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YUGMARG

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**GOVT TO FORMULATE
POLICY TO PROVIDE
RELIEF IN
ENCROACHMENT
CASES INVOLVING
POOR FAMILIES: CM**

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**OVER 25,600
NEW TB CASES
DETECTED
THROUGH AI-
DRIVEN
SCREENING
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**DRINKING WATER
ISSUE IN CHANAUT
VILLAGE RESOLVED
THROUGH KHATTAR'S
INITIATIVE**

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NEWS BRIEFS

**Delhi HC to hear PIL
over Sonam Wangchuk
deteriorating
health today**

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court said it will hear on Thursday a public interest litigation raising concern over the health of activist Sonam Wangchuk, who is on an indefinite fast at Jantar Mantar here. The Cockroach Janta Party has been holding a protest for over 25 days demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination. Wangchuk joined the agitation on June 28 and has been on an indefinite fast since then. A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia on Wednesday deferred hearing on the PIL after noting that none appeared for the authorities amid the ongoing work abstention called by the high court's bar association. "Having regard to urgency, list tomorrow," the bench said. The court ordered that a copy of the order be served to the Additional Solicitor General concerned and the Delhi government counsel.

**Haryana appoints
Pankaj Yadav as
Officer-in-Charge
of Sonipat district**

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana Government has appointed senior IAS officer Sh. Pankaj Yadav as the Officer-in-Charge of Sonipat district, entrusting him with the additional responsibility alongside his existing assignments. The order in this regard has been issued by Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rasgoti. Sh. Pankaj Yadav is currently serving as Principal Secretary, Cooperation Department; Principal Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department; Principal Resident Commissioner, Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi; and Chairperson, Haryana Water Resources Authority.

**Two killed in
fire in Noida
village building**

NOIDA (UP): A fire broke out in a multi-storeyed building in a Noida village on Wednesday, killing two people, police said. The fire was later brought under control and around 50 tenants, residing in the building in Mamura village in Sector 66, were evacuated safely, officials said. Police said two residents -- a man and a woman -- who were rushed to the hospital were declared dead by doctors.

**900 West Pakistani
Refugee families in
Kathua seek land
ownership rights**

JAMMU: Members of the erstwhile West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) community on Wednesday demanded early grant of land ownership rights and release of one-time settlement benefits. The members claimed that hundreds of eligible families have yet to receive the relief promised by the government. The demands were raised during a gathering here under the leadership of the West Pakistani Refugees chairperson Labha Ram Gandhi.

India-UK trade pact comes into force, first export consignment flagged-off

It will give fresh momentum to farmers, MSMEs: PM

**AGENCY
NEW DELHI, JULY 15**

India and the UK on Wednesday operationalised a free trade agreement under which a host of domestic goods will enter the British market at zero duty.

A social security agreement too has been operationalised from July 15. The union government flagged off the UK-bound export consignments from Hyderabad, marking the launch of the India-UK trade pact.

The Department of Commerce organised the flag-off ceremony of export consignments to mark the entry into force of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

"With the coming into force of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and the Agreement on Social Security, our economic linkages are going to get even deeper," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a social media post.

The CETA will give fresh momentum to Indian farmers, entrepreneurs and MSMEs. Several vibrant sectors will gain stronger access to the UK market, he said.

It will also deepen cooperation in technology, professional services and innovation, while supporting greater mobility for skilled Indian talent, he added.

The social security agreement will provide invaluable support to Indian professionals working temporarily in the UK and strengthen the competitiveness of Indian enterprises, the prime minister said.



"The agreement, which opens new avenues for trade, investment and innovation, will create unique opportunities for

our businesses while further accelerating PM @NarendraModi ji's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in a social media post.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the formal commencement of the India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and a landmark Social Security Agreement. Describing it as a "significant moment," the Prime Minister emphasized that dual agreements would translate high-level diplomatic ambition into "tangible opportunities," particularly for India's agrarian sector and small businesses.

In a post on X, PM Modi said the two agreements will make economic linkages "even deeper" and "translate our shared ambition into tangible opportunities for our people."

99% of exports to become duty-free: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that the India-UK free trade agreement is set to unlock untapped potential across labour-intensive industries, offering zero-duty market access for 99 per cent of the country's exports. He said the agreement that comes into force on Wednesday is the key to a Viksit Bharat as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The treaty is set to unlock untapped potential across labour-intensive industries, offering zero-duty market access for 99% of Indian exports, including those in textiles, leather, engineering, food processing, pharmaceuticals and MSME," Shah said on X.

Baghel submits report on Punjab Congress; signals no change in leadership

NEW DELHI: Amid differences in the Punjab Congress, Bhupesh Baghel, who is AICC in-charge of Punjab, has submitted his report to KC Venugopal, General Secretary (Organization) of the party. According to sources, the report suggests retaining Amrinder Singh Raja Warring as the state president, noting that 25 out of 29 district presidents and four out of seven MPs from Punjab support him. After meeting Venugopal in Delhi, Baghel signalled that there would be no leadership change in Punjab. "This isn't child's play," he said. Baghel had made a similar statement in Chandigarh. Punjab is expected to go to the polls early last year and Congress is gearing up its preparations for the polls. The Congress leadership had announced on July 1 that Raja Warring would continue as the Punjab Congress president. Former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi has been opposing this decision and is seeking a leadership change. Some senior leaders have also joined Channi in the campaign. Following the announcement of the new Congress team for the assembly elec-



tions, Baghel spent six days in Chandigarh and met several leaders. On the final day, he met with the disgruntled leaders led by Channi. He has now submitted his report to the party leadership. With a significant section of senior Punjab Congress leaders seeking leadership change in the state, it is believed that the Congress high command is considering various options. On Tuesday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met party President Mallikarjun Kharge. Venugopal was also present at the meeting. Amid demands by a section for leadership change in Punjab, Venugopal on Wednesday morning met Pratap Singh Bajwa, Congress Legislature Party leader in the Punjab assembly.

Ladakh begins landmark fresh apricot exports to UAE through global deal

**UNI
SRINAGAR, JULY 15**

In a major boost to Ladakh's horticulture sector, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday flagged off the first export consignment of five metric tonnes of premium fresh apricots to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Officials said the shipment comes as Ladakh prepares to export around 1,000 metric tonnes of fresh apricots overseas this season under a memorandum of understanding with the UAE-based Lulu Group, the largest export arrangement of its kind for the union Territory.

Ladakh produces over 15,000 metric tonnes of apricots annually—



about 62 per cent of India's total output—and the initiative is expected to enhance farmers' incomes while positioning the region as a global supplier

of premium organic apricots.

Officials said this is a monumental leap from the mere 1,500 KG of apricots exported during the previous

Three arrested for stoning 39-yr-old man to death in Gurugram

**UNI
GURUGRAM:** Gurugram Police have arrested three men for allegedly murdering a 39-year-old migrant worker by stoning him to death following a heated argument after a birthday celebration in the city.

The accused allegedly dumped the victim's body in the Aravalli forest area to conceal the crime.

According to police, the body of Bandi Oraon (39), a native of Gumla district in Jharkhand, was found on the morning of July 14 in the forest area near DLF Phase-5, Sector-54 under the jurisdiction of Sector-53 Police Station.

The victim was lying in a pool of blood with severe head and facial injuries caused by stones. On receiving information, police teams rushed to the spot and summoned the crime scene unit, dog squad, fingerprint experts and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team to examine the scene. The body was later shifted to the Civil Hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination. A local resident informed the police that he had discovered the body around 6.15 a.m. while passing through the forest area near the DLF Faridabad T-point. Based on his complaint, an FIR was registered under relevant sections pertaining to murder.

Launch of Hydrogen train is a powerful symbol of 'Sankalp Se Siddhi': CM Saini



**BUREAU
CHANDIGARH:** Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the Hydrogen Train is a living example of the journey from 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' (Resolution to Achievement). He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, the resolve of building a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) is steadily progressing towards realization through modern technology, green energy, and an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The Chief Minister said that the Hydrogen Train is not merely a new mode of transportation but also a symbol of India's new thinking, advanced technology, and indigenous capabilities. This project demonstrates that when the resolve is strong, success is inevitable. The initiative, which promotes green energy, will open new avenues for environmental protection, energy self-reliance, and economic prosperity. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, India is rapidly moving towards a modern, clean, and self-reliant transportation system. The Hydrogen Train project is a reflection of this vision and will emerge as a new identity of a developed India.

Uttarakhand set to become world class wedding destination: CM

**YUGMARG BUREAU
DEHRADUN, JULY 15**

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that efforts are being made to establish Uttarakhand as a leading wedding destination in the country and the world. He said that the 'Wed in Uttarakhand campaign' will give new impetus to local economy and employment in the State.

He was addressing the 'Grace Hindustan 2.0 Uttarakhand' National Wedding Professionals conference in Kimadi on the Mussoorie-Dehradun road on Wednesday.

The CM said that the spiritual, cultural and natural heritage of Uttarakhand makes the sacred occasion of marriage even more divine. He said that historical and religious heritage,

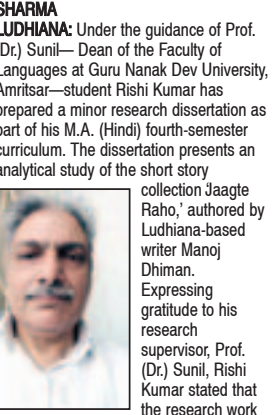


such as the Triyuginarayan temple, the wedding site of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, gives Uttarakhand a unique identity as a destination wedding destination.

Dhami said that the State government is working to develop Triyuginarayan, Omkareshwar (Ukhimath), Ramnagar, Tehri, Mussoorie and other suitable locations into world-class

destination wedding destinations. He added that destination weddings are not limited to hotels and resorts; they also directly create employment and income opportunities for local artisans, folk artists, homestay operators, taxi drivers and numerous small businesses. Therefore, the State government is promoting wedding tourism as an effective means of strengthening the local economy and self-employment. He said that Uttarakhand is a wonderful confluence of nature, culture, spirituality and wellness, offering a holistic tourism experience. The CM added the government is working on important spiritual projects such as the Haridwar-Rishikesh corridor, Vivekananda corridor, Golju corridor, Yamuna corridor and Sharda corridor, along with the development.

Research dissertation conducted on Manoj Dhiman's short story collection 'Jaagte Raho';



SHARMA LUDHIANA: Under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sunil— Dean of the Faculty of Languages at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar—student Rishi Kumar has prepared a minor research dissertation as part of his M.A. (Hindi) fourth-semester curriculum. The dissertation presents an analytical study of the short story collection 'Jaagte Raho,' authored by Ludhiana-based writer Manoj Dhiman. Expressing gratitude to his research supervisor, Prof. (Dr.) Sunil, Rishi Kumar stated that the research work was successfully completed thanks to his valuable suggestions, constant encouragement, and scholarly guidance. He also thanked all the faculty members and staff of the Hindi Department for their support. In the conclusion of the dissertation, Rishi Kumar writes, "Manoj Dhiman is not merely a skilled writer; his pen possesses the ability to highlight sensitivity, revolutionary ideas, struggles, and societal facets that effectively portray the complexities of human relationships and social awareness." Dhiman expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Kumar, Guru Nanak Dev University, and student Rishi Kumar for preparing this minor research dissertation on his book 'Jaagte Raho.'

National President Kashmir Singh Rajput calls for transparent and trustworthy Gold deposit framework



VERMA GURDASPUR: Kashmir Singh Rajput (Membership No. 3545), National President of the Akhil Bharatiya Swarnkar Sangh, has emphasized the need for a legally protected and transparent Gold Deposit Scheme that can earn the confidence of the public, particularly women and the business community. Expressing his views, Rajput stated that a large section of society considers it unsafe to entrust their gold to the government. He pointed out that governments remain under constant public scrutiny, and investments made in government institutions often become matters of public record.

According to him, this is one of the primary reasons why previous government-backed gold deposit schemes have failed to attract widespread public participation. He further observed that changes in government frequently result in changes to policies, creating uncertainty, procedural complications, and a lack of confidence among citizens.

Amandeep Kaur Dholewal warns of civic crisis in Bassi Pathana and Khamanon



AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB: Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Organisation Co-Convener of the Congress Party, Dr. Amandeep Kaur Dholewal, has expressed serious concern over the deteriorating civic infrastructure in Bassi Pathana and Khamanon, warning that continued administrative negligence could lead to severe public inconvenience and health hazards, particularly during the ongoing monsoon season. Addressing the issue, Dr. Dholewal said both towns have been struggling for years with damaged roads, overflowing sewerage, poor drainage, heaps of garbage, and inadequate street lighting. She stated that even moderate rainfall leaves several localities waterlogged, disrupting traffic, damaging property, and making daily life extremely difficult for residents. She cautioned that stagnant water and poor sanitation create ideal conditions for the spread of mosquito-borne and water-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, and gastroenteritis. "Public health cannot be compromised. The administration must act before the situation turns into a full-fledged civic and health emergency," she said. Dr. Dholewal urged the district administration and concerned departments to launch an immediate cleanliness and drainage restoration drive, repair damaged roads, clear blocked sewer lines, improve street lighting, and ensure proper disposal of solid waste.

CIA staff Ferozepur arrests two smugglers with fake Indian currency worth Rs 17.35 Lakh

TAPINDER SINGH FEROZEPUR, JULY 15

In a major breakthrough against the smuggling of counterfeit Indian currency in the border district, the CIA Staff of Punjab Police, Ferozepur, has arrested two smugglers and recovered fake Indian currency with a face value of Rs 17.35 lakh from their possession. Both accused are residents of Fazilka district and were allegedly transporting the counterfeit currency from Fazilka through Ferozepur for delivery at another location. DSP City Sukhwinder Singh said the operation was carried out on the basis of reliable intelligence inputs. Acting swiftly, the CIA Staff set

Mann govt has provided 68,268 govt jobs to youth during last four and half years: Harbhajan Singh E.T.O.

HARPAL SINGH AMRITSAR, JULY 15

Punjab Public Works Minister S. Harbhajan Singh E.T.O. said that the people-friendly Aam Aadmi Party Government has provided approximately 68,268 government jobs to the youth of Punjab during the last four and a half years. He stated that all these appointments have been made purely on the basis of merit and eligibility, which is why not a single appointment made by the Mann Government has been challenged in any court of law.

The Cabinet Minister was addressing large public gatherings during public outreach programmes held in the villages of Mallian, Taragarh, Chauhan, Tangra, Dharar and Malowal in the Jandiala Guru Assembly constituency.

He said that the Punjab Government is committed to creating maximum employment opportunities for the youth so that they can stay away from the menace of drugs and lead prosperous and productive lives. He added that the government's focus is to connect young people with education, employment and sports in order to build a stronger future for the state.

On the occasion, he informed that sports stadiums



and playgrounds are being developed in villages across Punjab and that the state government is actively promoting sports culture throughout the state.

He also elaborated on various other welfare schemes and development initiatives being implemented by the Punjab Government for the benefit of the people.

Speaking about the devel-

opment of the Jandiala Guru Assembly constituency, S. Harbhajan Singh E.T.O. said that development works are progressing rapidly in every village, town and urban area of the constituency.

He stated that the level of development witnessed in the constituency during the last four and a half years could not be achieved by the traditional political parties even

Headmaster and teacher of Government High School Dod accused of assaulting two students

JAITO (JAGDEEP SINGH GILL): A case of alleged murder of two students of class X, Harparvidar Singh, son of Chhida Singh and Arshdeep Singh, son of Chamkar Singh, by the head teacher and a teacher of the Government High School in nearby Village Dod has come to light. Talking to reporters seeking information from head teacher Tarsem Monga and Math teacher Kulwinder Singh about the incident, the parents of the two students, Chindda Singh and Chamkor Singh, residents of Dod, said that some students had written objectionable material against the teachers in the bathroom and some rooms of the school. In response to which, the said head teacher Tarsem Manga and a math teacher Kulwinder Singh made the students of classes 8, 9 and 10 stand in the scorching heat during the investigation and on the complaint of an 8th class student, the said two students were not only beaten but also locked up in a bathroom with mattresses and insects for two hours and when the parents of the said students were called to the school, the said students were thrown out of the bathroom.

Money on advertisements, not on roads – Kharar taxi drivers share their grief with Khera



SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, JULY 15

Shiromani Akali Dal's Kharar constituency in-charge Ravinder Singh Khera entered the third day of his 'Bolega Kharar, Badlega Kharar' foot march, during which city residents and taxi drivers raised sharp questions about the deteriorating condition of the city's roads over the last four and a half years.

The third day of the march began from Ward No. 3, which passed through Hospital Road, near Minta Taylor (mosque), Bus Stand Road, Khadar Bhandar, G.T.B. Nagar and Shivjot Colony and ended near Sam Simrat Tower on Tuesday late. During the march, Khera interacted with a

group of students waiting for a bus on the Kharar-Ludhiana road. He said that despite being an important hub for thousands of students, Kharar still does not have its own permanent bus stand.

"Despite grand claims of spending Rs 1,000 crore on the development of Kharar, the current government has not been able to build even a single permanent bus stand in four and a half years, due to which students are forced to wait in the open every day without proper bus routes and shelter," Khera alleged. He further said that the Kharar-Landran road gets flooded with water even after a little rain, which highlights the administrative negligence of the MLA, who seems to be asleep to the pain of the people.

Khera said that this is not a one-time incident but a daily pattern that Kharar students face every day, but there is no accountability. Khera also met taxi drivers who ply the roads of Kharar daily, who, according to Khera, brought to light the bitter truth of the thousands of crores of rupees claimed to have been spent in the constituency.

"The drivers said that the roads have been dilapidated for years, but the administration is not doing anything to repair them," Khera alleged. The march will pass through various wards of Kharar in the coming days and Khera has vowed to document the failures of the government at the grassroots level at every stage.

Police Saanjh Kendra East and Amritsar Hariawal manch hold tree plantation programme

HARPAL SINGH AMRITSAR, JULY 15

With the aim of reducing global climate change on earth, Hon'ble Special DGP, Chandigarh Mrs. Gurpreet Kaur Deo, Hon'ble Commissioner of Police Amritsar Mr. Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, as per the inspiration of Mrs. Parvinder Kaur District Community Police Officer Amritsar, Inspector Paramdeep Kaur Incharge District Saanjh Kendra Amritsar along with Saanjh Staff Sub Division Saanjh Kendra East, President of Amritsar Haryaval Manch, Er. Daljit Singh Kohli, Er. Manjit Singh Saini, Mandeep Singh, Dr. Iqbal Singh Tung, Dr. Nirmal Singh Anand, Avtar Singh Buttar, Gurmeet Singh Bhatti, Mr. Lakhbir Singh Ghuman and Madam Dolly Bhatia General Secretary Bharat Vikas Parishad, Madam Saroj Chawla and



With the help of colleagues, Major Tejinder Pal Singh Sohail, Principal of Government Senior Secondary School, Valla, Amritsar Mrs. Ashu Vij and SPC Incharge Mrs. Renu Bala along with school staff and students planted trees in the school under the Rukh Mitra campaign to save the environment.

Daljit Singh Kohli told the children that planting trees in these days is very important to save the environment, oxygen, bird nests, fruits, flowers.

Panchkula police to issue unique ID stickers for every auto, e-Rickshaw to boost passenger safety

PANCHKULA, JUL 15(UNI)

In a major initiative aimed at enhancing passenger safety and improving the regulation of public transport, Panchkula Police has launched a district-wide verification drive under which every auto-rickshaw and e-rickshaw operating in the city will be issued a departmental unique identification sticker after verification.

A Panchkula Police spokesperson said the campaign has been launched under the directions of Police Commissioner Pankaj Nain to create a verified database of all auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws, facilitate quick identification of vehicles involved in criminal incidents, and curb the operation of unauthorized vehicles.

The spokesperson said the unique identification sticker will prominently display the vehicle registration number, driver's ID code, designated route or zone, and a



departmental unique identification number.

The sticker will be affixed to both the front and rear of the vehicle, making it easily visible to passengers, police personnel, and enforcement agencies.

Police Commissioner Pankaj Nain said the verification exercise will be carried out in phases across the district.

Every vehicle will undergo detailed verification before being issued the departmental sticker. The initiative is expected to improve passenger confidence, strengthen polic-

ing, and bring greater transparency and accountability to public transport operations. He said the unique sticker would also serve as proof that the vehicle has been officially verified and registered by the police, enabling authorities to quickly identify vehicles operating without verification or in violation of regulations. According to the spokesperson, ACP Traffic Surender Singh has been designated as the nodal officer to supervise the campaign, while DCP Crime and Traffic Amrinder Singh will monitor the verification process.

SHINE programme on quality standards and consumer empowerment for SHGs – Morni Mahila Block Sangathan

PANCHKULA, JULY 15

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Haryana Branch Office organised the SHINE (Standards Help Inform & Nurture Empowered Women) Programme for members of Morni Mahila Block Sangathan at Block Morni.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from 45 Self-Help Group (SHG) members and federation representatives.

Ms. Arti Chaudhary, Standards Promotion Officer, BIS Haryana Branch Office, introduced the participants to BIS and highlighted the importance of quality, safety, and consumer awareness. She explained the significance of the ISI Mark, Hallmarking, the Compulsory Registration



Scheme (CRS), and various Indian Standards related to household products, nutrition, hygiene, and women and child care.A live demonstration of the BIS CARE App was conducted to help participants learn how to verify BIS-certified products and check the authenticity of hallmarked gold jewellery using the HUID. Women associated with various livelihood activities showed keen interest in under-

standing standards applicable to small enterprises and consumer products.

The participants appreciated the programme and shared that the awareness session enhanced their understanding of consumer rights, quality standards, and methods to identify genuine certified products, enabling them to make informed purchasing decisions and protect themselves from unfair trade practices.

Sandhwan flags off buses under Chief Minister's pilgrimage scheme



KOTKAPURA (SURINDER PAL): Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan today flagged off the buses carrying pilgrims under the Chief Minister's Pilgrimage Scheme at village Dago Romana and ward number 12, Kotkapura.

On this occasion, Speaker S. Sandhwan said that the objective of the Chief Minister Tirath Yatra Scheme being run by the Punjab Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is to make the people of the state visit various religious places. He said that under this scheme, the Punjab Government provides necessary facilities including transportation, accommodation and langar to the pilgrims.

Speaker S. Sandhwan extended his best wishes to the pilgrims going on the pilgrimage and asked them to pray for prosperity, peace and tranquility during their journey. On this occasion, Amrik Singh Sarpanch, Baljit Singh, Amarjit Singh, Gurmair Singh, Karnail Singh, Jassa Singh, Baldeep Singh Pradhan, Kuldeep Singh Numberdar and a large number of devotees were present.

National Insurance company hands over group personal accident policy to MD of Chandigarh University



KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): Group Personal Accident policy for Students and Staff Members was handed over to Deepinder Singh Sandhu Managing Director S/O Sh Satnam Singh Sandhu (MP Rajya Sabha) by Mr Sameer Dhawan Divisional Manager of National Insurance Company Limited, As informed by Arun Rahi General Manager chandigarh University celebrated 15th Foundation day today

BASIC Home Loan inaugurates new BASIC Finance Centre to strengthen its presence in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH, JULY 15

India's leading fintech platform, BASIC Home Loan to-day announced the launch of a new BASIC Finance Centre in Chandigarh, enhancing its presence in the Tricity region and improving access to guided, technology-enabled housing finance for homebuyers across Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula and neighbouring markets.

The Tricity region continues to be one of the most desired residential destinations for professionals, business owners and entrepreneurs in North India. Today, residential growth in Mohali, New Chandigarh, Zirakpur and Panchkula is being driven by strong demand from first-time



home buyers and families moving into bigger homes and limited land availability in Chandigarh. Besides this, the rapid growth of IT parks, business hubs and city infrastructure coupled with easy connectivity through national highways and Chandigarh International Airport has further accelerated the housing

demand across the entire region. With the launch of the BASIC Finance Centre, the company expects to facilitate nearly ₹500 crore in home loan business from the Tricity region, serving homebuyers across Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, including cities such as Ambala, Karnal and Panipat.

NEWS BRIEF

Golden Lioness Club joint tree-plantation drive



CHANDIGARH: Members of Golden Lioness Club carried out a joint mega tree-plantation drive today, 15 July 2026, planting 250 saplings of medicinal, fruit and flowering species across two government schools in Mani Majra, Sector 13: Government Senior Secondary School MMT and Government High School, Pocket 8 Nanimajra. The saplings were planted together with students. Participating clubs and members: President pki premier Anu Bhar, Nisha Sachdeva; PDP - Manjit Bhamra, PDP Asha Kahlon, PDP Lalita Bhola Pki premier club.

View of tear gas thrown at protesters to disperse them at residence of Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond at Khanna



GURMINDER SINGH GREWAL KHANNA: Hundreds of MANREGA workers including women who have come from different places and were marching toward the residence of Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sondh were dispersed with water cannons. Tear Gas and Lathicharge . During big scuffle about 12 workers including a police officer were reportedly injured and were under treatment in different hospitals however they were said to be out of danger. As per information hundreds of workers started gathering outside the residence of Minister and at noon their count reached even in several hundreds and they started raising slogans and tried to march towards the Kothi of Minister. When the police tried to stop them they resisted and scuffled with the police resulting tear gas and use of water cannons apart from minor Lathicharge. In the scorching heat many protesters fell on the ground and their companions rushed them to nearby hospitals for treatment. In the meantime DSP Khanna Vinod Kumar was also stated to be injured during scuffle and was undergoing treatment. Pardeep Singh a leader of union said that their leader Saudagar Singh of Fatehgarh sahib was also among the injured and they are under treatment.

Inspector Amandeep Singh Brar takes charge as new police station chief Nabha



RAKESH JINDAL NABHA: My main goal is to restore peace and law and order in the reserve constituency of Nabha and eradicate the drug mafia. Expressing these views, the newly appointed SHO of Nabha Police Station Amandeep Singh Brar said in a special conversation with the journalist that strict action will be taken against anti-social elements, drug smugglers and gangsters. The newly appointed SHO Amandeep Singh Brar said that the drug dealers who are engaged in the business of selling drugs or synthetic drugs in the city are warned to stop their business. SHO Amandeep Singh Brar said that soon a meeting will be held with the respected people of the area and the orders and instructions issued by the police will be made known. It is worth mentioning that SHO Amandeep Singh has previously served in Patiala Urban State Civil Line and Anaj Mandi Patiala.

Warring condemns police brutality against MGNREGA workers in Khanna



SARBJIT SUFI LUDHIANA: Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring today condemned the brutal police barbarity against the MGNREGA workers in Khanna who were demanding the payment of their pending wages. "Bhagwant Mann has turned Punjab into a police state", he remarked, while noting that instead of listening to the problems and demands of the needy, he has been using brute police force against them. Moreover, he pointed out, the workers were not only staging a peaceful sit-in dharna, but were also chanting 'Satnam Wahe Guru' and still the police resorted to such brutality. The PCC president asked what wrong had the MGNREGA workers done that they were showered with water cannons, teargas shells and lathis by the police. "Is this how a common man's government deals with its people?" he asked, while demanding the suspension of the police and civil administration officers who resorted to unprovoked and brutal lathi-charge on the MGNREGA workers.

Major terror conspiracy foiled in Amritsar; ISI operative held with hand grenade, pistol

CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA / HARPAL SINGH AMRITSAR, JULY 15

In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Commissionerate Police has busted a cross-border terror conspiracy with the arrest of one individual, and recovered one hand grenade and one 9MM Glock pistol along with four live cartridges from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Wednesday.

The arrested accused has been identified as Sumit Kumar alias Pandit (24), a native of village Sukhsal in Rupnagar and presently residing at Pandori Waraich in Amritsar. Apart from recovering hand grenade and pistol, police teams have also impounded his motorcycle.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused was in contact with cross-border ISI handlers through Instagram and was



being directed to target police establishments and public places to disturb peace and public order. Further investigation is underway to uncover the entire network and identify other associates and handlers involved, he said.

Sharing operational details, Commissioner of Police (CP) Amritsar Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said that acting on reliable intelligence and technical surveillance, police

teams arrested Sumit Kumar alias Pandit and one Glock pistol along with four live cartridges was initially recovered from his possession.

The CP said that during sustained interrogation and based on the disclosure statement of the arrested accused, police teams further recovered one hand grenade, exposing his cross-border links and foiling a larger conspiracy. Further verification of his

criminal antecedents has revealed that the accused is already facing criminal case registered under the NDPS Act, he said.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 109 dated 21.06.2026 under sections 25(6,7,8) of the Arms Act, section 113 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and sections 4 and 5 of the Explosive Act has been registered at Police Station Cantonment in Amritsar.

134 children secured legally protected, loving families during last 3 years

CHANDIGARH, JULY 15

In a major step towards making child protection and the legal adoption process more efficient, transparent and robust, the State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), Punjab, under the Department of Social Security, Women and Child Development, Government of Punjab, today organised a one-day State-Level Training Programme on the Adoption Regulations, 2022 under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann.

Addressing the media after inaugurating the training programme, Punjab Cabinet Minister for Social Security, Women and Child Development, Dr. Baljit Kaur, said that the Punjab Government is fully committed to ensuring that no child in the State is deprived of the love, care and security of a family. She said the Government is strengthening a transparent, child-centric and legal-



ly compliant adoption system that safeguards the rights and best interests of every child. Sharing a significant achievement, the Cabinet Minister said Punjab has become the first state in the country to establish a Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) in every district. At present, 26 Specialized Adoption Agencies are functioning across the State, including 16 Government-run and 10 NGO-managed agencies. Dr. Baljit Kaur informed that during the last three years, 87 orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children have been placed in

legally recognised adoptive families. Of these, 66 children were adopted within India, including 18 boys and 48 girls, while 21 children were adopted through inter-country adoption, including 5 boys and 16 girls. During the same period, 10 children with special needs were also placed in loving and caring families. In addition, 47 children were legally adopted by relatives and step-parents, taking the total number of children who found permanent, legally protected family environments over the last three years to 134.

Quiz competition organised in The Country School Dhanaula



BALVINDER AZAD BARNALA, JULY 15

A quiz competition was organized in "The Country School Dhanola", a well-known educational institution of Mandi Dhanaula. In which students from class 3 to 8 participated.

This competition was based on questions related to the subject of science and technology. In this, the children participated according to teams. This activity was organized by Veerpal Kaur, Navdeep Kaur and Jashanpreet Kaur. During this, school MD Chanchan Singla Ji

and Director Manish Singla Ji also participated. They told that such competitions are important in the life of students. MD Madam said that participating in any competition is more important than winning it.

She said that in today's era of science, how should we mix ourselves with the trend of the times by using new technologies. On this occasion, Reet Chauhan's team stood first. The school management and staff honored these children and encouraged them to go further and participate in such competitions.

Mega job fair for around 3,000 vacancies on July 20

SUMER GARG SANGRUR, JULY 15

In accordance with the directions of the Punjab Government, the District Administration, Sangrur, in collaboration with the District Bureau of Employment and Enterprises, Sangrur, will organize a Mega Job Fair on July 20, 2026, at Maharaja Palace, Sunam Udharn Singh Wala, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Around 3,000 vacancies across various sectors will be offered, and eligible candidates will be interviewed for these positions.

Sharing details, District Employment Generation, Skill Development and Training Officer Simpy Singla said that more than 60 reputed companies from the industrial and service sectors, including Hero Cycles, Sonalika, SEGA, Vardhaman, ICICI Bank, Avani, KRBL, Gobind Motors, AP Organic, Axis Bank, Max Auto, and

others, will participate in the fair. These companies have collectively offered approximately 3,000 vacancies, and interviews of eligible candidates will be conducted on the spot. Candidates possessing educational qualifications ranging from 8th, 10th, 12th, ITI, Diploma, Graduate, and Postgraduate, and aged between 18 and 50 years, are eligible to participate in the job fair.

Interested candidates may register online through the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/pg9do3CA1GXY7gp7>. Eligible candidates are advised to bring their updated resume along with photocopies of their educational qualification certificates while attending the interviews. No TA/DA will be paid to candidates appearing for the interviews. For further information, candidates may contact the District Bureau of Employment and Enterprises, Sangrur.

Everyone's dream of getting higher education through 100 courses will be fulfilled: Bhola Singh Virk



BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD): A press conference was organized at Guru Gobind Singh College Sanghera, a well-known educational institution of the area, under the able guidance of the President of the institution and State Awardee Sardar Bhola Singh Virk, during which the Vice Principal of the institution, Dr. Sarabjit Singh Kular, and the Qualitator of the Regional Center of Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala, Madam Mandeep Kaur, along with the entire staff of the college also participated.

Talking during the press conference, Sardar Bhola Singh Virk said that the main purpose of this meeting is to make those students aware and provide information whose dream of higher education remained unfulfilled due to any compulsion or domestic reasons.

He assured that now such students do not need to be disappointed. He said that the Learner Center of this university was established at Sanghera on 24 April 202.

Chairman Harpal Juneja, MD Manisha Rana's initiative brings Lok Adalat to PRTC headquarters

TAPINDER SINGH PATIALA, JULY 15

In a significant employee welfare initiative, the Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) organized a special Lok Adalat at its headquarters under the leadership of Chairman Advocate Harpal Juneja.

The initiative, supported by Managing Director Manisha Rana, was aimed at ensuring fair justice for employees who had lost their jobs due to prolonged absence or minor financial irregularities. During the Lok Adalat, Managing Director Manisha Rana and General Manager (Administration) Maninderpal Sidhu conducted detailed hearings of each case individually. Decisions were taken with complete transparency after carefully examining the employees' service records, honesty,



past performance, and the circumstances surrounding each case. Following the review, several eligible drivers and conductors were reinstated into service, providing them with an opportunity to resume their careers. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Advocate Harpal Juneja said, "Discipline is the foundation of every institution, but where there is scope for reform, giving an individual a second chance is also an essential part of justice. PRTC considers its employees

not merely as staff members but as part of its family." He added that the initiative aims to strengthen employees' confidence, responsibility, and commitment towards PRTC, enabling them to contribute with renewed dedication and enthusiasm to the corporation's growth. Congratulating the reinstated drivers and conductors, the Chairman wished them success in their future careers and urged them to discharge their duties with sincerity and discipline.

Several families of village Yatri join Aam Aadmi Party



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA RAMPURA PHUL, JULY 15

A grand meeting was held in the Dharamshala of village Yatri under the leadership of Sippy Bhakar, senior leader of Aam Aadmi Party of Maur constituency. During this, after bidding farewell to different parties, Raju Singh, Iqbal Singh, Bhola Singh Amarjit Kaur, Charanjit Kaur, Shukhjot Kaur, Gagandeep Kaur, Mahinder Kaur, Rani Kaur, Malkit Kaur, Bhajan Kaur, Charanjit Kaur along with their families joined Aam Aadmi Party. Welcoming the families who joined the party, senior leader Sippy Bhakar said that due respect will be given to all the volunteers without any discrimination. On this oc-

casión, Sippy Bhakar said that due to the visionary thinking of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, many facilities have been provided to the people of the state. Sippy Bhakar said that the Mann government has implemented many public welfare schemes including health insurance facility of up to Rs 10 lakh to the people, construction of roads in villages and cities, paving of unpaved roads, smooth supply of canal water to farmers, free treatment through Mohalla clinics, the benefits of which are reaching the common people directly.

Sippy said that the Aam Aadmi Party government is a government of the people and working for the people in the true sense.

Mata Gujri College holds 17th Academic Council meeting; approves courses for 2026-27



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR, JULY 15

Under the chairmanship of Principal Dr. Bikramjeet Singh, Mata Gujri College convened its 17th Academic Council meeting. The council approved syllabi passed by various departments' Boards of Studies for the new academic session 2026-27 and took important decisions aimed at enhancing the college's academic quality. Members discussed modernizing academic management to meet contemporary needs, providing students with practical, skill-oriented education, intro-

ducing greater flexibility in subject choices, and promoting positive educational changes in the era of artificial intelligence. Deliberations also covered key topics such as cybersecurity and the integration of human values into curricula. Subject experts from diverse academic fields attended the meeting, including the representative of the Vice-Chancellor of Punjabi University, Patiala; Professor Dr. Vinay Kumar Gupta from Mechanical Engineering; and Professor Dr. Raman Maini from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

National Commission for Women Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar holds Jan Sunwai in Moga



JAGRAJ SINGH MOGA, JULY 15

National Commission for Women (NCW) Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar on Wednesday conducted a Jan Sunwai here to address issues relating to women's safety, grievance redressal, gender sensitivity and institutional coordination. On the first day of her Punjab visit, Rahatkar held the public hearing at DM College, providing women with a platform to present their grievances, seek institutional support and ensure timely redressal of their complaints.

During the Jan Sunwai, the Chairperson personally heard more than 100 complaints and directed the police and other concerned departments to take prompt and appropriate action in each case. She instructed the authorities to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) to the Commission within three days.

Observing that a majority of the complaints were related to domestic violence, Rahatkar directed the police to conduct thorough, fair and sensitive investigations to ensure justice for the affected women.

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: The District Red Cross Society organised a tuberculosis (TB) awareness campaign in Ratgal and nearby areas to educate people about the prevention, early detection and treatment of the disease. The campaign was conducted under the guidance of Haryana Red Cross Society Vice-Chairman Ankush Miglani and State General Secretary Dr Sunil



Kumar. Red Cross TB Coordinator Anjali led the awareness drive, informing residents about the importance of timely diagnosis, regular medication and follow-up check-ups for TB patients. District Red Cross Society Executive Secretary Ramesh Chaudhary said the campaign is being carried out under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena as part of the TB elimination programme.

NEWS BRIEF

Major General P.S. Kanwar takes charge as GOC of Army Division



KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA: Major General P.S. Kanwar, a native of Amlhar village in Himachal Pradesh's Una district, has assumed charge as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of an Indian Army division following his promotion to the rank of Major General. A veteran officer with "31 years of distinguished military service", Major General Kanwar has held several key staff, training and command appointments. He has also served as a member of an overseas military training team and led important command assignments along the western border, including the raising of an Armoured Brigade. Major General Kanwar belongs to a family with a long tradition of military service spanning three generations. His father, retired Lieutenant General H.S. Kanwar, is a former senior Army officer, while his late grandfather, Lieutenant Baburam Jaswal, also served in the Army. His brother is a retired Indian Navy officer.

Enumeration form submission deadline extended to July 24

YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI PEHOWA: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Civil) Gurvinder Singh said the Election Commission has extended the deadline for submitting Enumeration Forms under the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls to July 24. He said eligible citizens can now submit their duly filled forms to their respective Booth Level Officers (BLOs) until July 24. The draft electoral roll will be published on July 31, following which objections and claims regarding omissions or errors can be submitted to the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) between July 31 and August 30. The final electoral roll will be published on October 3 after all corrections have been incorporated.

Amarnath Yatra: Treat every pilgrim as divine guest, J&K LG urges officials

UNI JAMMU, JUL 15

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday directed the officials to optimize manpower deployment to seamlessly manage the heavy influx of devotees throughout the yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that officials must closely monitor the Meteorological Department's predictions and remain alert to any weather vagaries. During a visit to the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here, Sinha reviewed the facilities and services in place for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the officials from J&K Police, Army, Security Forces, Shrine Board, and Civil Administration, and took stock of the measures taken to facilitate the comfortable stay of the pilgrims.



He commended their hard work and urged them to treat every Yatri as a divine guest.

"With the holy pilgrimage already crossing the 3 lakh mark in just 12 days, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free experience for pilgrims is our top priority," the

Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor stressed on ensuring flawless registration, comfortable lodging, and smooth travel arrangements for all devotees of Baba Barfani. He also emphasised showcasing Jammu and directed officials to organize

sightseeing tours to Jammu Division's key spiritual and tourism spots, while actively promoting local handicraft and handloom products. "It is our goal that whenever Baba Amarnath pilgrims return home, they should carry a piece of Jammu with them in the form of beautiful local handmade products and unforgettable memories. Together, we resolve to make this year's Yatra truly historic," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed the deployment of Food Safety Officers at community kitchens, facilities at reception and lodgement centres, on-spot registrations of pilgrims, transportation and security arrangements. Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar informed the meeting about the legal action initiated against the individuals caught engaged in fraudulent practices.

Shri Vaish Aggarwal Panchayat appoints new office bearers of SAYA

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, JULY 15

Appointment letters were given to the newly appointed office bearers of Shri Agrasen Youth Association (SAYA) in the meeting organized by Shri Vaish Aggarwal Panchayat President Vishal Singla and the entire executive on Wednesday. After receiving the appointment letters, all the officials took a pledge to work with full devotion and dedication towards Shri Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat and to give top priority to social service.

On this occasion, Vishal Singla, head of Shri Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat, while congratulating all the newly appointed officials, said that the strength of the organization was possible



only with the collective efforts of everyone. He expressed confidence that the new team will provide more impetus to social welfare works and will establish new dimensions in the field of social unity and service.

Shri Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat's Deputy Head Jitendra Goyal, General Secretary Navketan Goyal, Cashier Vishesh Garg, Joint Secretary Abhay Mittal, Satpal, Gaurav Mittal, Rajiv Garg, Kulwant Garg, Jaipal

Goyal and many other distinguished members were present in the meeting.

On this occasion, Naveen Bansal was unanimously appointed as the head of Saya. Besides, Vinod Singla was appointed as convenor, Ankush Garg as co-convenor, Himanshu Bansal as vice-president, Sumit Mittal as general secretary, Brij Mohan Garg and Piyush Bansal as cashiers, Ankit Garg as legal advisor, Vikas Bansal, Daulat and Sachin Aggarwal as co-secretaries.

PM Modi to dedicate Rs. 447cr elevated railway track to citizens on July 17: DC



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: Inauguration of elevated railway track and foundation stone laying of Sikh Museum project will take place online from Jind on July 17. Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena inspected the elevated railway track and Sikh Museum project in Umri. Five gates will provide relief from traffic jams and robust security arrangements will be in place. He said that PM Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will virtually dedicate Rs. 447 crore elevated railway track to citizens of Kurukshetra from Jind on July 17. PM will also lay foundation stone of Sikh Museum project in Umri village. Important aspect is that after opening of elevated railway track, traffic jams at five railway crossings in city: Jhansa Road, Kacha Gher, Shastri Market, gate in front of Civil Hospital and Third Gate will be alleviated. DC was speaking today after inspecting elevated railway track at Thanesar Railway Station and the Sikh Museum project in Umri village.

Redeveloped railway stations of NFR under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme brings new prospects for development to local communities



YUGMARG BUREAU MALIGAON: The redevelopment of Majbat railway station in Assam, Jalpaiguri Road & Haldibari railway stations in West Bengal under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme has ushered in a new era of convenience, pride and development for the people living in and around these regions. Residents, passengers, traders and daily commuters have expressed immense happiness over the transformation of their respective stations, which have long served as important lifelines for the surrounding areas. The modernized stations stand as symbols of progress, reflecting the Government of India's commitment to strengthening railway infrastructure while preserving the unique cultural identity of each locality. Prior to redevelopment, passengers at these stations often faced immense challenges due to limited waiting facilities, inadequate passenger amenities, poor circulation spaces and insufficient infrastructure to cater to the growing number of railway users. With the completion of the redevelopment works, these challenges have been effectively addressed through upgraded station buildings, spacious waiting halls, improved platforms, enhanced circulating areas, modern toilets, better illumination, advanced passenger information systems, Divyangjan-friendly facilities, landscaped surroundings and other passenger centric amenities.

Hassan Singh Mejie inspires rotarians at RC Paonta Sakhi's 6th Charter Day celebrations

AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB, JULY 15

Rotary Club Paonta Sakhi marked its 6th Charter Day with great enthusiasm and celebrated the Installation Ceremony of President Rtn. Krishna Khanna and her team for the Rotary year 2026-27 in a grand function attended by distinguished Rotary leaders and members from different clubs. The highlight of the event was the presence of Rtn. Hassan Singh Mejie, Past President of Rotary Club Chandigarh (2013-14), who attended as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, Mejie congratulated the newly installed President Rtn. Krishna Khanna and her team, expressing confidence that their leadership would further strengthen Rotary's mission of "Service Above



Self." He emphasized that Rotary clubs have a significant role in promoting humanitarian service, community development, education, healthcare, environmental protection, and youth empowerment. He encouraged Rotarians to work collectively for meaningful and sustainable social initiatives. The ceremony was attended by Past President Rtn. Jaspal Singh Sidhu and R'Ann HarKiran Mejie, whose presence added warmth to

the occasion. Senior Rotary leader PDG Arun Sharma also graced the event and appreciated the remarkable journey of RC Paonta Sakhi over the past six years. Among the prominent dignitaries present were Rtn. Rakshit, Secretary 2026-27; Immediate Past President Anshul Goyal; Past President Rtn. Dr. Parvesh Sablok of RC Paonta Sahib; and Assistant Governor (Zone-22) Rtn. Kavita Garg, who extended their best wishes to the new leadership team.

Marathon race against drug addiction will be organised on July 26

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 15

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini, administrative preparations have been intensified to ensure maximum participation in the grand marathon race against drug addiction to be organized on July 26. Due to this, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mahabir Prasad held an important meeting of representatives of various social, religious, voluntary, n o n - g o v e r n m e n t a l organizations (NGOs) and enlightened citizens on Wednesday. During the meeting, Corporation Commissioner Mahabir Prasad appealed to the representatives of all the institutions to cooperate wholeheartedly in this noble work. He directed that with the help of Red Cross Society, welcome and



refreshment stalls should be set up at various places on the entire route of the marathon. Arrangements for pure drinking water, lemonade and other energizing beverages will be made for the runners at these stalls. Apart from this, work will also be done to provide security to the runners running in the marathon. The Commissioner said that the people of the city would give a historic and grand welcome to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini by participation of thousands of runners in the marathon. During the meeting

he listened to the suggestions of all the representatives. Representatives of all the social and religious organizations present in the meeting assured the administration that they will work hard, heart and money to make this marathon successful. In the meeting, Secretary of Red Cross Society Sanjeev Dhiman, Program Officer Shishpal Singh Sohi, District Training Officer Shashi Bhushan, Accountant Jasbir Singh, Convenor of Sant Nirankari Mission Yamunanagar Baldev Singh.

Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026: Raksha Mantri flags off Shaurya Vijay Yatra with riders on Jawa and Yezdi motorcycles



YUGMARG BUREAU CHANDIGARH: To mark the nationwide commemoration of Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged off the 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra' from the National War Memorial, New Delhi, with riders undertaking the 13-day expedition on Jawa and Yezdi motorcycles. With the motto 'One Ride, One Nation, One Salute', the 1,900-km expedition will see 28 riders, including serving and retired defence personnel, and their family members, travel to the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Ladakh. The expedition will honour the courage, resolve, and supreme sacrifice of the Indian bravehearts who ensured victory in the 1999 Kargil War. The ride will pass through the Chandimandir, Rezang La, and the Leh War Memorials before culminating at the Kargil War Memorial on 26 July 2026. The expedition will carry an urn containing sacred soil from the National War Memorial to Kargil to symbolise the valour of the many generations of the nation's war heroes.

Students of Sahara International School, Ladwa win 11 medals in open district swimming competition



KARAMBIR LADWA: Sahara International School, Ladwa performed brilliantly in the Open District Swimming Competition held in Kurukshetra on July 11 and won 11 medals and brought pride to the school. Among the medal winners, Yashveer of class 6, won one gold and one bronze medal, Tejas of class 7 won one bronze medal, Wahi of class 3 won one gold, one silver and one bronze medal, Rahan of class 1 performed brilliantly and won three gold medals and Diya of class 4 won one bronze medal. On reaching the school on Wednesday, school director Vikrant Aggarwal, on behalf of the school and the school management committee, along with the school staff, warmly welcomed the medal winning children and also congratulated them on winning the medals and appreciated their hard work, dedication and sportsmanship. This success reflects Sahara International School's commitment to its excellence in education as well as sports. Other staff of the school was also present on this occasion.

Electronics shop fire destroys property worth Rs 1 crore in Ladwa

KARAMBIR LADWA, JULY 15

Due to a fire that broke out in an electronic goods shop in front of Radha Swami Satsang Ghar near village Ban in Ladwa section, electronic goods worth about Rs. 1 crore kept in the shop along with cash, gold and household items were burnt to ashes. The fortunate thing was that when the fire broke out in the shop, the father of the shop owner who was sleeping in the shop had woken up to go to the bathroom. In front of the shop owner's father's eyes, the flames in the shop intensified and the goods kept in the shop got burnt to ashes. The fire that broke out in the shop late on Tuesday night was so intense that the father and son kept watching helplessly the goods burning in the fire the whole night. Police and fire brigade personnel kept trying to extinguish the fire, but the flames did not subside until the goods, cash and gold worth about one crore rupees burnt. It took the fire brigade staff the whole night to control the fire in the shop. As soon as the information was received, two fire brigade vehicles reached the spot. Nearby



villagers also started extinguishing the fire by pouring water from buckets and pipes. The fire was brought under control after several hours of effort. The fire was so intense that firefighters remained on the spot extinguishing the fire till around 7 in the morning.

Seven-day faculty development programme begins at GSSDGS Khalsa College, Patiala

TAPINDER SINGH PATIALA, JULY 15

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of General Shivdev Singh Diwan Gurbachan Singh (GSSDGS) Khalsa College, Patiala, has launched a seven-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on the theme, "Advancing Teaching Excellence: Strengthening Foundations for Effective Education." The programme, being held from July 15 to July 23, has brought together 26 faculty members from various departments of the college. Addressing the inaugural session, Principal Dr. Dharminder Singh Ubha emphasized that continuous professional development



has become essential in the rapidly evolving landscape of higher education. He highlighted that such programmes play a vital role in enhancing academic quality, fostering innovation, and promoting student-centred teaching. He encouraged the participants to actively engage in every session and make the most of the learning opportunities.

During the first session, titled "College Vision, Mission and Academic Ecosystem," Dr. Ubha acquainted the participants with the institution's rich heritage, vision, mission, core values, and student-centric initiatives. He stressed that aligning individual teaching practices with the broader institutional goals is key to achieving academic excellence.

Over 25,600 new TB cases detected through AI-driven screening campaign

YUGMARG BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, JULY 15

Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Sumita Misra said that Haryana has made significant progress in its fight against Tuberculosis (TB), detecting 25,666 new TB patients during the first 104 days of the ongoing 100-Day TB Mukht Bharat Campaign (Phase-II) through large-scale active screening supported by Artificial Intelligence (AI). The campaign, launched on World TB Day (March 24, 2026), reflects the state's commitment to identifying TB cases early and ensuring timely treatment to curb the spread of the disease.

Dr. Misra said that unlike conventional healthcare approaches that rely on patients visiting health facilities, the campaign focuses on Active Case Finding (ACF), with health teams reaching people in vulnerable and high-risk communities, including individuals who may not show symptoms. This proactive strategy has enabled the Health Department to identify thousands of patients who might otherwise have remained undiagnosed.

A key feature of Haryana's campaign has been the extensive use of



AI-powered technologies to improve screening and diagnosis. The state has deployed AI-enabled handheld X-ray machines capable of providing rapid screening results even in remote areas. In addition, the 'Cough Against TB' (CATB) mobile application uses artificial intelligence to analyse cough sounds through smartphones and identify individuals who

may require further testing. The department has also adopted Vulnerability Mapping (VM-TB) to identify 2,111 high-risk villages and urban wards, allowing health teams to conduct focused screening in areas most vulnerable to TB transmission.

Dr. Misra informed that the campaign has recorded impressive achievements between March 24 and

Mayor encourages youth at 'Karnal's Biggest Mega Show-2026'

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JULY 15:

Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta attended "Karnal's Biggest Mega Show-2026" as the chief guest at Dr Mangal Sen Auditorium on Wednesday, encouraging participants and highlighting the importance of platforms that promote talent, confidence and creativity among young people.

Addressing the gathering, the Mayor praised the participants for their confidence and performances, saying such events provide young people with opportunities to build their identity, develop self-belief and contribute positively to society.

Renu Bala Gupta said Karnal is home to immense talent and that providing the right

opportunities and platforms is essential for nurturing young achievers. She added that such programmes help develop leadership qualities, creative thinking and confidence along-



side overall personality development.

She said talent finds its true value only when individuals are given opportunities to showcase

it. Appreciating the organisers, she described the event, organised by Shaify Makeover, as an effective platform that brought together talent, creativity, confidence and personality development while enabling participants to display their abilities before a wider audience. During the programme, the Mayor also interacted with Rekha Anand, wife of Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand, along with Shaify, Meena and other distinguished guests. The audience was entertained by a series of performances presented by the contestants throughout the event. Congratulating the organisers on the successful conduct of the programme, Renu Bala Gupta expressed confidence that similar initiatives would continue to provide valuable opportunities for young talent from Karnal to excel in the future.

Viresh Shandilya calls for stronger safety measures, insurance cover for sanitation workers

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
AMBALA, JULY 15

Viresh Shandilya, National President of the Vishva Hindu Takht and Brahmin Mahapanchayat, has called on the Central and State governments to introduce stricter safety measures and social security benefits for sanitation workers, stating that their welfare and safety must be treated as a national priority.

Addressing a press conference, Shandilya questioned why sanitation workers often perform their duties without adequate protective equipment, despite the hazardous nature of their work. Referring to a recent cleanliness drive in Ambala, he said public representatives, including Mayor Akshita Saini and BJP district president Mandeep Rana, participated in the campaign wearing gloves and face masks, while sanitation workers accompanying them allegedly lacked similar protective gear. Shandilya said



sanitation workers play a vital role in maintaining public health and urban cleanliness, yet their occupational safety often receives inadequate attention. He urged governments to ensure that sanitation workers are provided with proper safety kits, especially before entering sewer lines, in accordance with established safety protocols. He also called for permanent employment, pension

benefits, comprehensive medical facilities and a minimum insurance cover of 10 lakh for every sanitation worker across the country. Shandilya said sanitation workers are indispensable to society and deserve dignity, adequate protection and social security. He appealed to both the Central and State governments to frame and implement strict policies to safeguard their health.

DC inspects Sajuma village, orders measures to improve drinking water supply

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL/KALAYAT: Deputy Commissioner Aparajita on Wednesday visited Sajuma village to review the drinking water and public health situation, directing officials to take immediate steps to improve water supply infrastructure and ensure the availability of safe drinking water.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the village health centre and the canal-based drinking water project. She also visited the family of a 12-year-old girl who recently died, expressed condolences and assured them of all possible administrative support. Interacting with residents, Aparajita heard their grievances and instructed officials from the Public Health Engineering and Health Departments to resolve the issues without delay. She said efforts were underway to ensure uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water and that leakages and other deficiencies in the water distribution system were being rectified. She directed Public Health Engineering Department officials to prepare estimates for replacing the narrow canal water pipeline and repairing old pipelines within the village. She also instructed them to examine the feasibility of bringing drinking water from the Bhakra canal and to expedite the revival of the village's non-functional reverse osmosis (RO) plant.



Crack down on those involved in illicit sex-determination trade: Dr. Anand

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: A meeting was held today at the District Secretariat auditorium, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand Kumar Sharma, to curb female foeticide and effectively implement the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed officials to crack down on individuals involved in the illegal practice of sex determination. He also instructed the District Programme Officer (ICDS) to maintain special surveillance—through Anganwadi workers and supervisors—on couples who already have one or more daughters. Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr. Naresh Kardwal informed the meeting that the district's average sex ratio currently stands at 954, an improvement over the previous year. The Deputy Commissioner directed that further measures be taken to improve this figure. The Deputy Civil Surgeon reported that, in the last quarter, raids were conducted at two locations under the PCPNDT Act, resulting in the registration of two FIRs. Inspections were carried out at 89 ultrasound centers in the district, and notices were issued to the operators of three centers where irregularities were found. He mentioned that regular meetings were held with private hospitals, BAMS doctors, "pandits" (priests), ASHA workers, and other relevant staff to work towards improving the sex ratio.



West Bengal BJP lauds Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Bhatia for organisational role during Assembly polls

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JULY 15:

The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has commended Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Bhatia for his organisational contribution during the West Bengal Assembly election campaign, according to a party statement.

The statement said West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya and senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari sent a joint letter expressing appreciation for Bhatia's commitment, extended stay in the state and active role in the election campaign. The letter reportedly praised his coordination with party workers under challenging circumstances and his contribution to strengthening the organisation.

BJP district media in-charge Dr Ashok Kumar said the party's central leadership had assigned Bhatia responsi-

bility for the Howrah region, describing it as an important and challenging electoral assignment.

According to the statement, Bhatia reached West Bengal before the election schedule was announced and remained there for nearly six months, overseeing organisational expansion, booth management and public outreach programmes while coordinating with workers at the grassroots level.

The statement also highlighted his continued campaign work despite personal commitments, claiming that although his son's wedding took place on February 15, 2026, he remained engaged in election activities in West Bengal until the night of February 13, attended the family ceremony and returned to



West Bengal on February 16 to resume campaign responsibilities.

It further stated that after being nominated as the BJP's Rajya Sabha candidate on March 3, 2026, Bhatia travelled to Haryana to complete the nomination process and meet senior party leaders before returning to West Bengal

to continue his election duties.

According to the BJP, Bhatia also travelled directly from West Bengal to New Delhi to take oath as a Rajya Sabha member on April 16, 2026, and returned to West Bengal the same day to continue campaign activities.

Reacting to the appreciation letter, Bhatia said it was a privilege for every BJP worker to serve wherever the organisation entrusted responsibility. He attributed the party's performance in West Bengal to the collective efforts of its workers and said the recognition would inspire him to continue working with dedication for the organisation and public service.

The details in this report are based on a statement issued by the BJP.

State Incharge Sanjay Dutt's visit to Yamunanagar, workers enthused

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: Congress District Rural President Narpal Gurjar stated that Haryana Congress State Incharge Sanjay Dutt will visit Yamunanagar on July 19 and 20. There is an atmosphere of excitement in the district's urban and rural organizations regarding his arrival, and party officials and workers have begun preparations. State Congress President Rao Narendra Singh will also accompany him. Narpal Gurjar stated that the State Incharge's objective is to further strengthen the organization, establish direct communication with workers, and discuss future political strategies. He stated that during this visit, Sanjay Dutt will hold separate meetings with district and assembly-level officials, senior leaders, and workers, and provide necessary guidance regarding the organization.

According to the released schedule, a meeting with the executive committee of the Yamunanagar (Urban) District Congress Committee will be held at the Marwari Dharamshala in



Jagadhri on July 19th from 5:00 pm to 6:45 pm. Following this, a dialogue program will be held with party leaders and workers from the Yamunanagar Assembly constituency from 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm. The State Incharge will spend the night in Yamunanagar. On July 20th, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, there will be meetings with leaders and workers from the Jagadhri Assembly constituency. Following this, there will be a meeting with workers from the Sadhaura (Scheduled Caste) Assembly constituency from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. From 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, there will be a dialogue with leaders and workers from the Radaur Assembly constituency. From 3:00 pm to 4:45 pm, an important meeting will be held with the District Rural Congress Committee Executive, where organisational strengthening, the membership drive, and upcoming programs will be discussed in detail.

After this, the State Incharge will depart for Ambala by road. Narpal Gurjar stated that this visit will inject new energy into the Congress organization and boost the morale of workers.

City without stops: Kurukshetra's New Elevated Track!

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA: Former Haryana Minister of State Subhash Sudha said that this elevated railway track would prove to be a milestone in the development of Kurukshetra city. This will reduce the problem of jam in the city and passengers will get the facility of easy and safe transportation. By starting any big work with the blessings of God, the work is completed smoothly.

Former Minister of State Subhash Sudha was speaking at the Hanuman Chalisa recitation program organized at Thanesar Railway Station on Tuesday. All the devotees prayed for the smooth operation of the new railway track and the progress of the country. On the occasion of the auspicious inauguration of the newly constructed elevated railway track, mass recitation of Hanuman Chalisa and Havan was organized with the wishes of happiness, peace and safe journey of the city residents. Subhash Sudha said that the elevated railway track and modern railway station completed in Kurukshetra would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 17. The station building has been built in accordance with the religious heritage of Kurukshetra. This is a historic day for the people of Kurukshetra. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Kurukshetra is getting the gift of elevated railway track and station.



Mayor takes over charge of preparations to make PM's Jind rally historic

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Preparations have intensified to ensure the success and grandeur of the historic public rally proposed to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jind on July 17. In this context, Mayor Renu Bala Gupta actively participated in a crucial meeting of councillors held on Wednesday at the BJP office, 'Karn Kamal', and issued necessary directives regarding the event's preparations. The meeting featured detailed discussions on ensuring the rally's success, organizational coordination, public outreach campaigns, and maximizing citizen participation. Mayor Renu Bala Gupta urged all councillors to work with full energy and dedication, playing a pivotal role in making this massive rally—held under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi—a historic event. Mayor Renu Bala Gupta stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is scaling new heights in development, good governance, and public welfare. She remarked that the Prime Minister's rallies are not merely political events; rather, they serve as powerful and effective mediums for direct dialogue with the public and for ad-



vancing the resolve for development. With this perspective, every party worker and public representative will work with utmost sincerity to make the Jind rally a success. Speaking on the occasion, BJP District President Praveen Lathar emphasised that the strength of the BJP organization lies in the hard work and dedication of its workers and their strong bond with the public. He called upon all councillors to conduct outreach in their respective areas, connect people with the event, and ensure maximum public participation. All councillors present at the meeting pledged to fulfill their respective responsibilities to make the Jind rally grand and historic.

Waterlogging threatens paddy crop in Karnal villages; farmers seek immediate relief

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JULY 15:

Hundreds of acres of paddy fields in Reendal, Salarpur and nearby villages have been submerged following heavy rainfall and poor drainage, leaving farmers worried about widespread crop losses.

Farmers said they had transplanted paddy around 20 days ago after investing heavily in seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, labour and irrigation. However, overflowing of a seasonal drain and the lack of proper drainage have left their fields inundated, putting the young crop at risk.

According to the affected farmers, the situation worsened after an embankment was allegedly erected near Jayrampur village to prevent water from entering adjoining fields. They claimed that the obstruction blocked the natural flow of rainwater, causing it to accumulate in the agricultural fields of Reendal, Salarpur and surrounding areas.

The farmers have submitted a written memorandum to the Karnal Deputy Commissioner, demanding immediate drainage of the accumulated water, a joint survey of the affected fields and adequate compensation for crop losses.

Farmer Naveen Bhatia said substantial investments had already been made in the crop, but the standing paddy was now submerged, with the plants beginning to rot due to prolonged waterlogging.

Another farmer, Sandeep Bhatia, said if the water was not drained immediately, the entire crop could be destroyed, leaving little time for replanting and resulting in losses running into lakhs of rupees.

Vicky Chhabra said water levels in the fields had risen to the extent that even walking through them had become difficult. He alleged that the administration should have cleaned and repaired drains before the onset of the monsoon to prevent such a situation.



Mukesh Kumar said agriculture is the primary source of income for his family and warned that crop losses would make it difficult for farmers to repay loans taken from banks and commission agents. He urged the government to announce a special relief package.

Residents said waterlogging during the monsoon has become a recurring problem and alleged that the authorities have failed to provide a permanent solution despite repeated complaints. They claimed that inadequate desilting of drains and poor maintenance of the drainage system had aggravated the situation. The villagers demanded that the administration inspect the alleged obstruction near Jayrampur and restore the natural flow of rainwater.

EDITORIAL

India prohibits imports of goods produced with forced labour

India has amended its Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 to prohibit the import of goods manufactured wholly or partly through the use of forced labour, reinforcing its commitment to ethical trade practices and internationally accepted labour standards. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has introduced a new provision—Paragraph 2.20B—in the Foreign Trade Policy. The amendment will take effect 30 days after its publication in the Official Gazette. Under the new provision, the import of any goods produced using forced labour will be prohibited. The Central Government has also been authorised to notify specific products that may be banned after examining findings from enquiries conducted by the DGFT or based on other relevant evidence. The procedure for such enquiries will be laid down in the Handbook of Procedures, 2023. The policy change comes against the backdrop of increasing global scrutiny of supply chains. Recently, the United States proposed imposing an additional tariff of up to 12.5 per cent on trading partners, including India, that import goods made with forced labour. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said such imports create an unfair competitive advantage and undermine fair trade practices. To support the amendment, the government has also inserted Paragraph 11.64 under Chapter 11 of the FTP, providing a formal definition of "Forced Labour." The definition is aligned with the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), which describes forced labour as any work or service extracted from a person under the threat of penalty and without their voluntary consent. According to the government, the amendment strengthens the legal framework for restricting imports linked to forced labour by empowering the Centre to prohibit such imports through official notification. It also aligns India's trade regulations with globally accepted labour standards and promotes fair, transparent, and responsible international trade.

From Steam to Hydrogen
India's First Hydrogen Train to Run from Jind
Viksit Bharat - Viksit Haryana

The history of Indian Railways is not merely a story of expanding tracks, but a documented journey of continuous technological progress and innovation. This journey, which began with steam engines, has passed through the stages of diesel and electricity, and is now entering a new era of green energy. On 17 July 2026, History will be created in Jind district of Haryana when Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will flag-off the country's first hydrogen train. This service, starting from the Jind-Sonapat rail section, will bring together technological innovation, energy self-reliance, and environmental responsibility. Climate change and energy security are global challenges today, making it essential to make the transport sector clean and energy-efficient. Indian Railways has also accelerated its modernization through large-scale electrification, modern station development, and advanced safety systems. The hydrogen train is the next step in this journey.

It holds special significance that this transformation is beginning from Haryana. The choice of the Jind-Sonapat section reflects the state's strong infrastructure and its capacity to implement projects effectively. Investments in industrial development, expansion of national highways, and civil aviation have made Haryana a natural hub for projects of national importance. **Haryana Shaping New Dimensions of Development** Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the coordinated efforts of the double-engine government, unprecedented work is taking place in Haryana in infrastructure, health, education, and transport. On 17 July, the Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation for projects worth over ₹14,700 crore, including the Jind-Sonapat hydrogen train, the Kurukshetra elevated railway track, medical colleges in Bhiwani and Narnaul, the Delhi-Ambala-Katra highway, and the Ambala-Kala Amb and Jind-Gohana national highways. Along with this, the foundation

stone will also be laid for the Sikh Museum in Kurukshetra and the Hansi-Barwala highway, giving new direction to the state's cultural and infrastructural development. These projects will form a strong foundation for Haryana's economic growth, healthcare services, transport, investment, and employment, and will help realize the resolve of a 'Viksit Bharat'. **Hydrogen Train — The Future of Rail Technology** Hydrogen technology is based on a fuel cell system, in which a chemical reaction between stored hydrogen and atmospheric oxygen generates electrical energy, releasing only water and heat as by-products and no polluting gases. This is especially effective for rail routes where full electrification is not practical, and it helps reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Indian Railways has also brought about extensive changes in operations, safety, and energy management. Rapid electrification, indigenous safety systems, and the

growing use of renewable energy have made the railways more modern and environmentally responsible. The hydrogen train is the next step in this direction, one that will help strengthen energy security and reduce dependence on imported fuel. Germany gave global recognition to this technology by launching a commercial hydrogen passenger train service, and following this, several countries including China have accelerated its development and testing. India's move shows that the country is not merely following global changes but is actively participating in the development of future transport systems. The Jind-Sonapat service will stand as a strong example of Indian engineering capability and commitment to clean energy. In line with the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the integration of hydrogen technology into rail transport will accelerate the energy transition and, in the future, offer



new options for rail routes where conventional electrification is not feasible. Haryana becoming the first stop of this historic initiative is proof of the state's developed infrastructure and effective implementation capacity. When this train sets out on its first journey on 17 July, it will not merely be a means of carrying passengers to their destination, but a symbol of Indian Railways' new vision, in which technological innovation and environmental sensitivity advance together. This journey will give new direction to the development of the railways in the years ahead and will be remembered as an important milestone giving new momentum to the resolve of a green, modern, and Atmanirbhar Bharat. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visionary thinking has made

Haryana the first witness to the country's largest green technology initiative, and this is a matter of great pride for me. I believe it is the result of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's leadership that Haryana today stands among the leading states in the country in development, innovation, and self-reliance. Projects like the hydrogen train prove that the Prime Minister always believes in preparing the Nation in advance for the challenges of the future. On this historic occasion, I express heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Haryana. I also assure that the state government will continue to work with full commitment to realize the Prime Minister's resolve of a 'Viksit Bharat'. - Nayab Singh Saini, Chief Minister, Haryana



UK-India investment pact can boost investor confidence
Heavy metals found in Kashmir water chestnuts, Dal Lake most contaminated

A proposed Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and the United Kingdom could play a crucial role in unlocking higher foreign direct investment (FDI) flows into India by giving investors greater confidence and legal protection, according to Harjinder Kang, UK's Trade Commissioner for South Asia, who was also the Chief Negotiator for the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

before committing capital. Notably, the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) officially came into effect today. Signed in London, the landmark pact unlocks zero-duty access for 90.2% of Indian exports to the UK and slashes India's import duties on key British products. He said the India-UK Free Trade Agreement, which has now come into force, was expected to be accompanied by

begin. At the time, companies were seeking greater certainty over long-term investments and a framework that could provide confidence in the event of disputes. Although the investment treaty could not be concluded alongside the trade agreement, Kang said discussions remain alive and both sides continue to view it as an important next step in the economic relationship. "It will make a big difference that companies that have a little bit of reservation might then be feeling a bit more secure," he said. Kang noted that India has already emerged as a preferred destination for several British companies. He cited the example of a major UK healthcare company that recently established a manufacturing facility in Madhya Pradesh after assessing India's long-term growth potential. At the same time, he pointed out that investment ties are increasingly becoming two-way. Around 1,000 Indian companies have invested in the UK, making India the second-largest source of investment projects in the country after the United States

Kashmir's lakes, including the famed Dal Lake, are becoming contaminated with heavy metals, and this pollution is finding its way into water chestnuts that people eat. A new scientific study has raised concerns over heavy metal contamination in water chestnuts (Trapa natans), locally known as 'Gaur', harvested from some of Kashmir's major water bodies, with researchers identifying Dal Lake as the most polluted among the four water bodies examined. Published in "Scientific Reports", the study analysed water, sediments and different parts of water chestnut plants collected from Dal Lake, Hokarsar Wetland, Manasbal Lake and Wular Lake to assess the accumulation of eight heavy metals, including cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), copper (Cu), cobalt (Co), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), nickel (Ni) and zinc (Zn).

Dal Lake is a 22-square-kilometre urban water body fed by channels of the Jhelum River. Hokarsar Wetland, a 13.75-square-kilometre Ramsar site nourished by the Doodhganga and Sukhnag streams, serves as a vital wintering ground for migratory birds. Manasbal Lake, spread over 2.81 square kilometres, is Kashmir's deepest lake and is renowned for its crystal-clear, spring-fed waters. According to the study, the roots of water chestnut plants accumulated the highest concentrations of heavy metals, indicating that the plants absorb contaminants primarily from polluted sediments. The researchers found that contamination levels followed a clear spatial pattern, with Dal Lake recording the highest pollution load, followed by Hokarsar Wetland, while Manasbal and Wular Lakes showed comparatively lower contamination.



According to the study, the roots of water chestnut plants accumulated the highest concentrations of heavy metals, indicating that the plant absorbs contaminants primarily from polluted sediments. Iron recorded the highest concentration in roots at 322.50 mg/kg, while zinc reached 82.45 mg/kg. Although fruits contained significantly lower concentrations than roots, researchers detected cadmium levels of up to 0.11 mg/kg in edible fruits collected from Dal Lake. The study noted that cadmium concentrations in fruits from Dal Lake were approximately 5.5 times higher than the World Health Organization's recommended limit of

0.02 mg/kg. Zinc concentrations also exceeded guideline values, although the researchers observed that zinc and iron remain nutritionally important elements when consumed within safe limits. Using internationally accepted health risk assessment methods, the researchers concluded that regular consumption of water chestnuts from Dal Lake could pose a non-carcinogenic health risk due to cadmium exposure. While the calculated Target Hazard Quotient (THQ) for most heavy metals remained below the threshold of concern, cadmium exceeded safe limits for samples collected from Dal Lake.

The scientists attributed the contamination primarily to untreated domestic sewage, agricultural runoff, urban waste, houseboat discharges and other human activities that have increasingly degraded Kashmir's freshwater ecosystems. They cited official figures showing that out of nearly 193 million litres of sewage generated daily in Srinagar, around 140 million litres remains untreated, with a substantial portion eventually reaching Dal Lake. Besides analysing plant tissues, the researchers also examined water quality and bottom sediments. They reported elevated levels of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD),

chemical oxygen demand (COD), nutrients and heavy metals in Dal Lake, indicating severe organic pollution and declining water quality. Sediments contained even higher concentrations of contaminants than the overlying water, highlighting their role as long-term reservoirs of pollution. Despite the contamination concerns, the study also identified a positive aspect of the water chestnut plant. Researchers found that the plant possesses a strong ability to absorb and retain heavy metals, particularly in its roots, making it a promising candidate for phytoremediation—the use of plants to remove pollutants from contaminated environments. Bioconcentration factor values greater than one for several metals indicated that Trapa natans acts as an efficient metal accumulator. However, low translocation factors showed that most contaminants remain trapped in the roots instead of moving into the edible fruits. The authors cautioned that even though the plant can help reduce pollution levels in lakes, the presence of toxic metals in edible tissues raises concerns about their possible entry into the human food chain. The study concluded that increasing anthropogenic pressure on Kashmir's freshwater ecosystems is directly influencing heavy metal availability in aquatic plants. It recommended continuous biomonitoring of lakes and routine screening of edible water chestnuts, particularly those harvested from highly polluted water bodies such as Dal Lake, to safeguard public health while supporting conservation of the region's freshwater ecosystems.

Majid Jahangir (UNI)

Study offers new hope against chronic pain for dialysis patients

People receiving haemodialysis for kidney failure frequently feel chronic pain associated with their disease, which can be difficult to manage with opioid medication and other traditional treatments. A new study finds that offering these patients pain coping skills training (PCST) significantly reduced their suffering and improved their quality of life. Twenty-two New Mexicans - many of them Native American - participated in UNM's arm of the study, said Mark Unruh, MD, Chair, UNM Department of Internal Medicine. "This is particularly important for these patients since the therapeutic choices for pain management are limited and the use of opioids has been shown to be associated with

poor outcomes in this group." The randomized controlled study enrolled 643 participants from 16 medical centers and 103 dialysis clinics in The HOPE Consortium, an ongoing multi-site study exploring new treatments for dialysis patients. "New Mexico played a large role in the trial," he said. "We served as the primary outcomes measurement core and New Mexico had a supplement to recruit from rural clinics with a focus on our underrepresented populations." Multiple factors likely contribute to dialysis-related pain. Patients tend to be older and living with arthritis, diabetes, peripheral neuropathy and back pain, he said. "Dialysis by itself



may contribute, either directly or indirectly, like having uremic toxins in your bloodstream," Unruh said. "The process of going to dialysis and having a needle stuck in your arm may be challenging for some people to deal with. Doctors face challenges in treating dialysis-related pain because patients have kidney failure. We are kind of loathe to use nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents, and in general we avoid opioids," he said. "Certain opioids are better than others, but a lot of them are cleared in part from the kidneys. You kind of have your hands tied. Half of the study participants were randomly assigned to receive the PCST intervention, while the other was

assigned to receive usual care. The PCST consisted of 45-minute coaching sessions by counselors delivered via phone or video for 12 weeks, followed by an additional 12 weeks of daily automated interactive voice response sessions to monitor the participants' progress. The content included modules addressing pain-related anxiety, stress and sleep difficulties along with CBT, mindfulness, pain education, experiential training, with the overarching goal of enhancing self-efficacy for applying the acquired coping skills. "It's like a recipe with 12 components," Unruh said. "You talk about strategies, and focus on reframing and limiting catastrophizing. You'll do some mindfulness meditation, and then you'll talk about

addressing, anxiety and depression and strategies to prevent backsliding." The study found that patients who underwent the PCST intervention showed modest improvements in the extent to which pain interfered with their daily activities, he said. "The relevance would be that, if I'm seeing someone in a clinic who has chronic pain, rather than prescribing an opioid, I could refer them to a psychologist who practices CBT, and they could kind of adopt it." The study is an example of how research can lead to improvements in clinical care, Unruh said. "It is great to see these results in press and offer alternatives other than opioids to our patients on dialysis for treatment of chronic pain."

NEWS BRIEF

Barnala Villages witness strong response to Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Documentary Van



KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: As per the guidelines of the Punjab Government, a special documentary van dedicated to the 650th Parkash Purb of Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj is being run in various villages of Barnala district. Through this van, a documentary film based on the holy life, Bari and invaluable contribution made by Sri Guru Ravidas Ji for social reform is being shown to the people. This documentary has so far been screened in the villages of Karamgarh, Nangal, Thullewal, Jalur, Sekha, Farwahi, Rajgarh, Upali, Kattu, Bhatlan, Bhaini Maharaj, Badbar, Bhure, Harigarh, Dangarh and Mana Pindi of Barnala block. The documentary show is getting a huge response in the villages. Deputy Commissioner Barnala Harpreet Singh said that the main objective of this initiative being taken by the Punjab government is to convey the message of equality, brotherhood and humanity of Sri Guru Ravidas Ji to every section of the society.

PM Modi to visit Jind on July 17; Residents urged to participate: MLA Yogendra Rana

JAGBIR UPLANA
ASSANDH: In preparation for making the historic public rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi—scheduled for July 17 in Jind—a grand success, MLA Yogendra Rana held a meeting on Wednesday at his office with local Mandal Presidents and other public representatives, issuing necessary guidelines. The meeting involved detailed discussions on ensuring the rally's success, organizational coordination, public outreach campaigns, and maximizing citizen participation. MLA Yogendra Rana called upon everyone to work with full energy and dedication, playing a pivotal role in making this massive rally a historic event. Addressing the residents of the area, the MLA stated that on July 17, Haryana is set to witness a historic development milestone that will shape the future landscape of the state. From the soil of Jind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for development projects worth crores of rupees. During the event, the country's first hydrogen-powered train will be flagged off, ushering India into a new era of clean energy-based transportation. Under the Prime Minister's leadership, Haryana is rapidly advancing towards modern infrastructure, improved healthcare services, and robust connectivity. MLA Yogendra Rana appealed to the general public to participate in large numbers and witness this historic gift from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Officials inspect drinking water quality in Pehowa villages

YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: A joint inspection was conducted to assess the quality and safety of drinking water in Neemwala and Ratangarh Kakrali villages under the jurisdiction of the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Ramgarh Road. The inspection was carried out under the supervision of Senior Medical Officer Dr Sanjeev Goyal of Sub-Divisional Civil Hospital, Pehowa. Sanjay Kumar from PHC Ramgarh Road and Public Health Department Junior Engineer Arvind Mehla inspected public tube wells, checking chlorination units and dosing systems. Officials also conducted Orthotolidine (OT) tests on drinking water samples in both villages, and the results were found to be satisfactory. Following the inspection, the team held a meeting with Ratangarh Kakrali Sarpanch Jaswinder Singh. Discussions were also held on various Health Department programmes, including tuberculosis (TB), Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) and Vector-Borne Disease (VBD) control initiatives.



Students of DAV Police Public School win 20 gold medals in karate



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: While sports help keep us physically fit, the victories achieved in them boost our self-confidence. The DAV Sports Association regularly organises sports competitions to foster an interest in sports among children and to enhance their self-confidence. As part of this initiative, a karate competition was organized at the DAV cluster level, featuring participants from various schools. Students from DAV Police Public School achieved remarkable success in this event, winning twenty gold medals and two silver medals, thereby bringing glory to the school. In the Under-14 category, gold medals were won by boys—Bhavik, Avish Mehla, Gurnoor Maton, and Sushant Singh—and girls—Shivanya, Aarohi, Vanshika, Divyanshi Singhal, Manvi Chauhan, Vaishnavi Chauhan, Mayan, and Avni; meanwhile, Ayansh Sharma and Pihu Chaudhary secured silver medals. In the Under-17 category, gold medals were won by Viraj (boys) and Pratiksha, Taruni, Preeti, Gurdev Kaur, Mannat, Jhalak, and Tamanna (girls).

Jairam Thakur slams HP govt over apple procurement cap

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Leader of the Opposition and former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jairam Thakur on Tuesday criticised the state government's decision to cap the procurement of C-grade apples at 30 bags per orchardist under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), alleging that the move would adversely affect apple growers. In a statement, Thakur termed the decision "unjust" and questioned how

growers producing more than 30 bags of C-grade apples would dispose of the remaining produce. He alleged that the Congress government was imposing restrictions instead of addressing the problems faced by orchardists. The BJP leader claimed that growers were already facing shortages of spray oil, quality fertilisers and pesticides, besides delays in payments for apples procured under the MIS. He said the BJP would raise the issue

"from the streets to the Assembly" to safeguard the interests of orchardists. Thakur also welcomed recent Himachal Pradesh High Court orders in matters relating to a school building in Mandi district and the swearing-in of the Mandi Municipal Corporation Mayor. He alleged that the court's observations had exposed the state government's "political vendetta" and urged it to comply with the judicial directions without delay.

The govt before 2017 was the biggest omen of misfortune: CM Yogi



on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day-2026 on Wednesday. He honoured youth trained under the Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission and ITIs. During the programme, he visited the exhibition, interacted with trained youth and appreciated their products. The Chief Minister noted, "This year, UNESCO has chosen the theme of World Youth Skills Day as 'Saajha Bhavishya Ke Liye

Kaushal'. Opportunities become meaningful only when there is a government with vision and a positive outlook. Uttar Pradesh has the largest youth population in the world, and this is a matter of pride. This is our demographic dividend. We are linking this scale with skilling to advance Uttar Pradesh's economy. The power of youth can become the solution to every challenge. If young people receive

the right direction, training and opportunities, they can take the state's economy to new heights."

He stated, previous governments had created such conditions that people outside looked down upon Uttar Pradesh. If a young person went outside the state with a diploma or degree, he had to struggle for his identity and dignity. Government jobs were under the control of one family, and there was no transparency. Nepotism and corruption dominated recruitment processes. Nothing could be done without paying money. The Chief Minister remarked, whether it is a wealthy businessman or a person living in a hut, everyone eats only two rotis. A person with limited needs sleeps peacefully. But one who has stolen money cannot even sleep properly. For such a person, life becomes worse than hell. He observed, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi established the Skill Development Ministry in the country for the first time, giving Skill Development a new identity and direction.

Governor felicitates meritorious students, asks youth to explore green entrepreneurship



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JULY 15

Governor Kavinder Gupta today said that while joining prestigious services is an admirable goal, success is not confined to a single career path. He encouraged young people to explore diverse opportunities in innovation, entrepreneurship and scientific research, particularly in the field of medicinal plants and natural resources, where Himachal Pradesh has immense untapped potential. The Governor was addressing the 'Shimla Ke Medhavi' programme, organized by a leading vernacular daily group at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, where over 600

meritorious students from more than 35 schools across Shimla were felicitated for their outstanding academic achievements. Gupta said that countries such as New Zealand have successfully created global markets around the Manuka plant, South Korea has transformed Ginseng into a major economic resource and Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed remarkable socio-economic change through lavender cultivation. He said that Himachal Pradesh possesses a rich treasure of medicinal herbs, aromatic plants and other high-value crops, which can generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for thousands of young people through scientific cultivation, value addition and innovation.

Assandh SDM reviews electoral roll revision, issues SIR guidelines



JAGBIR UPLANA
ASSANDH: Sumit Sihag (HCS), Electoral Registration Officer and SDM Assandh, held a meeting with representatives of all political parties and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at the Sub-Divisional Officer's office regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and issued necessary guidelines. The SDM stated that the Election Commission of India has released a revised schedule for the special intensive revision campaign of the electoral roll. Under this, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will now conduct door-to-door voter verification and collect necessary documents until July 24, 2026. Voters with incomplete documentation or those whose verification is pending will be contacted to complete the process. According to the schedule, the draft electoral roll will be published on July 31, 2026. Subsequently, claims and objections regarding the electoral roll will be accepted from July 31 to August 30, 2026; all received claims and objections will be examined in accordance with the rules and disposed of by September 28, 2026. Following the completion of all necessary procedures, the final electoral roll will be published on October 3, 2026.

All supervisors and BLOs must understand the seriousness of the SIR task: SDM Assandh



JAGBIR UPLANA
ASSANDH: A meeting regarding the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) campaign was held on Wednesday at the SDM office auditorium, presided over by Sumit Sihag (HCS), the Electoral Registration Officer and SDM of Assandh. During the meeting, the SDM stated that the Election Commission of India has issued a revised schedule for the Special Intensive Revision campaign of the electoral roll. Under this initiative, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct door-to-door voter verification and collect necessary documents until July 24, 2026. Voters with incomplete documentation or those whose verification is pending will be contacted to ensure the process is completed. The SDM instructed that the SIR campaign involves the purification and verification of the electoral roll. Therefore, everyone must grasp the gravity of this task, complete it within the stipulated timeframe, assist in the re-verification of the ASDD (Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate) list, and ensure there is no laxity in the work. He directed AEROs and supervisors to closely monitor the work of BLOs. He urged them to motivate and support BLOs who are lagging behind to accelerate their work, conduct periodic reviews with the BLOs in their respective areas, and encourage them to work by setting daily targets.

May happiness, peace, and harmony spread across society: Renu Bala Gupta

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JULY 15

Mayor Renu Bala Gupta participated with deep devotion in the grand 'Maa Bhagwati Jagran' organized by the Maa Jagdamba Seva Sangathan at Darabi Line, located in Sadar Bazar, and bowed her head in reverence at the holy feet of Maa Bhagwati. She also offered prayers for the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of the residents of the city and the state. The entire venue was imbued with devotion, reverence, and spiritual energy, with the atmosphere resonating with hymns and chants dedicated to the Goddess. Speaking on the



occasion, Mayor Renu Bala Gupta remarked that it is through the grace and blessings of Maa Bhagwati that positive energy, love, harmony, and a spirit of service permeate society. Such religious events are an invaluable part of our Sanatan culture, serving to unite

society through the bonds of unity, traditional values, and spiritual consciousness. She prayed that Maa Jagdamba continues to shower her boundless grace upon all the residents of the state, blessing everyone with happiness, peace, prosperity, good health, and well-being.

Gurukul Kurukshetra organises Road Safety Awareness Programme

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, JULY 15

Gurukul Kurukshetra organized a comprehensive Road Safety Awareness Program to educate students about traffic regulations, safe driving practices and emergency response measures. The awareness session was conducted by officials from the Haryana Police Department. The program commenced with Principal Subey Pratap, who warmly welcomed and introduced the visiting police officers-DSP Suresh Kumar, SI Sher Singh (Road Safety In-charge), and Sukhdev Singh (Highway Safety In-charge)-to the students. In his welcome address, he



remarked that road safety is not merely a legal obligation but a moral responsibility. Addressing the students, DSP Suresh Kumar highlighted the growing importance of road safety and urged the students to adhere strictly to traffic regulations. He explained that compliance

with traffic rules not only protects one's own life but also safeguards the lives of others. He further informed the students that persons below the age of 18 are not legally permitted to drive motor vehicles and emphasised the compulsory use of helmets and seat belts while driving.

Bilaspur DC urges public to stay away from rivers amid heavy rains

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR: With heavy rainfall continuing to lash Bilaspur and more downpours forecast in the coming days, Deputy Commissioner and District Disaster Management Authority Chairman Rahul Kumar has issued a strong public advisory, urging residents to stay away from rivers, drains, ravines, and Govind Sagar Lake to avoid accidents. He warned that rising water levels and frequent landslides have created dangerous conditions across the district, stressing that people must refrain from bathing, swimming, washing clothes, or venturing near water bodies during the monsoon. The Deputy Commissioner revealed that the district has already suffered losses of nearly Rs 13 crore. The Public Works Department alone recorded damages worth Rs 12.28 crore, while the Jal Shakti Department incurred losses of Rs 26.85 lakh, with 16 drinking water schemes restored. The Electricity Department reported damages of Rs 1.95 lakh, including 21 damaged poles. Several government schools also sustained significant infrastructure losses. Rahul Kumar appealed to Gram Panchayats, educational institutions, and all departments to intensify public awareness on monsoon safety. He urged citizens to immediately report emergencies on 1077 or 112 to ensure swift rescue and relief operations.



Gurukul Kurukshetra organises comprehensive Road Safety Awareness Program about traffic rules



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State govt failed on all fronts; drug abuse, anarchy, and an atmosphere of fear prevails'



PRITI SAINI
SADHAURA: MP Varun Chaudhary visited the residence of Advocate Jaswinder Singh in village Rattuwalla. A grand welcome was accorded to MP Varun Chaudhary and Shahabad MLA Ramkaran. Speaking to journalists, MP Varun Chaudhary stated that the state government has proven to be a failure on every front. The drug trade in the state is growing day by day; drugs are being sold in every village, neighborhood, and ward, yet the government pays no attention to this issue. Businessmen are being subjected to extortion demands, and incidents of gunfire, robbery, and murder are occurring frequently. An atmosphere of anarchy and fear has gripped the state. MP Varun Chaudhary remarked that while a budget of several hundred crore rupees has been allocated for cleanliness, the actual state of sanitation remains abysmal; the Chief Minister himself has to pick up a broom for cleanliness drives. He questioned where the crores of rupees withdrawn from the treasury for sanitation are actually going.

HDFC Bank Parivartan Empowers 9.6 Lakh Individuals

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: On the occasion of World Youth Skills Day, HDFC Bank Parivartan, the CSR initiative of HDFC Bank, highlighted its continued efforts to equip young people with the skills, knowledge and opportunities needed to participate meaningfully in India's evolving economy. Since inception, the Bank's skilling and livelihood initiatives have positively impacted 9.6 lakh individuals. Commenting on the occasion, Ms. Nusrat Pathan, Head – CSR, HDFC Bank, said, "India's demographic dividend presents an unprecedented opportunity to build a skilled, resilient and future-ready workforce. At HDFC Bank Parivartan, we believe skill development is one of the most effective pathways for economic empowerment and social mobility.

World of Hyatt Expands HYROX Collaboration to India

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: World of Hyatt, Hyatt's award-winning loyalty program, today announces the expansion of its regional collaboration with HYROX Asia Pacific to include race cities in India. Building on its role as Official Regional Hotel Partner across Asia Pacific, the Hyatt race-cation experience will now be offered alongside HYROX events in key cities in India. As part of the India collaboration, Hyatt has also partnered with actor and fitness enthusiast Milind Soman, bringing together a shared passion for fitness, travel and active living as HYROX continues to grow its community in the country.

Ather to Unveil Its First Mass-Market EL Platform Scooter at Community Day 2026

CHANDIGARH: Ather Energy Limited, one of India's leading electric two-wheeler manufacturers, today announced that the fourth edition of its flagship community event, Ather Community Day, will be held on 29 August 2026 in Bengaluru. The theme for this year's event is 'A New Dawn of Magic', where Ather will unveil the first scooter from its new EL platform, marking its entry into the mass-market scooter segment. Alongside the new scooter, Ather will introduce a range of innovations across technology, charging, and the ecosystem that will make the ownership experience more seamless and connected. The EL Platform is Ather's next-generation vehicle architecture and the company's first all-new vehicle platform since the 450. Engineered from the ground up for greater versatility, scalability, and manufacturing efficiency, it will underpin Ather's future product portfolio across segments. The first scooter built on this platform marks a significant milestone for Ather, enabling the company to address the mass-market through the 1 lakh to 1.25 lakh price segment while expanding its total addressable market and opening the next chapter of growth. The Ather Community Day 2026 will bring together thousands of Ather owners, automotive and technology enthusiasts, and partners for a first look at the products, technologies, and experiences that Ather has been building. Over the last three years, Ather Community Day has evolved into one of India's most anticipated automotive and technology events.

1 in 3 stainless steel fabricators are skilled in India

HISAR: Reinforcing the need to build a future-ready workforce for India's growing stainless steel sector, India's first comprehensive Training Need Assessment (TNA), commissioned by Jindal Stainless and Coopers India (PwC) reveals that only 1 in 3 independent fabricators in the manufacturing ecosystem are skilled. The study, covers 1,904 respondents, including 629 fabricators, 575 workers, 250 employers, and 450 students, across nine states - Gujarat, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, making it the most geographically comprehensive workforce study undertaken for the sector.

Black Dog Scotch Whisky invites you to Savour the Sip with Refreshed Packaging

FARIDABAD : Black Dog Whisky, one of India's most iconic blended Scotch whisky brands, unveiled a refined new packaging that marks a confident evolution of a legacy spanning over 140 years. More than a visual refresh, the new design reflects a deeper expression of the brand's character inviting consumers to slow down and savour every sip. Commenting on the evolution, Varun Koorich, Vice President – Marketing & Portfolio Head, Diageo India, said, "Black Dog carries a Scotch legacy that goes back generations, crafted with a quiet confidence that never needs to shout. A blend shaped by some of the Scotland's finest distilleries, including Linkwood, it's a whisky that rewards the drinker who takes a moment to truly notice it. As today's consumers evolve seeking more meaning, more craft, and more intentional moments we wanted Black Dog to feel as relevant as it has always been. This refreshed packaging is our way of honouring the heritage while inviting a new generation to make it their own, so every sip becomes a moment worth savouring." Founded in 1883, Black Dog's story begins with its founder, Sir Walter Millard, who believed in a simple philosophy: true mastery comes from being fully present and letting time reveal its magic.

Canara Robeco AMC takes 'Nivesh Bus Yatra' to Haryana

KARNAL : Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Limited (Investment Manager to Canara Robeco Mutual Fund), India's second-oldest Mutual Fund, has launched the 'Nivesh Bus Yatra' in Delhi NCR region with the objective of educating investors and spreading awareness about mutual fund investments. The initiative aims to promote financial literacy and enhance awareness about the mutual fund investing among residents across the capital city and the areas around it. The bus began in Delhi, and will be travelling to Gurgaon, Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad, Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal, Panipat and Sonapat, connecting with communities across prominent locations across the city. "In today's evolving financial landscape, knowledge is as powerful as understanding.

Black Dog Scotch Whisky unveiled a refined new packaging

KARNAL / PANIPAT - Black Dog Whisky unveiled a refined new packaging that marks a confident evolution of a legacy spanning over 140 years. More than a visual refresh, the new design reflects a deeper expression of the brand's character inviting consumers to slow down and savour every sip. Commenting on the evolution, Varun Koorich, Vice President – Marketing & Portfolio Head, Diageo India, said, "Black Dog carries a Scotch legacy that goes back generations, crafted with a quiet confidence that never needs to shout. A blend shaped by some of the Scotland's finest distilleries, including Linkwood, it's a whisky that rewards the drinker who takes a moment to truly notice it. As today's consumers evolve seeking more meaning, more craft, and more intentional moments we wanted Black Dog to feel as relevant as it has always been. This refreshed packaging is our way of honouring the heritage while inviting a new generation to make it their own, so every sip becomes a moment worth savouring." Founded in 1883, Black Dog's story begins with its founder, Sir Walter Millard, who believed in a simple philosophy: true mastery comes from being fully present and letting time reveal its magic to create something truly extraordinary.

AAP Welcomes Honest & Grassroots Leaders Who Want to Work for Punjab's Progress: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann



CHANDIGARH: The Congress party suffered a major political setback in the Qadian Halqa (Assembly constituency) as senior leader Thakur Balraj Singh, a three-time Zila Parishad Member, former Block Samiti Chairman and former Chairman of the Land Mortgage Bank, joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the presence of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant

Singh Mann during a massive political rally held in Mukerian. Welcoming Thakur Balraj Singh into the party, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The Aam Aadmi Party always welcomes honest and grassroots leaders who are committed to serving the people. Leaders who work among the people are the real strength of any political party." He

added, "Thakur Balraj Singh has served the people for a long time. I welcome him into the Aam Aadmi Party family and assure him that he will receive full respect and due recognition in the party."

Qadian Halqa In-charge Guriqbal Singh Mahal said, "Thakur Balraj Singh enjoys a strong political base in the Qadian Assembly constituency and

commands considerable goodwill among the Thakur community. His joining will further strengthen the Aam Aadmi Party in the constituency."

He added, "I wholeheartedly welcome Thakur Balraj Singh and all his supporters into the Aam Aadmi Party. Together, we will work to accelerate the development of the Qadian constituency and serve the people.

Kia Unveils Syros EV with 526 km Range, Opens Bookings at ₹25,000



CHANDIGARH: Kia India has unveiled the Syros EV, its second mass-market electric SUV, offering a segment-leading ARAI-certified driving range of up to 526 km. The company has also opened pre-bookings for the new electric SUV at 25,000 through its dealerships and official website. The Syros EV is available with two battery options – a 51.4 kWh battery delivering an ARAI-certified range of 526 km, making it the first vehicle in its segment to cross the 500 km mark, and a 42 kWh battery offering a range of 443 km. Powered by an electric motor producing 171 PS, the SUV accelerates from 0 to 100 kmph in 8.1 seconds and supports DC fast charging from 10% to 80% in just 39 minutes using a 100 kW charger to boost customer confidence in EV ownership. Kia is offering a Lifetime High Voltage Battery Warranty, an Assured Buyback Programme, and a Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) financing option aimed at reducing upfront ownership costs and addressing concerns over battery life and resale value. The Syros EV also introduces K-Charge, Kia's integrated charging ecosystem that connects more than 20,300 charging points across 23 charging networks through a single platform on the MyKia app. The network is further supported by over 129 Kia dealerships equipped with DC fast chargers and 275 EV-ready workshops nationwide. Inspired by Kia's global EV design philosophy, the Syros EV features a futuristic exterior with Kia's signature Digital Tiger Face, Star Map LED lighting, auto-flush door handles, and 17-inch dual-tone aero alloy wheels. Inside, the SUV offers a 30-inch Tintin Panoramic Display, Harman Kardon 8-speaker premium audio system, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, over-the-air software updates, ventilated seats, panoramic sunroof, ambient lighting.

Amazon India and TEXPROCIL sign MoU at Bharat Tex 2026



CHANDIGARH: Amazon India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) to accelerate ecommerce exports from India's cotton textile sector. The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director, TEXPROCIL, at Bharat Tex 2026 in New Delhi. The collaboration aims to help cotton textile manufacturers, exporters, TEXPROCIL members build global businesses through Amazon Global Selling by strengthening exporter readiness and expanding access to international markets. Talking about this engagement, Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director, TEXPROCIL, said: "India's cotton textile industry is globally recognized for its quality, craftsmanship and manufacturing capabilities. Ecommerce opportunities are rapidly emerging as one of the most significant growth opportunities for Indian textile businesses, enabling manufacturers to reach customers directly, diversify beyond traditional export channels and build global brands. We are already seeing an increasing number of Indian home textile and apparel brands successfully expand their international presence through ecommerce. Through this collaboration with Amazon Global Selling, we aim to equip our members with the knowledge, tools and ecosystem support needed to capitalize on this

opportunity and accelerate their growth in international markets." Srinidhi Kalvapudi, Head, Amazon Global Selling, India, said: "India's textile industry has long been one of the country's strongest export sectors, with manufacturers producing world-class products that are sought after by customers around the world. Categories such as bedding, bath and home furnishings continue to see strong demand across Amazon's international marketplaces, creating significant opportunities for Indian exporters to reach global customers. Through our collaboration with TEXPROCIL, we aim to help more cotton textile exporters harness ecommerce opportunities to build global brands and grow internationally. As global demand grows for quality,

UTCA women cricketers receive Sachin Tendulkar designed high-performance shoes to boost performance ahead of BCCI domestic season



Chandigarh, In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening women's cricket in Chandigarh, women cricketers of the UT Cricket Association (UTCA) were presented with high-performance cricket shoes designed under the guidance of cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar during a special felicitation ceremony held at CricketersShop, Mohali, on Tuesday. The footwear brand under TenXu has been developed keeping in mind the demands of modern-day cricket and incorporates features such as a wide toe box for enhanced balance and comfort, lightweight construction for quicker movement, and improved support to help reduce fatigue and minimise the risk of injuries during long hours on the field. The shoes will help them to perform well in the upcoming WPL and BCCI season. The shoes were presented by Sanjay Tandon, Founder President, UTCA and Member, Governing Council of the Women's Premier League (WPL). Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Tandon said, "Women's cricket in Chandigarh has witnessed remarkable progress over the past few years, and our young players have consistently demonstrated the talent and commitment needed to compete at the highest level. Performance in modern cricket depends not only on skill and fitness but also on having access to quality equipment that enhances confidence and reduces the risk of injuries."

Punjab Pensioners Warn of Stir Over Pending Demands

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA
MOGA : The monthly meeting of Government Pensioners Association Sub-Division Nihal Singh Wala was held at Comrade Saghar Singh Hall under the chairmanship of President Bikkar Singh Machhike. During the meeting, various speakers alleged that the Punjab government is not paying any attention to the long-pending burning demands of employees and pensioners. Addressing the meeting, Gurmial Singh Khote, Gurjant Singh Baude, Slinder Singh Bhagike, Gurmial Singh Baude, Principal Sukhchain Singh and Principal Harbhajan Singh Bakhupura and other speakers condemned the government in strong terms. They demanded revision in salaries and pensions as per the coefficient of 2.59, regularization of raw employees, restoration of old pension scheme, immediate release of Sixth Pay Commission arrears and DA arrears. The speakers warned that if the government does not pay immediate attention to the demands, a massive rally will be held in Sangrur on July 27, 2026. Apart from this, on August 7, 2026, on the call of the Workers' Forum and the Joint Coalition, all the organizations will come together in the Grain Market located in Sector-39, Chandigarh and hold a protest demonstration, sit-in and protest march against the government. State President Bhajan Singh Gill, while giving information about the activities of the last month and the outline of the upcoming struggle, said that if the government does not show seriousness towards the demands, then a fierce struggle will be started from August 7, for which the entire responsibility will be of the government and the Chandigarh Administration. He said that the ministerial staff of Chandigarh, Directorate, Police, Patwari-Kanug and other fraternal organizations will also participate in this protest rally in large numbers. On this occasion, a large number of pensioners including Umakant Shastri, Balvir Singh Machhike, Mohan Singh, Balvir Bhatti, Rajinder Singh, Harnet Singh, Davinder Singh Himmatpura, Pritam Singh, Mannohan Singh, Jagraj Singh, Gurmial Singh, Bhagwan Singh, Jaspal Rai, Jaswant Singh, Jangir Singh, Joginder Singh, Surjit Singh, Roop Singh, Tanjit Singh, Sudagar Singh, Mukand Singh, Kaushal Kumar, Nachhattar Singh, Tola Singh, Major Singh, Surinder Singh, Ujagar Singh, Hardial Singh, Hakam Singh, Baljinder Singh were present.



NRI's backs Sri Akal Takht Sahib's Shaheedi Pattan Memorial with Rs One Crore contribution

CHANDIGARH, Welcoming the historic announcements made by Sri Akal Takht Sahib at Harike Pattan in memory of Bhai Jaswant Singh Khrala and thousands of victims of the violence and disappearances during the Punjab's peak militancy period, the IndUS Canada Foundation (ICF) has announced a contribution of Rs. 1 crore towards the development of the proposed Shaheedi Pattan Memorial. Vikram Bajwa, Indus Canada Foundation (ICF) said that the foundation fully supports the decisions announced by the acting Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj, including declaring Harike Pattan as "Shaheedi Pattan", constructing a permanent memorial at the site and documenting the records of those regarded as martyrs and persons allegedly killed or cremated as "unclaimed" during the 1982–1995 period. Announcing the Foundation's commitment, Vikram Bajwa affirmed that ICF w and community leaders across the United States, Canada, UK, Australia and other countries.

Ludhiana Awaits Grand Jagannath Rath Yatra: Rakesh Kapoor

SARBJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA: Prominent social worker Rakesh Kapoor has described the upcoming Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra, scheduled for July 16, as a grand festival of faith, devotion and divine blessings for the people of Ludhiana. Kapoor said the Rath Yatra is much more than a religious procession, calling it a rare opportunity for devotees to seek the blessings of Lord Jagannath. According to traditional belief, witnessing the Lord's darshan and touching the sacred chariot during the yatra brings immense spiritual merit, happiness, peace and prosperity. He said Lord Jagannath symbolizes compassion, harmony, love and the welfare of humanity. The annual Rath Yatra spreads the message of selfless service, sacrifice, unity and mutual respect, bringing people from all communities



together in devotion while transcending barriers of caste, class, language and religion. Appealing to the residents of Ludhiana, Kapoor urged devotees to welcome the Lord with flower showers, participate in the procession with their families and experience the spiritual

atmosphere created by the magnificent chariot as it passes through the city. He also emphasized the importance of connecting children and youth with India's rich religious and cultural traditions so that future generations remain rooted in the country's spiritual heritage. Kapoor expressed gratitude to the Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra Management Committee, volunteers, social and religious organizations, and the district administration for their dedicated efforts in organizing the annual event with devotion and discipline. Expressing confidence in the success of this year's celebrations, he said the Rath Yatra would further strengthen faith and spiritual consciousness while bringing happiness, peace and prosperity to Ludhiana, Punjab and the entire nation through the blessings of Lord Jagannath.

SVSU Vice-Chancellor Delivers Special Address at FICCI's World Youth Skills Day Event in Delhi

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NEW DELHI: Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU) Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dinesh Kumar delivered a special address at the World Youth Skills Day celebration organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at Federation House, New Delhi. The event brought together students, educators, industry leaders and skill development experts from across the country to deliberate on preparing India's youth for the future of work. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Dinesh Kumar highlighted the transformative role of skill development in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. He said that rapid technological advancements, artificial intelligence, automation and digital



transformation are redefining employment across the globe, making continuous learning and skill upgradation indispensable for every young professional. He urged students to move beyond the conventional aspiration of merely securing a job. "Possessing practical and industry-relevant

skills should empower young people to become entrepreneurs and job creators rather than job seekers," he said. He emphasised that innovation, creativity and an entrepreneurial mindset would be the driving forces behind India's economic growth in the coming decades.

Ludhiana's 18-Year-Old Advith Sharma Builds AI Platform for Insurance Agents While Studying at Scaler School of Technology

LUDHIANA: At an age when most students are just beginning college, Advith Sharma from Ludhiana, Punjab, set out to solve a problem that India's insurance agents and brokers have dealt with for years, juggling fragmented tools and manual workflows that slowed operations and customer servicing. Along with his co-founder, Advith built Flow under their startup, AetherLabs. Currently a student at Scaler School of Technology, he developed the platform to simplify insurance operations through AI. Flow is a unified AI-powered platform with Flow AI at its core, enabling insurance intermediaries to streamline renewals, endorsements, servicing, and customer record management. Rather than building a solution from behind a desk, Advith spent months on the ground studying the insurance ecosystem. He travelled across North India, meeting over 150 insurance agents and brokers to understand their day-to-day workflows, operational bottlenecks, and what an effective technology solution would need to solve. As Advith moved from identifying the problem to building a solution, his journey at Scaler School of Technology played an



important role in helping him develop the technical skills and problem-solving mindset required to bring his idea to life. While pursuing his studies, he applied his classroom learnings to build, test, and refine Flow AI, allowing him to work on a real-world industry challenge alongside his academic journey. "I didn't start with technology, I started with the problem," says Advith. "I spent months understanding where inefficiencies actually occur before building anything." The first version of this product did not work. Advith went back to users, gathered feedback, and rebuilt it. This journey took 8 months of continuous research and development, starting with 2 months of full-time field work alongside insurance agents, followed by 6 months of continuous development, iterative improvements, and pilot deployments. The result was Flow AI, a platform that automates key insurance workflows such as policy renewals, document management, endorsements, and servicing. The journey involved multiple iterations, where Advith combined customer insights with technical skills. Flow AI finally went live in January 2026 and now serves 150+ individual agents and multiple insurance brokers.

Lexus India opens bookings for the all-new Es 350h

Chandigarh : Lexus India announces the bookings open for the All-New ES350h, the self-charging hybrid electric variant of its newly introduced eighth-generation executive sedan. The ES 350h expands the brand's electrified portfolio, offering guests a compelling choice alongside the recently launched ES 500e, and underscores Lexus's multi-pathway approach to the carbon-neutral future. The ES has been one of Lexus' core global models since its debut alongside the flagship LS in 1989. Renowned for its exceptional quietness, ride comfort, and spacious interior, the ES has been sold in more than 80 countries and regions worldwide. The model has been a key pillar of Lexus line-up in India and has played a pivotal role in shaping the brand's presence in the market. The All-New ES 350h will be manufactured in India and builds on that legacy, sharing its advanced platform and

design philosophy with the ES 500e while reinforcing Lexus's deep commitment to the Indian market. Commenting on the announcement, Hikaru Ikeuchi, President of Lexus India, said: "As we continue to strengthen our ES family, the All-New ES 350h will be manufactured in India, following the success of the previous generation, reaffirming our enduring commitment to the Indian market. The new model underscores Lexus' multi-pathway approach to electrification and reinforces our dedication to advancing sustainable mobility in India. In line with this direction, we are pleased to announce the opening of bookings for the All-New ES 350h, a model that has long been cherished by our guests in India. The response and anticipation surrounding this new generation have been immensely encouraging. Our focus remains on offering our guests a broader portfolio of electrified vehicles.



Health Dept Intensifies Dengue Drive, Promotes ₹10 Lakh Health Cover

Hoshiarpur, July 15: With the arrival of the monsoon season, the Health Department has stepped up its campaign to prevent mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria. The information was shared by Dr. Manpreet Singh Bains, Senior Medical Officer (SMO) and General Surgeon at PHC Harta Badla, during an interaction with senior journalist Dajit Ajnaha. Dr. Bains said that the risk of dengue and malaria rises sharply during the rainy season. To curb the spread of these diseases, dedicated health teams are conducting door-to-door surveys in villages and residential areas to identify stagnant water where mosquitoes breed. Whenever mosquito larvae are found, immediate larval destruction measures are taken, and insecticide spraying is carried out wherever required. He said the department is also running extensive public awareness campaigns, educating residents about preventive measures. Larvicide tablets are being distributed for use in water storage tanks and other water sources to prevent mosquito breeding and ensure safe water storage. Speaking about the Chief Minister Sehat Bima Yojana, Dr. Bains said that more than 20,000 beneficiaries in the PHC Harta Badla block have already received their health insurance cards.

 AU SMALL FINANCE BANK	Registered Office: 19-A Dhuleshwar Garden, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, 302001. www.au.bank.in
LOAN AGAINST GOLD - AUCTION NOTICE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS	
The below mentioned borrower's have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the loan against gold facilities availed from AU Small Finance Bank Limited ("Bank"). Since the borrower's has/have failed to repay his/her dues, we are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold items/articles on 17 August 2026 between 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Time) at below mentioned branches according to the mode specified therein. In the case of deceased borrowers, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs. Please note that in the event of failure of the above auction, the bank reserves its right to conduct another auction without prior intimation.	
Physical Auction Branch Details	
Rewari -L9001090156179123 L900109015594556 GURUGRAM SECTOR 10 -L25660001098713 Circular Road Bhiwani -L9001090155680474 L9001090156295201 NEELAM BATA ROAD FARIDABAD -L25660001577802 L26660000728195 L9001090155749840	
Note: 1. In the event of failure of physical auction e-auction may be conducted by using weblink - https://gold.samfi.in 2. Please consider this notice as a pre-notice for the next auction in case the proposed auction fails. 3. The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions in the bid form, which is made available before the commencement of auction.	
Sd/- Manager AU Small Finance Bank Limited	

Drinking water issue in Chanaut village resolved through Khattar’s initiative

DINKAR GAWRI
HANSI, JULY 15

A long-standing drinking water issue in Chanaut village of the Hansi region has been resolved through the initiative of Union Minister for Power, Housing & Urban Affairs and former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal. Villagers announced the end of their protest after the Union Minister announced the installation of a new four-inch "T" connection (tapping point) from the main drinking water pipeline to the village and granted departmental approval for the same. Manohar Lal was addressing a press conference following a meeting held at the PWD Rest House in Hansi on Wednesday. Haryana's Public Works (Building & Roads) and Public Health Engineer-



ing Minister Ranbir Singh Gangwa, Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Barala, Hansi MLA Vinod Bhayana, DC Rahul Narwal, SP Vinod Kumar, BJP District President Ashok Saini, and Chairman Rajesh Thakral were also present. Public representatives held detailed discussions with the villagers, protest committee members, and departmental officials, listened to all parties, and en-

deavored to find a solution on the spot. He stated that two significant issues concerning Chanaut village had emerged during the state government's drinking water pipeline project. First, the people demanded that water supply be provided to the village from the main drinking water pipeline passing nearby. Second, technical and administrative hurdles had arisen at the site where the

pipeline was laid due to the widening and construction work of the National Highway, which had impacted the project.

He added that the government took the villagers' demand seriously and obtained detailed reports from technical experts and departmental officials. The assessment revealed that the main pipeline has sufficient capacity, and providing an additional water supply to Chanaut village would not adversely affect the drinking water arrangements of any other village or area. Consequently, a decision was made to install a four-inch "T-line" from the main pipeline, and the necessary approval was granted to the concerned department. The Union Minister clarified that the village's existing drinking water sys-

tem would continue to operate smoothly without any changes. The new four-inch T-line will serve as an additional and alternative arrangement. Should the demand for water in the village increase in the future, or if the existing system fails to provide adequate supply for any reason, additional water will be made available through the new line. This will strengthen the village's drinking water security and help meet the needs of the growing population in the coming years. Union Minister Manohar Lal directed officials to promptly complete the formalities related to the National Highway project, resolve any technical hurdles regarding the pipeline work, and initiate the installation of the new T-line on a priority basis.

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER
BARARA, JULY 15

Transforming negative thoughts into positive ones and talking to loved ones when needed are simple yet effective ways to reduce stress. Psychiatrist Khushbu Rai shared these insights while addressing a seminar held at Sant Mohan Singh Khalsa Labana Girls College as part of a training programme titled 'Mental Health and a Stress-Free Life.' She discussed various aspects of mental health, stress management, positive thinking, and methods to maintain peace in daily life in detail. The special training program on 'Mental Health and a Stress-Free Life' was organized at the college under the guidance of Principal Dr. Daljit Kaur Virk and the leadership of Dr. Navneet Kaur, the Nodal Officer for the National Task Force (NTF).

The primary objective of the programme was to raise awareness about mental health among the college's teaching and non-teaching staff and to provide information on ways to lead a stress-free, peaceful life. During the training session, Khushbu (M.A. Psychology) outlined several practical stress management techniques. She stated that regular yoga, deep breathing exercises, time management, adequate sleep, pursuing hobbies, replacing negative thoughts with positive ones, and communicating with loved ones when necessary are among the most effective measures to allevi-

ate stress. She also emphasized the importance of practicing the '5-4-3-2-1 grounding technique' and mindfulness during times of stress.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Dr. Daljit Kaur Virk remarked that mental health is a crucial necessity in today's world. She noted that peace and success in life can only be achieved if one remains mentally healthy and emphasized the need to conduct such awareness programs



regularly. NTF Nodal Officer Dr. Navneet Kaur observed that in today's fast-paced and highly competitive world, people are increasingly falling prey to mental stress, anxiety, and depression. In this context, it is crucial that we prioritize our mental health just as much as we do our physical health. She further added that through meditation, yoga, positive thinking, and timely communication, we can make our lives more balanced and peaceful. Dr. Kaur urged everyone to speak openly about mental health and seek professional help when needed. The entire college staff participated in the event in large numbers. Following Dr. Navneet Kaur's vote of thanks, the one-day training program concluded.

Barara police head Jaipal transferred; SI Sheesh Pal takes charge



JAIBEER RANA THAMBER
BARARA: As part of an administrative reshuffle within the police department, Jaipal, the in-charge of the Barara police post, has been transferred. Sub-Inspector Sheesh Pal has been appointed as the new in-charge of the post. Following the issuance of the transfer order, Sub-Inspector Sheesh Pal assumed charge of the Barara police post. It is noteworthy that Sheesh Pal has previously served in Barara for a considerable period and is well-acquainted with the area. Expectations are high that he will strengthen law and order in the region, effectively curb crime, and resolve public grievances on a priority basis. Meanwhile, Sheesh Pal has stated that he will work towards ensuring public safety and maintaining law and order.

Unidentified thieves target 5 shops in Mohalla Savaniya



PRITI SAINI
SADHAURA: In a single night, unidentified thieves targeted five shops in the market at Mohalla Savaniya (Ward No. 10), stealing copper pipes and wiring from the air conditioners. The incident has sparked anger and fear among the shopkeepers. Shopkeepers Aman Saini and Deepanshu Dhingra reported that when they opened their shops in the morning and tried to switch on their ACs, error messages appeared on the units. Upon checking the rooftops, they discovered that the copper pipes and wiring had been removed from the AC compressors; the cutting of the pipes had also caused the refrigerant gas to leak out completely. The shopkeepers stated that restoring the ACs to working order would require new copper piping, wiring, and gas refilling, incurring an expense of thousands of rupees. An AC mechanic confirmed that the gas had completely leaked due to the severed pipes, making a refill mandatory after repairs. They noted that there has been a recent surge in such incidents involving unidentified thieves. The shopkeepers have demanded that the police administration increase night patrols and take strict action against the thieves. At the time of writing this report, no formal complaint had been lodged with the police regarding the matter.

Officials directed to complete preparations for July 17 programme

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Aman Kumar on Wednesday directed officials to complete all preparations well in advance for the programme to be held on July 17, during which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the Kurukshetra Elevated Railway Track and the Sikh Museum from Jind. Chairing a review meeting at the SDM office in the Mini Secretariat, Aman Kumar said a parallel programme would be organised at Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Sadan of Kurukshetra University. Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana will attend the event as the chief guest. The SDM reviewed arrangements with officials from the district administration, police, Social Welfare Department, Welfare Department, Public Relations Department, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and other concerned departments. He instructed all departments to complete their assigned responsibilities on time, warning that accountability would be fixed if deficiencies were found in the arrangements. Aman Kumar also encouraged officials to promote the use of e-rickshaws and electric vehicles for travel to the venue as part of the event's environmental initiatives. He directed departments to invite beneficiaries of various government schemes to attend the programme and instructed the police administration to make comprehensive security arrangements for the event.

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