dr. Amanpreet Kaur Randhawa assumes charge as Head of Journalism at Punjabi University



SAMRALA (SURJIT SINGH): Dr. Amanpreet Kaur Randhawa has assumed charge as the Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Punjabi University. Dr. Randhawa began his services in this department as an Assistant Professor in 2022. Prior to this, she also served as a teacher and in-charge at the Center for Advanced Media Studies of Punjabi University.

Dr. Randhawa has actively participated in national and international conferences and is actively associated with prestigious international organizations such as the International Communication Association, International Association for Mass Communication Research, Journalists and Writers Foundation, and the International Academic Forum.

On the occasion of her assuming charge, besides Dean, Faculty of Education and Information Science Prof. Pushpinder Kaur, faculty members Dr. Happy J.J. and Dr. Nancy Davinder Kaur were also present.

Spl expert lecture on AI-Powered cybersecurity organized at IET Bhaddal Technical Campus



RUPNAGAR (BAHADURJEET SINGH) : The Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IET Bhaddal Technical Campus, in collaboration with TechLive, Mohali, organized a special expert lecture on AI-Powered Cybersecurity. The keynote speaker of the lecture was Mr. Navneet Singh, Marketing Head at TechLive, Mohali. He provided detailed insights to students and faculty members about the role of Artificial Intelligence in the field of cybersecurity, its latest trends, and future challenges. He explained how AI-powered innovative technologies and security systems are proving to be milestones in preventing cybercrimes. He further stated that cybercrimes are increasing rapidly worldwide and in this context, Artificial Intelligence is emerging as a powerful tool. In particular, he highlighted the importance of Machine Learning, Predictive Analytics and Real-time Monitoring Systems. On this occasion, Dr. S. S. Bindra, Registrar-cum-Director of the Campus said that such lectures inspire innovation and take academic research to the next level. While motivating the students, he urged them to take interest in new technologies and develop their skills in the field of cybersecurity, as in the future, there will be maximum job opportunities in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity.

Two students of Mata Gujri Public Senior Secondary School, Dhanaula win district level boxing championship



BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA DEHATI SEPT 13

Two students of Mata Gujri Public Senior Secondary School, Dhanaula have brought glory to the school and the region by winning the first position at the district level in boxing competitions.

Khushpreet Kaur won the gold medal in the 52 kg weight category under 17 years and Gurman Kaur won the gold medal in the 80 kg weight category. These district level games were organized at Gobind International School, Bhador. These competitions were recently held during the District Boxing Championship. The school principal Varundeep Kaur said that the children have achieved this success by following the advice of the coach, hard work, discipline and encouragement. He encouraged the children to prove their abilities at the state and national levels in the future. School Management Board Chairman Bikramjit Singh Walia and staff also congratulated both the students and thanked their parents for encouraging their children towards sports. Giving this information, Avtar Singh Gogi Bhattal of the school said that children should achieve a leading position in sports along with education.

Cadet Swastik Sharma brings National glory to Partap World School Pathankot





VERMA
GURDASPUR, SEPT 13

Partap World School, Pathankot, proudly announces the outstanding achievement of Cadet Swastik Sharma, who successfully completed the prestigious All India Thal Sainik Camp (TSC). Demonstrating remarkable skill and determination, Swastik maintained his record timing of 23 seconds in Obstacle Training (OT)—a testament to his consistent performance and relentless dedication.

Adding to the pride, the NCC Directorate team (Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh) secured the 1st position in the overall national ranking, excelling in various competitions such as Map Reading, Health & Hygiene, Obstacle Training, Line Area, and Tent Pitching. This landmark achievement not only highlights the talent and discipline of PWS cadets but also underscores the school's commitment to instilling values of resilience, leadership, and national pride in its students. Speaking on this proud occasion, Mr. Sunny Mahajan, Director of Partap World School, said: "Swastik's performance at the All India Thal Sainik Camp is a shining example of how hard work and discipline lead to success. His achievement has brought great pride to the school and the entire region." Ms. Oshin Mahajan, Director, shared her thoughts: "This success is a reflection of the holistic education and training environment we provide at PWS.

Holy Heart students win gold medals

BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA DEHATI, SEPT 13



The students of G. Holy Heart Public School, Mehal Kalan, brought glory to the school by performing brilliantly in the district level cricket and karate competitions.

This proud moment was possible due to the constant encouragement and guidance of Managing Director Mr. Sushil Goyal.

In cricket, our U-19 girls team won the gold medal, while the U-17 and U-14 girls teams won silver medals. Many players have also been selected for the state level, which is an unprecedented success for the school. The credit for this wonderful achievement goes to the dedication, hard work and encouragement given to the players by Coach Mrs. Mukko Kaur.

In karate too, our students performed brilliantly and won 2 silver medals and 1 bronze medal. The credit for their success goes to the dedication and training of Karate Coach Shri Gobind. These successes show that our school is not only academic but also a leader in co-curricular activities.

The school family congratulated all the students.

His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Grants Audience to Ahmadi Muslim Youth from USA's North East Region



GURDASPUR (VERMA): On September 6, 2025, His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, held a virtual meeting with members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association from the USA's North East Region. During the session, he offered guidance on several key issues. His Holiness advised the youth to always respect and obey their parents, except in matters that contradict Islamic teachings. He affirmed that new interpretations of the Holy Qur'an can emerge, especially in light of scientific discoveries, but that the Khalifa's approval should be sought before publicizing them. On the topic of forgiveness, he explained that true forgiveness involves cleansing one's heart, showing kindness through actions like giving gifts, and praying for both oneself and the other person.

NSS Volunteers of RR Bawa DAV College for Girls, Batala organized Literacy Drive on the World Literacy Day

VERMA
BATALA, SEPT 13



Under the patronage of Dr. Ekta Khosla, Principal, RR Bawa DAV College for Girls, Batala and under the able guidance of Mr. Pankaj Kumar (NSS Coordinator) and Mrs. Naiya Mahajan (NSS Co-coordinator) aLiteracy Survey Drive was organized by the NSS Volunteers to highlight the importance of education and to assess literacy levels in nearby areas. The team ofNSS volunteers and faculty members visited neighbouring localities and collected data on the reading and writing skills of residents. The survey focused on identifying households with school-age children not attending school and adults who require basic literacy support. At this juncture, the NSS Volunteers interacted with villagers and explained various government schemes and policies for adult education and encouraged them to enrol their children in the schools. Principal Dr.Ekta Khosla appreciated the efforts of the volunteers and said that "true celebration of World Literacy Day lies in taking action to reduce illiteracy and empower every individual through education.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
PAGE 7

21,675 cases settled in National Lok Adalat at Hoshiarpur

HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): In the third National Lok Adalat of the year, organized by the District Legal Services Authority under the directions of the Punjab State Legal Services Authority, a total of 21,675 cases were resolved on the spot in Hoshiarpur district. The Lok Adalat, held under the leadership of District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman Rajinder Aggarwal, took up matters including cheque bounce cases under NI Act, bank recovery disputes, labor matters, motor accident claims, domestic disputes, electricity and water bill cases, matrimonial disputes, traffic challans, revenue cases, and several civil and minor criminal matters.



NEWS BRIEF

Amount announced by PM for flood victims is just joke with Punjab: Sippy Bhakar



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA RAMPURA PHUL: The people of the state had high hopes from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab regarding the floods. The amount announced by the Prime Minister to the flood-affected areas is just a joke with the people of Punjab. These things were expressed by Aam Aadmi Party Maur constituency senior leader Sippy Bhakar. The entire Punjab government, the whole of Punjab was asking the Prime Minister for a package of 20 thousand crores for the flood victims alone, but the announcement has been made for only 1600 crores, while it is also clear that the loss of Punjab has been huge, which will not be completed even in 20 thousand crores. He said that once again it has been proven that the Aam Aadmi Party government of Punjab is the real heir of the people. He said that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has announced a compensation of Rs 20,000 per acre to the farmers, along with which the sand policy of the field has been approved.

Healthy diet protects against many diseases: Dr. Sanmeet Singh



JS GILL
JAITU: Under the orders of Civil Surgeon Faridkat Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kakkar and under the directions of Acting Senior Medical Officer of Health Block Bajakhana Dr. Virender Kumar, a health awareness program was organized at Vander Jatana by the Block National Child Health Programme (RBSK) team and Block Extension Teachers. Bajakhana AMO Dr. Sanmeet Singh said that if the child is given nutritional bhajan from childhood, then the child's health is good and the ability to fight diseases is also more than normal children and such children are very rarely victims of diseases.

Harjot Bains demands central support for channelisation of Sarsa & Swan rivers to prevent future catastrophes

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, SEPT 13



Punjab Education and Information & Public Relations Minister S. Harjot Singh Bains, today urged the Union Government for immediate and substantial support to mitigate the recurring flood devastation in the state, specifically calling for the channelization of the Sarsa and Swan rivers.

In a video message, S. Harjot Singh Bains warmly welcomed Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Information & Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan, who came to visit the flood-ravaged areas of the Rupnagar district today, while demanding a permanent solution of the recurring flood problem by the channelising of the Sarsa and Swan rivers, a critical project to prevent future catastrophes.

He sought the Union Minister's proactive support in securing the necessary approvals and funding from the Central Government for this vital infrastructure.

Bains urged Punjab's BJP leaders to ensure the Union Minister witnesses the true scale of destruction firsthand.

"I appeal to them to take Dr. Murugan not just to the main sites, but to villages Khera Kalmot, Bellas, and other severely affected areas, where the poor have lost their meagre belongings. Let him see the reality beyond the formal briefings," he stated in a video message. S. Bains also criticized the relief measures, declaring the Rs 1600 crore relief package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "grossly inadequate" against damages amounting to thousands of crores. He highlighted that the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms render the compensation a "mockery of the suffering." "The compensation of Rs 6,500 for a partially damaged pucca house and Rs 2,500 for destroyed household essentials is an insult. Can a home be rebuilt with this sum? Is this what our nation offers to those who feed it?" S. Bains questioned. He further challenged the Union Minister to accompany him to the fields of Hariwal and Chandpur Bella to ask farmers if the Rs 6,800 per acre compensation even covers the diesel cost required to clear their ruined crops.

Kharar Council President meets with Local Government Secretary regarding non-approval of pending work from previous meetings



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, SEPT 13

Kharar Municipal Council President Mrs. Anju Chander yesterday met with the Principal Secretary of the Local Government Department along with some of other counselors to get the pending works from previous meetings passed and to discuss some serious issues of the city. She informed the Secretary that the development of the entire city is stalled due to non-approval of work.

She said that all the councilors get the work passed in the house meeting according to the needs of their respective wards, but until the work is approved from above, tenders cannot be floated. She requested the officer to get the work passed soon keeping in mind the problems faced by the public. Meanwhile, the Municipal Council President has also appealed to those people who are unnecessarily obstructing the city's work and baking their political bread.

She advised such people not to do so, saying that it is the responsibility of all of them to do the work of the city.

AICTE-VANI sponsored Two-Day workshop successfully organized at Baba Farid College of Engineering and Technology, Bathinda

ANANTDEEP KAUR
BATHINDA, SEPT 13



Baba Farid College of Engineering and Technology (BFCET), Bathinda, successfully organized a two-day AICTE-VANI sponsored workshop on "Preliminary Diagnosis of Cancer with Medical Imaging through AI and Deep Learning" on September 11-12.

The workshop aimed at promoting the use of advanced technologies and research in the field of healthcare.More than 60 participants, including professors, Ph.D. scholars, M.Tech. students, and researchers, actively took part in the event organized by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BFCET.The programme commenced with an inaugural ceremony graced by Dr. Jyoti Bansal, Principal, BFCET, as the Chief Guest. In her address, Dr. Bansal emphasized the importance of such workshops in shaping future research and education in the healthcare sector.Dr. Harjit Singh, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, extended a warm welcome and highlighted the role of Faculty Development Programs (FDPs) and AI-based education in connecting technological research with societal applications.

The inaugural session was followed by a keynote address from Dr. Amandeep Kaur, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Technology, Central University of Punjab.

Council President starts work of installing a new Tubewell in Ward No. 16



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, SEPT 13

Kharar Municipal Council President Mrs. Anju Chander started the work of a new Tubewell in Sant Majra Colony, which falls under Ward No. 16 of the council. In this regard, she said that this work will cost about 47.89 lakhs. She said that there was a severe shortage of water in this area. She said that this Tubewell will be operational soon and will be able to meet the water requirement in this area. On this occasion, JE Jung Bahadur, Supervisor Harjinder Singh and ward residents were present.

Guru Kashi University hosts Two-Day International conference on Artificial Intelligence



ANIL VERMA
BATHINDA, SEPT 13

Guru Kashi University's Faculty of Engineering & Technology, under the patronage of Chancellor S. Gurlabh Singh Sidhu, in collaboration with the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), New Delhi, inaugurated a two-day International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Computer & Electrical Engineering (IACE-2025). The conference aimed to explore how Artificial Intelligence can simplify human life, address emerging challenges, and provide innovative solutions for a sustainable future. The event was held under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Rameshwar Singh, with Dr. Ajay Kararha, Chief General Manager, BSNL, as the Chief Guest. Prominent attendees included S. Sukhwinder Singh Sidhu, General Secretary, Dr. Piyush Verma, Registrar, Dr. R.P. Saharan, Dean Academics, Prof. (Dr.) R.C. Bansal, University of Sharjah, Dr. Karunesh Arora, Director, C-DAC, New Delhi, Dr. SumantoKar, IIT Bombay, Dr. Tanveer Singh, President's Awardee and, Dr. Labh Singh who participated as keynote speakers.In his address, Dr. Kararha highlighted BSNL's initiatives in leveraging Artificial Intelligence to enhance customer services.

Life-saving initiative: 126 blood units collected in Morinda



MORINDA (SANJEEV TEJPAL): A Blood Donation, Organ Donation and Eye Donation camp was organised today at Gurdwara Kotwali Sahib, Morinda by Rotary Club Morinda and Senior Citizens' Council Morinda in the memory of former Rotarian Surinderjit Kaur Bhatia. The camp, which began at 9:00 AM and continued till 1:30 PM, was inaugurated by Baba Surinder Singh of Kar Sewa, Delhi.

The camp was conducted under the supervision of a team of doctors from PGI Chandigarh. Sharing details, Dr Nirmal Dhiman informed that blood was collected from 126 donors, while 50 volunteers pledged organ donation and 36 pledged eye donations. The event saw enthusiastic participation of the local community and was marked by the presence of several dignitaries including Yashu Sood, President Rotary Club Morinda; Manjeet Singh, Director; Amarjeet Singh Kang, President Senior Citizens' Council Morinda; Gurdev Singh, Secretary; Parmatma Singh; Haripal, former President Nagar Council Morinda; Baljinder Singh; Councillor Rajpreet Singh Raji and others.

National Lok Adalat resolves over 52,000 cases in Jalandhar district



JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH): As per the directions of the National Legal Services Authority and Punjab State Legal Services Authority, and under the guidance of Mr. Nirbhow Singh Gill, Ld. District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jalandhar, the National Lok Adalat was held today at Judicial Court Complexes in Jalandhar, Phillaur, and Nakodar.

All categories of cases, including civil, matrimonial, MACT, compoundable criminal matters, traffic challans, pre-litigative disputes of banks, financial institutions, BSNL, PSPCL, and revenue-related cases were taken up in the Lok Adalat. Sharing details, Mr. Nirbhow Singh Gill informed that 26 benches were constituted across Jalandhar, Phillaur, and Nakodar. A total of 53,083 cases were taken up, out of which 52,238 were successfully disposed of through compromise, resulting in settlement awards worth Rs.130.18 crore. Both Mr. Gill and Mr. Rahul Kumar, Ld. CJM-cum-Secretary, DLSA Jalandhar, inspected the benches in Jalandhar during the proceedings. Emphasizing the significance of such forums, the Chairman DLSA stated that Lok Adalats provide speedy justice as decisions are based on mutual compromise, are final, and cannot be appealed.

India Dev Council celebrates foundation day, 20 new members take oath



PARDEEP MEHTA
NILOKHERI, SEPT 13

The Nilokheri branch of the India Development Council celebrated its foundation day today. The program began with a havan ceremony and included the oath-taking of newly appointed office bearers and around 20 new members. Under the Council's ongoing initiative "Guru Vandan Chhatra Abhinandan," meritorious students and teachers from various city schools were also honored. Kapil Atreja, member of the Haryana Staff Selection Commission, attended as the chief guest, while Satnam Singh Ahuja, representative of the Nilokheri Municipal Chairman, was present as the special guest. Provincial President Kapil Gupta congratulated the branch on completing six years and elaborated on the council's work and its mission to cultivate a culturally rich society committed to national service. Provincial Vice-President Narendra Rana administered the oath to the new office bearers and members.

The newly appointed office bearers include Ajay Sharma as President, Ashish Sindwani as Secretary, Arjun Muniyal as Treasurer, Rita Gupta as Women and Child Coordinator, Balkar Saini as Coordinator of Liaison, Rajeev Kataria as Coordinator of Values, Gyan Prakash as Coordinator of Service.

The Unirise World School team wins bronze In tug of war at District Level Games



JAGRAON (SUKH NAHAR): The Unirise World School performed excellently in 69th District Level Punjab School Games 2025-26 as they clinched the Bronze Medal. The school expressed its happiness on success of the student and mentioned that this remarkable achievement is a testament to the team's unwavering dedication, unrelenting teamwork, and sheer strength. The school management sharing their delightedness mentioned that the school's commitment to nurturing the overall development of our students is reflected in this outstanding achievement. "By promoting sports alongside academics, we empower our students to explore their passions and talents. The Tug of War team's bronze medal win is a shining example of this philosophy in action," they mentioned. They also applauded the Sports Department, whose guidance and expertise have played a pivotal role in shaping the team's success. The school's Chairman, Rakesh Aggarwal, Managing Director, Shifu Aggarwal, Director, Dr. Pallavi Aggarwal, and Principal, Neha Rattan, extend their warmest congratulations to the entire Tug of War team on this remarkable achievement.

3 Indian athletes win medals at 'Astana 2025 World Badminton Challenger' in Kazakhstan

JS GILL
JAITU, SEPT 13



3 Indian athletes brought glory to India by winning international medals at the "Astana 2025 World Paralympic Challenger" in Kazakhstan. Paralympic Federation of India President Jaspreet Singh Dhaliwal and Media Incharge Pramad Dhir informed the press that the "Astana 2025 World Paralympic Challenger" championship was held in Kazakhstan. Paralympic athletes from different countries participated in it. A total of 7 players from India participated in this championship, namely Anjali Devi (Category BC-3), Ajay Raj (BC-3), Raghav Mishra (BC-3), Paidiramu (Category BC-4), Pooja Gupta (BC-4), Vyom Pava (Category BC-2), Bharat Chettri (BC-2). Paidiramu (BC-4) who belongs to Karnataka State secured third position in BC-4 Men's category and Anjali Devi (BC-3), Ajay Raj (BC-3) under the guidance of Basia India Chairman Ashok Bedi, International Referee Jaspreet Singh Dhaliwal, General Secretary Shaminder Singh Dhillon, Kach Garpreet Dhaliwal and Kach Jasinder Dhillon won three bronze medals and once again made Basia India and the country proud. All these players were congratulated by Kach Davinder Singh Taffy Brar, Suba Singh Brar, Dr. Ramandeep Singh, Amandeep Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Sukhjinder Singh, Jaswant Singh etc.

Inter-state narco syndicate busted

CHANDIGARH : In a major breakthrough, the Police Station ANTF, Chandigarh of UT Chandigarh has succeeded in busting an interstate Narco Drug Smuggling syndicate. The case was cracked under the leadership of Sh. Jasbir Singh, (SP-Crime, Chandigarh), with the Supervision of Sh. Dhiraj Kumar, DSP-Crime, and led by Insp. Harminderjit Singh, SHO, Police Station-ANTF Sector 11, Chandigarh. Operation: -On 08.09.08.2025, ASI Rohtas Singh 2083/CHG, alongwith police party while performing the patrolling duty for collecting the NDPS related information in the area of Chandigarh. At around 1:50 Am they received a secret information that some boys in a car number CHO1CB-2819 would be coming from Himachal Pradesh to Chandigarh to sell drugs. Acting upon this information, when the police party reached New Barricate chowk Chandigarh, number CHO1CB-2819 was seen coming and at around 03:15 AM, the said car was stopped by the police party and apprehended Gaurav Kumar S/o Shamsher Singh R/o House No.817, Sector-7/B, UT, Chandigarh, age -35 years, Ajay S/o Laxman R/o House NO.12, Adarsh Nagar, Naya Gaon Mohali PB, age-25, Abhishek S/o Gurmukh Singh R/o House No. 1923, Safeda, Colony, Naya Gaon Mohali PB, age-23.



Art of living team conducts 'Happiness program' in Jagraon

SUKH NAHAR
JAGRAON, SEPT 13

The Art of Living team in Jagraon successfully conducted the Happiness Program with great enthusiasm and energy at the premises of A.P. Refinery Meditation Hall and Lions Mid Town, Kacha Qila, Jagraon. The sessions were held in the presence of volunteers from the organization and several participants. More than 35 participants attended the life-enriching program and took a pledge to move towards a stress-free, healthy, and joyful lifestyle. The program was led by Art of Living trainers Amit Sharma, Rajesh Kumar, and Mohit Aggarwal. Volunteers Tamanna, Vandana.

Youth Club dangar Khera extends relief efforts in Fazilka for 13th Consecutive Day



ABOHAR: Punjab is facing devastating floods for the second time in three years, leaving widespread destruction in its wake. Hundreds of families across the Fazilka district remain stranded without access to basic necessities, while livestock too is suffering from the lack of fodder and shelter. In response, government agencies, local administration, and social organizations have mobilized to provide relief. Among the most consistent contributors has been the Youth Club Dangar Khera, which has been actively engaged in relief work for 13 straight days. The club, based in the village of Dangar Khera in the Balluana assembly constituency, has been distributing both food rations for families and fodder for animals in some of the worst-affected areas. With the support of local villagers, members of the Youth Club have managed to supply 501 ration kits door-to-door in villages including Gati Number 1, Mahtam Nagar, Muhar Jamshher, Burj Mahima, Ram Singh Bheni, and Sabuuana.

Zee TV artists share stories and emotions this Hindi Diwas



CHANDIGARH: India is a land of diversity, filled with different languages, cuisines, and traditions. Amidst this vibrant tapestry, Hindi stands out as the most widely spoken language of the country. Beyond being a mode of communication, it carries culture, emotions, and stories that connect generations. For Zee TV artists, Hindi is not just the language of their profession, but a thread that binds their memories, emotions, and artistic journeys together. On the occasion of Hindi Diwas, Zee TV actors Ayushi Khurana from Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, Mohak Matkar from Saru, Vandana Pathak from Tumm Se Tumm Tak, Aarya Babbar from Jagriti-Ek Nayi Subah and Abhishek Sharrma from Vasudha open their hearts to share what Hindi truly means to them.

Ayushi Khurana, who essays the role of Reet in Zee TV's Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, said, "Hindi Diwas is a reminder of all the little joys this language has given me. I still remember creating small plays in Hindi with my cousins during summer vacations, where we laughed, improvised, and discovered the magic of stories. Those moments taught me how Hindi can bring people together. Even today, acting in Hindi allows me to relive that creativity and connect deeply with viewers. For me, I celebrate a language that continues to inspire, unite, and tell stories that stay with us forever."

Mohak Matkar, who essays the role of Saru in Zee TV's Saru, said, "Hindi Diwas is a special day to celebrate a language that has always fascinated me. I remember the first time I watched a Hindi TV show and tried to understand every dialogue, the language was new for me since it's not my mother tongue. I would pause, rewind, and repeat lines just to get them right. It was challenging, exciting, and somehow fun to see how words could carry so much emotion. Over time, learning Hindi became more than just understanding a language; it became a way to connect with stories and characters. Every time I speak Hindi on screen, I get to share that magic with audiences everywhere, and on Hindi Diwas, I celebrate the charm of this incredible language."

Aarya Babbar, who essays the role of Kalikant in Zee TV's Jagriti-Ek Nayi Subah, said, "Hindi Diwas holds a very special place in my heart because as an actor, Hindi has given me my identity. Every dialogue I deliver, every emotion I portray, finds its true essence in this language. Hindi is not just about words; it carries the rhythm of our culture, the depth of our stories, and the soul of Indian cinema. I feel fortunate that my profession allows me to live so many characters and touch so many hearts through Hindi. I always prefer my script to be in Devnagri (hindi) as it helps me connect with the real emotions of my character. On this day, I want to encourage everyone to take pride in speaking and preserving our language, because Hindi is not just a medium of expression, it's the bond that unites us all as Indians."

Vandana Pathak, who essays the role of Gayatri Devi in Zee TV's Tumm Se Tumm Tak, said, "Hindi Diwas is a reminder of the language that has shaped my identity and art. As an actor, I feel truly blessed that Hindi has given me the medium to bring characters to life and connect with audiences in the most heartfelt way. Every emotion, be it joy, pain, laughter, or love, finds a deeper resonance when expressed in Hindi. It is not just a language; it is the medium that connects us with each other. On this day, I feel proud to celebrate Hindi and I hope that we all continue to speak it with pride, nurture its beauty, and pass it on to future generations with the same love and respect like we give to other languages of our country or to our mother tongue."

Abhishek Sharrma, who essays the role of Devansh in Zee TV's Vasudha, said, "For me, Hindi has always been the most natural way of expressing myself. From school assignments to conversations at home, it has been a constant companion in my life. What amazes me today is how Hindi has grown beyond India, whether it's people learning the language in schools abroad or enjoying our films and shows with subtitles, the reach is truly global. As an actor, it makes me proud to know that when I perform in Hindi, I am part of a culture that is traveling across borders and touching new audiences. On Hindi Diwas, I celebrate not just the language that shaped my identity but also its growing importance in connecting India with the world."

Godrej aer launches aer Plug – India's most affordable electric room freshener at just Rs. 2.5 per day usage cost

CHANDIGARH : Godrej aer, India's No. 1 fragrance brand from the house of Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), is redefining the air care category with the launch of its premium innovation – Godrej aer Plug. Touted as India's most affordable electric room freshener, aer plug delivers a premium fragrance experience at just ₹2.5 per day.

Priced at only ₹149, the device features smart heater technology that ensures continuous fragrance for up to 60 days. Designed by Disco – GCPL's multi-disciplinary in-house design studio – aer plug comes in a sleek, modern design crafted to complement contemporary homes and office interiors. The launch comes as India's ₹3,000 crore air freshener market is projected to double in the next five years. While electric diffusers are widely popular globally, their higher price points have limited adoption in India, where sprays continue to dominate with a market size of ₹ 1000 crores. Godrej aer Plug bridges this gap by combining affordability, premium fragrance, continuous diffusion, and elegant design, making electric room fresheners accessible to every household.

Commenting on this innovation, Shilpa Suresh, Head of Marketing – Home Care, GCPL, said, "Innovation is integral to our culture at GCPL, and our Godrej aer portfolio is a reflection of this. With consumers increasingly seeking premium fragrance experiences across homes, offices, and cars, we have continuously introduced best-in-class products — from aer sprays to aer matic and aer o. The new aer plug addresses the large price gap between sprays and electric diffusers, offering premium fragrance at an accessible cost. While automatic electric spray diffuser starter kits are available at over ₹ 550, aer Plug starter kit is priced at only ₹ 149, and lasts up to 60 days.

Sheizaan Khan Makes A Hero Wali Entry in Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan as Siddhu



CHANDIGARH: Having narrated several powerful stories over the years, Zee TV continues to present shows that celebrate resilience, strength, and emotional truth. In line with its refreshed brand promise, Aapka Apna Zee TV, the channel is set to launch its upcoming fiction drama Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan. Featuring Shubhangi Latkar in the powerful role of Ganga Mai, the show captures the inspiring journey of a woman abandoned by her husband for not bearing a son, who chooses to raise her three daughters with strength, dignity, and compassion. Sheizaan Khan is all set to take up the role of Siddhant aka Siddhu as he joins the ensemble cast of Srishti Jain (as Sahana), Amandeep Sidhu (as Sneha), Vaishnavi Prajapati as Soni.

Siddhu, a rowdy boy from Banaras, may appear rough and intimidating, but he has a heart of gold hidden beneath that exterior. He worships his mother, treating her every wish as sacred. Though not formally educated, his wealth and role in his mother's moneylending business give him a powerful reputation—one that makes wrongdoers fear him. In truth, Siddhu is guided by empathy and fairness. His life takes a turn when he falls in love at first sight with Sneha (Amandeep Sidhu), a bold yet kind-hearted woman whose spirit reminds him of the very strength and compassion he admires in his mother.

Speaking about his new role, Sheizaan shared, "I'm absolutely thrilled to be back on Zee TV, it truly feels like a homecoming for me because this is where I began my journey with Jodha Akbar. Playing Siddhu in Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan has been a beautiful and challenging experience.

Volkswagen India extends complete GST 2.0 price benefits across its model range

CHANDIGARH : Volkswagen India today announced the extension of complete GST rate reduction benefit to its customers across its entire model range. The new pricing will be effective from September 22, 2025.

Model GST Reduction Benefit (INR)
Virtus* Up to 66,900, Taigun* Up to 68,400
Tiguan R-Line* Up to 3,26,900
*Select variants

For exact pricing details and specific benefits on your preferred model, please contact your nearest authorized Volkswagen showroom. Additionally, customers can also avail added benefits ranging from a maximum of INR 1.61 Lacs up to INR 3 Lacs on select models of Taigun, Virtus and Tiguan R-Line, respectively.

From 2014 to 2025: A decade of love, drama and emotions, Kumkum Bhagya ends its 11-year journey



CHANDIGARH: Zee TV's Kumkum Bhagya began its remarkable journey in 2014 and, from the very first episode, grew to be more than just a show. It became a part of our homes and our hearts, a trusted companion for millions across the country, bringing joy, comfort, and togetherness. With every episode, touching storyline, unexpected twist, and heartfelt moment, viewers laughed, cried, and dreamed alongside its beloved characters, rarely missing a chance to tune in.

Year after year, with unwavering love, support, and a fanbase that spanned generations, Kumkum Bhagya transformed into a true household favourite. Now, after 11 unforgettable years, countless cherished memories, and evenings spent uniting families in front of the TV, the time has come to bid a heartfelt farewell, closing a chapter that will forever hold a special place in the golden history of Indian television. While its captivating storylines kept audiences hooked, it was the actors who poured their heart and soul into every frame, making the journey truly unforgettable. The show welcomed millions of viewers into a world where its characters felt like family and its stars became part of our everyday lives. From the timeless magic of Sriti Jha and Shabbir Ahluwalia, whose portrayal of Abhishek Prem Mehra and Pragya defined an era of television romance, to Krishna Kaul as Ranbir Kohli and Mugdha Chaphekar as Prachi Arora, to Abrar Qazi as Rajvansh Malhotra (RV) and Rachi Sharma as Poorvi Kohli, and finally the fresh charm and heartfelt performances of Pranali Rathod and Namik Paul in its most recent chapters, each generation of actors left behind moments that will be treasured forever. Sharing her thoughts on her journey as Prarthana, the gorgeous and talented Pranali Rathod shared, "Being part of a show that has carried such a rich legacy on Indian television for over a decade has truly been a blessing.

KFC India levels up on protein with the all new chatpata chana burger

CHANDIGARH : KFC + Chana?! If you're wondering what that equation means, you're in for a surprise. It's the 2025 plot twist no one predicted or saw coming. Introducing KFC's all-new protein patty burger – the Chatapata Chana. As India's first Chana burger priced at an unbelievable INR 69/-, it's made with a chana patty and seasoned with a medley of Indian herbs & spices. At the heart of the all-new menu offering is the crispy, golden, protein patty, topped with crunchy onions, a creamy tangy sauce, eggless mayonnaise and a wholesome seeded bun. The Chatpata Chana burger reflects KFC's commitment to menu innovation while bringing smarter indulgence options for consumers, all without compromising on the finger lickin' good taste the brand is known for. With today's consumers increasingly seeking options that balance taste and nutrition, the Chatpata Chana Burger is KFC India's answer to evolving food choices – a protein patty burger loaded with flavor. Excited about KFC's latest drop, Aparna Bhawal, CMO, KFC India & Partner Countries said, "The consumer is at the heart of everything we do, and today's consumer wants it all – food that's droolworthy, Insta-worthy and still enables them to make wholesome choices. That's exactly what our all-new Chatpata Chana burger delivers. It's India's first Chana burger at INR 69/- an offering you didn't expect from KFC, at a price point you didn't see coming. The Chatpata Chana burger has got a protein patty, is deliciously crunchy and guaranteed to floor even the most hardcore chicken loyalists. We know 'Veg at KFC' sounds almost unbelievable but one bite of the bold Chatpata Chana burger and you'll immediately know why it deserves a spot on our menu. We're confident it will surprise & woo our loyal tribe of KFC fans, and even win us a whole tribe who never imagined walking into a KFC for a delicious veg burger."

Jennifer Aniston tears up while talking about her first canine friend



LOS ANGELES: Hollywood actress Jennifer Aniston, who is known for her work in the iconic sitcom 'Friends', had an emotional moment live on air.

The actress burst into tears while remembering her late beloved dog, Norman, and her special bond with actress Shirley MacLaine, reports 'People' magazine.

Jennifer appeared on 'The Drew Barrymore Show' on Friday, September 12, and couldn't hold back tears after receiving a sentimental video message from her 'Rumor Has It' co-star, 91. Barrymore asked Aniston, "What is Shirley MacLaine like?" to which Aniston shared, "She believes that we were mother and daughter in a previous lifetime. I think it's why we had such an instant bond".

As per 'People', the two co-starred in the 2005 rom-com, where MacLaine played Aniston's grandmother. The 'Never Been Kissed' actress, 50, then surprised Aniston with a special message from MacLaine and her daughter, Sachi Parker.

In her video, MacLaine commended Aniston for being "professional" while filming 'Rumor Has It', adding, "You were really wonderful to work with".

When the video ended, Jennifer Aniston was seen wiping away her tears as she expressed awe over MacLaine's words. Asked why the message moved Aniston to tears, she explained, "I was with her when my dog passed away".

Aniston's late pup Norman, a Welsh corgi-terrier mix, died in May 2011 when he was 15. "I was at (MacLaine's) ranch in New Mexico doing a past life regression retreat", she shared of the moment she lost her pet, before joking, "Which sounds crazy when I say it like that.".

She then asked Barrymore's dog, Douglas, who was nearby, "Are you worried about me because I'm crying? And my dog, I'm talking about Norman?".

The 'Friends' star has been candid about her love for her pets in the past. She is a dog mom to Lord Chesterfield and Clyde, who follow Aniston's first two dogs , Norman, and Dolly. Both of them still remain deeply meaningful to her.

Amazon Pay and ICICI Bank renew partnership, enhance India's most-adopted co-branded credit card

CHANDIGARH : Amazon Pay and ICICI Bank today announced the renewal of their long-term partnership for the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card, India's most-adopted co-branded credit card with over 5 million customers. Since its launch in 2018, the card has redefined digital payments through simple, transparent rewards and seamless convenience. Effective October 11, 2025, the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card will reduce forex markup on international transactions. The card will continue to offer its signature benefits of 5% unlimited cashback on shopping and travel bookings via Amazon Pay for Prime members while Non-Prime members will continue to receive 3% unlimited rewards. With these features, the card evolves from India's most rewarding everyday credit card to also being your perfect travel companion—delivering greater value across both daily spends and travel experiences.

Speaking on the development, Mayank Jain, Director - Credit & Lending, Amazon Pay India, said, "With these benefits, we're elevating India's most trusted co-branded credit card to new heights. Our over 5 million valuable customers have consistently enjoyed unlimited cashback, zero joining and annual fees, and seamless redemption. We remain dedicated to innovating on behalf of our customers and strengthening rewards in categories that matter most—from everyday essentials to now travel. This enhancement reflects our unwavering customer obsession and commitment to simplifying how Indians incorporate credit into their daily lives."

The World Gold Council Launches "The Moment Is Gold" Campaign



CHANDIGARH: The World Gold Council today unveiled its new gold jewellery campaign in India. 'The Moment is Gold' campaign aims to enhance the relevance and aspiration of gold jewellery amongst Gen Z and Millennials. The campaign showcases gold jewellery as an integral part of everyday moments and fosters a deeper emotional connection with gold, while positioning it as a reflection of modern, aspirational lifestyles. It aims to extend gold jewellery's appeal beyond key life events such as weddings and festivals and encourages individuals to celebrate everyday moments and occasions that enrich their lives.

Speaking about 'The Moment is Gold' campaign, Arti Saxena, Head of Marketing, India, World Gold Council said, "With 'The Moment Is Gold' campaign, we are celebrating the richness of everyday life. Our campaign is about creating a new social currency for gold, one that resonates deeply with Gen Z and Millennials who are finding unique ways to express themselves. The campaign seeks to encourage them to cherish their personal 'gold moments' – be it a personal achievement, a small victory, a moment of connection, and by symbolizing these moments with the enduring beauty and value of gold."

GJEPC India has also supported the campaign that promotes gold jewellery category in India.

The campaign, has been conceptualised by BBDO India, tells the story of a young man at a concert who momentarily loses sight of his girlfriend in the crowd.

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