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NEWS BRIEFS

Stock markets extend losses for 5th straight day

MUMBAI: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday, extending the losing streak for the fifth consecutive session, as investors remained cautious due to rising oil prices amid geopolitical tensions in West Asia and renewed concerns over US trade tariffs. Fresh foreign fund outflows and selling in blue-chip HDFC Bank also dented market sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 331.62 points, or 0.43 per cent, to settle at 76,059.77. During the day, it tanked 916.96 points, or 1.20 per cent, to 75,474.43.

Pb Roadways contractual workers announce three-day strike from Aug 3

CHANDIGARH: Contractual employees of the state-owned Punjab Roadways on Friday announced a three-day strike from August 3 to August 5 to press the state government to address their long-pending demands, including regularisation of their services. The Punjab Roadways, Punjab, and PRTC Contract Workers' Union slammed the AAP government, accusing it of failing to accept their demands despite discussing them in about 70 meetings over the past four years.

Gold slides Rs 2,000 to Rs 1.47 lakh/10g, silver drops Rs 5,000

NEW DELHI: Gold prices dropped by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1.47 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday due to profit-taking by traders. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,47,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), marking its second straight day of losses. Gold traded at Rs 1,49,200 per 10 grams on Thursday, according to local traders. Silver prices also declined by Rs 5,000 to Rs 2,24,700 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) due to heavy selling. The white metal had settled at Rs 2,29,700 per kg in the previous session.

Noida Police book two social media handles over alleged 'misleading videos'

NOIDA (UP): Noida Police has registered an FIR against an Instagram account and an X handle for allegedly circulating "misleading videos" to create panic among the public and disturb law and order, officials said on Friday. The FIR was lodged at the Cyber Police Station against the Instagram account 'charajunctionnews' and the X handle 'Truth @ TruthfulCritics' under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), relating to statements conducive to public mischief, and Section 66D of the Information Technology Act.

NIA court declines Mumbai Police custody of Anmol Bishnoi citing Home Ministry order

NEW DELHI: A Special NIA court has declined Mumbai Police's plea seeking custody of Anmol Bishnoi in connection with the murder of former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddiqui, citing a Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order restricting his movement outside Tihar Jail, Delhi. Anmol is the brother and alleged close aide of Lawrence Bishnoi. He was deported from the United States on November 19, 2025, and was subsequently sent to judicial custody.

Govt agrees to two CJP demands, seeks time on Pradhan resignation

UNI
NEW DELHI, JUL 24

Cockroach Janta Party on Friday said the government has agreed in principle to two key demands raised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) during talks over the ongoing student protests, but sought more time to decide on the group's demand for the resignation of union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The meeting between government representatives - union Ministers J P Nadda and Jitendra Singh - and the CJP was held at the Constitution Club at around noon.

Speaking after the meeting, union Minister Nadda said the discussions covered three principal demands and five suggestions related to examination reforms.

"The meeting went on for almost two hours. They had three main demands and five reform suggestions for exams. We have told them that we will meet them again tomorrow afternoon and tell them about the discussion we had within the government," Nadda said.

CJP National Spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka said the government had sought time until 2 pm on Saturday to respond to the demand for Pradhan's resignation.

"The government has asked for time till tomorrow afternoon on our demand for Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. We hope the government will remove him soon," Ranka said.

He added that the Centre had conveyed in-principle approval to two other demands: compensation for the families of NEET aspirants who allegedly died by suicide and withdrawal of FIRs and legal cases registered against protesting students.

In a statement posted on X after the



meeting, the CJP said the government had agreed to provide compensation to the families of deceased students and withdraw cases against protesters, but reiterated that it would settle for "nothing less than the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan." "We have given the government 24 hours to consider this," the party said. There was, however, a discrepancy over the duration of the meeting. While Nadda said the discussions lasted

nearly two hours, CJP spokespersons claimed the interaction lasted only about 10 minutes. Cockroach Janta Party Chief Spokesperson Saurav Das on Thursday said the party placed four key demands before the Union government over the NEET exam paper leak during a meeting with Union Ministers JP Nadda and Jitendra Singh. Das added that the government had responded positively to some of them.

SC to hear pleas alleging police excesses on students on July 27

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday will hear on July 27 two separate petitions alleging police excesses on students protesting NEET paper leak and other exam irregularities. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydip Bagchi and V Mohana agreed to hear the PILs after they the matter was mentioned before it. "Police is using excessive force against the students," Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan said. "The court stands between us and the police."

Hry nears completion of voter roll verification, over 2.06 crore electors covered

UNI
CHANDIGARH, JUL 24

Haryana has virtually completed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls, with verification covering 20,654,471 of the state's 20,655,929 registered electors, leaving only 1,458 electors pending across the state.

The exercise, carried out by 20,629 Booth Level Officers (BLOs), has also resulted in the digitisation of 17,270,135 Enumeration Forms (EFs), accounting for 83.61 per cent of the electorate. The latest status report places the overall completion of the verification exercise at 99.99 per cent.

According to the district-wise SIR status report, 21 of Haryana's 22 districts have completed the exercise with zero pending electors. Hisar is the only district where 1,458 electors remain pending. The district has nevertheless achieved 99.89 per cent completion, with 13,69,308 of its 13,70,766 electors already covered.

The report further shows that 33,84,336 electors (16.38 per cent) have been placed under the 'Uncollectable' category. In absolute numbers, Faridabad recorded the highest number of uncollectable electors at 5,18,461, followed by Gurgaon (4,55,128), Sonapat (2,36,865), Karnal (2,10,824),



Panipat (1,82,352), Hisar (1,70,253) and Rohtak (1,59,552).

In percentage terms, however, Gurgaon recorded the highest proportion of uncollectable electors at 29.27 per cent, followed by Faridabad (27.43 per cent), Sonapat (19.38 per cent), Panipat (18.86 per cent) and Rohtak (18.76 per cent).

13 killed after taxi buried under landslide debris in Lahaul-Spiti

BUREAU
SHIMLA, JULY 24

At least 13 people were killed in a major tragedy occurred on Friday in the tribal district of Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. As per reports a taxi traveling from Kullu to Pangti was buried under debris after a sudden landslide near Kadu Nala on the Udaipur-Killar road. 13 people have lost their lives in the incident. Lahaul-Spiti Superintendent of Police Shivani Mehla has confirmed the fatalities. Upon receiving news of the accident, the Tindi police, local administration, and rescue teams rushed to the site. Relief and rescue operations were being carried out on a war footing when news last came in.



According to reports, the Udaipur-Killar road had been closed the previous day due to a landslide, causing all the passengers in the taxi to halt at Tindi. The vehicle set off for Pangti on Friday after the road was reopened; however,

confirming the incident, the administration stated that precise details regarding the number of passengers and casualties would be provided only after the rescue operation concludes.

near Kadu Nala, a large section of the hillside suddenly collapsed, burying the taxi. So far, rescue teams have pulled one injured person from the debris and sent them to the hospital for treatment. The search for other passengers is ongoing, and the work of clearing the debris is proceeding rapidly. While

CM expresses grief over tragic incident

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has expressed grief over the death of 13 persons in a road accident at Karunallah in Lahaul-Spiti district on Friday. The ill-fated vehicle was on its way from Kullu to Pangti. The Chief Minister directed the Deputy Commissioner of Lahaul-Spiti to proceed immediately to the incident site and supervise the rescue and relief operations. He also asked to provide all possible assistance to the next of kin of the deceased and best of treatment to the injured. He wished speedy recovery to the injured.

Union Minister Ravneet Bittu resigns, likely to contest Punjab polls

NEW DELHI: Punjab BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu has resigned from the post of Union Minister of State for Railway and Food Processing Industries. His tenure as a Rajya Sabha MP had already ended in June.

Bittu is likely to contest the assembly election in Punjab, due next year, sources said. He has been closely involved in preparing the BJP's groundwork for a comeback next year in the border state held by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Bittu, who's the grandson of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, joined the BJP in 2024 and unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha elections. He was nominated to



the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan for the remainder of the term of a seat vacated by Congress leader K C Venugopal.

In recent times, Bittu had openly criticised the Diljit Dosanjh-starrer 'Satluj', and called it an attempt to light a fire, at a time when many Sikh leaders irrespective of their political allegiance had tread cautiously on the sensitive film.

That indicated the strategy he would be using for the BJP in Punjab i.e. to focus on four segments of the electorate - Hindus, Sikhs, Dalits, and Other Backward Classes (OBC). Sikhs form the largest segment of voters, nearly 58 per cent of the population, followed by Hindus at 39 per cent.

IMD forecasts widespread rain in Haryana, Delhi, Pb from July 27

UNI
PANCHKULA, JULY 24

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday forecast a fresh spell of active monsoon over northwestern India, with widespread rainfall likely over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab from July 27 to 30.

It also warned of very heavy rainfall at isolated places in the region during this period. According to the IMD's All India Weather Summary and Forecast Bulletin, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir-Ladakh and Uttarakhand are likely to receive widespread rainfall from July 24 to 30.

Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab are expected to have isolated to



scattered rainfall from July 24 to 26 before rainfall intensifies from July 27 onward.

The weather office has forecast isolated heavy rainfall over Punjab and Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi on

July 25.

Very heavy rainfall at isolated places is likely over Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand from July 27 to 30.

West Uttar Pradesh is likely to experience heavy rainfall from July 28 to 30, while East Uttar Pradesh may receive heavy rain from July 27 to 30.

The IMD has also warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy rainfall over East Rajasthan on July 24, making it one of the most rain-affected regions in the forecast.

Heavy rainfall is also likely over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand from July 24 to 26, and West Rajasthan from July 25 to 26.

Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds reaching 30-40 kmph, gusting up to 50 kmph, are likely over Jammu & Kashmir-Ladakh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand on different days during the forecast period.

The sanskar school win gold medal



ISHWAR GARG TALWANDI SABO: The Under-14 Girls' Chess Team of The Sanskar School won the Gold Medal at the Inter-Zonal School Games 2026, earning qualification for the District Level. The district qualifiers are Anneet Kaur (Class VII), Saachi (Class VII), and Purvi Gaig (Class VI). Congratulating the students on their outstanding achievement, Principal Ms. Deepika Kapoor and Chairperson Ms. Nimrat Sidhu applauded their dedication and wished them success for the upcoming District Level competition. The achievement reflects the school's commitment to excellence in sports and holistic development.

DAV Public School Kotkapura wins cluster volleyball championship



SURINDER DAMDAKI KOTKAPURA: DAV Cluster Games were organized grandly at DAV Public School, Kotkapura. The event was inaugurated by the Principal of the school, Dr. Rajvir Singh Kang and Principal Rakesh Sharma (DAV Malout) by lighting the lamp. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Dr. Rajvir Singh Kang said that sports are an important part of the all-round development of students and they strengthen discipline, leadership and team spirit. On the first day of the cluster games, in the most exciting volleyball final, the team of the host DAV Kotkapura performed brilliantly and defeated DAV Bathinda by a huge margin of 3-0 to win the gold medal and become the champion. Principal Kang and the guests honored the winning team and players with medals and prizes during the closing ceremony. Principal Dr. Rajvir Singh Kang congratulated the winning players and said that this victory is the result of hard work, regular practice and team spirit.

Fast-flowing Pai threatens Nala village, farmland hit



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT: Continuous rainfall has posed a serious threat to Nala village near Gharota, with the fast-flowing Pai causing erosion and affecting hundreds of acres of agricultural land. A delegation of the Doaba Kisan Committee Punjab, including its general secretary Daljit Singh Manjpur, Ukar Singh Devi Das and Sewa Singh Nalunga, visited the affected area following a request from the villagers. The villagers said water from the Pathankot-Dheera Canal, also known as the Nalua Wali Canal, and the Upper Bari Doab Canal from Bagiyal village had accumulated and was flowing towards Nala village.

DSP Pritpal Sandhu honoured with 2 DGP commendation discs



AMRISH ANAND DORAH: In recognition of his exemplary performance, dedication and distinguished service, DSP S.Pritpal Singh Sandhu, posted in Samrala Sub-Division under Khanna Police, was honoured with two DGP Commendation Discs. The prestigious honour was conferred by Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav. During a formal ceremony, SSP Khanna Dr. Darpan Ahluwalia pinned the DGP Commendation Discs on DSP Sandhu's uniform in recognition of his commendable contribution to the police force. Speaking on the occasion, SSP Dr. Darpan Ahluwalia said that DSP Pritpal Singh Sandhu has always discharged his duties with honesty, dedication and professionalism. She described him as a committed and responsible officer whose service reflects the core values of Punjab Police and contributes significantly to maintaining law and order and ensuring public safety.

CBSE cluster XVIII girls Basketball Championship-2026 concludes successfully at Montessori Cambridge School

VERMA GURDASPUR, JULY 24

Montessori Cambridge School, Pathankot successfully hosted the three-day CBSE Cluster XVIII Girls Basketball Championship-2026, which concluded on a grand note amidst enthusiasm, sporting spirit, and celebration.

The prestigious championship featured competitions in the Under-14, Under-17, and Under-19 categories, with leading CBSE schools from Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir participating. Throughout the tournament, thrilling matches, intense competition, and exemplary sportsmanship transformed the campus into a vibrant celebration of talent, determination, and athletic excellence.

Dhaliwal felicitates 19 newly appointed Anganwadi workers by distributing appointment letters

HARPAL SINGH / CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA AMRITSAR, JULY 24

Aam Aadmi Party's State Chief Spokesperson, MLA and former Punjab Minister S. Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal today felicitated 19 newly selected Anganwadi Workers by distributing appointment letters during a brief yet impressive function held at Ajnala under the Anganwadi Services Scheme.

While distributing the appointment letters, S. Dhaliwal said that under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government has set a new benchmark by providing nearly 69,000 government jobs to educated unemployed youth through a completely transparent and merit-based process, without any nepotism, political recommendation or bribery.

He alleged that under previous governments, unemployed youth and their families were financially exploited and heavy bribes were allegedly demanded in the name of government recruitment.

He reiterated that the Mann Government is firmly committed to ensuring that every deserving candidate gets government employment



purely on the basis of merit and hard work, and that this commitment is being upheld with complete honesty.

Congratulating the newly appointed Anganwadi Workers, S. Dhaliwal expressed confidence that they would discharge their responsibilities with sincerity, dedication and a spirit of service.

He said they would play an important role in effectively implementing Mission Poshan 2.0 by delivering government welfare and nutrition programmes for children, pregnant women and women to the grassroots. S. Dhaliwal also claimed that the Mann Government has

taken a significant step towards the financial empowerment of women by launching a monthly financial assistance scheme under which women belonging to the General Category receive Rs 1,000 per month, while women belonging to the Scheduled Caste category receive ₹1,500 per month. He said that more than 70 lakh women have already registered to avail the benefit and that the registration window remains open.

He further stated that women who could not receive the benefit earlier will have three months' financial assistance credited to their bank accounts on August 1, and

that the government has completed all necessary preparations for the same. He asserted that the Mann Government remains committed to the welfare of every section of society and is implementing both employment initiatives and public welfare schemes with complete transparency.

Among those present on the occasion were District Education Coordinator Advocate Amandeep Kaur Dhaliwal, CDPO Bikramjit Singh, PA Mukhtar Singh Badalwal, Urban President Amit Aul, Nagar Panchayat President Bhatti Jaspal Singh Dhillon, Advocate Sandeep Kaushal Gattu, and other dignitaries.

Dr Nitin Batra, Professor and Head, department of ophthalmology, CMC hospital Ludhiana awarded National Dronacharya Samman 2026



SARBJIT SUFI LUDHIANA, JULY 24

The International Conference of the Young Ophthalmologists Society of India Dr. Nitin batra of cmc awarded national dronacharya samman 2026. The award is given annually to outstanding teachers in India in recognition of their "extraordinary dedication, vision and commitment in guiding and shaping the future generations of Ophthalmologists."

Sangrur police organises 'Samadhan Camp' for redressal of public grievances

SUMER GARG DHURI, JULY 24

With the objective of providing better, responsive and citizen-friendly policing services at the doorstep of the people, the Sangrur Police has been regularly organising 'Samadhan Camps' across all police stations and sub-divisions of the district. Through these camps, public complaints and grievances are heard on the spot and resolved in a fair, transparent and time-bound manner in accordance with the law. The primary objective of this initiative is to strengthen public trust in the police, provide prompt relief to citizens, and make the policing system more accountable, transparent and accessible.

As part of this initiative, Senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur, Dr. Ravjot Grewal, IPS, today visited a 'Samadhan Camp' organised at Swan Birdz under Sub-Division Dhuri, where she interacted directly with members of the public.

During the camp, residents from various villages and urban areas presented their complaints, grievances and suggestions before the SSP. Dr. Grewal heard each complaint carefully and directed the concerned police officers to examine every case strictly in accordance with the law and ensure its fair,



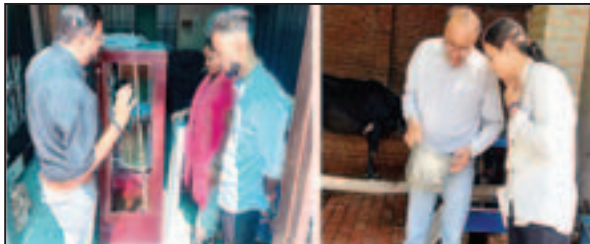
transparent and timely disposal. Addressing the gathering, the SSP said that the foremost priority of the Sangrur Police is to ensure justice for citizens, promptly resolve their genuine grievances, and make policing services more effective, transparent and people-centric. She emphasised that every complaint is dealt with impartially, transparently and strictly in accordance with the provisions of the law, without any discrimination or bias.

She further stated that these 'Samadhan Camps' save citizens from making repeated visits to government offices, as they get an opportunity to interact directly with senior police officers and present their grievances at a single location. This not only expedites the grievance redressal process but also strengthens public confidence in the police. Dr. Grewal fur-

ther said that, besides preventing crime, taking strict action against drug trafficking and other criminal activities, improving traffic management, and ensuring the safety of women, children and senior citizens, the Sangrur Police is equally committed to resolving the day-to-day concerns of the public in a prompt and efficient manner. She added that such 'Samadhan Camps' will continue to be organised regularly across different police stations and sub-divisions of the district to ensure that policing services remain easily accessible to every citizen.

Appealing to the residents of the district, the SSP urged them to make maximum use of these 'Samadhan Camps' for resolving any grievance, dispute or legal issue and to approach the police without hesitation whenever required.

"Sweep Clean, drive away mosquitoes — observe 'Fry Day-Dry Day' every Friday"



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR, JULY 24

Following directions from the Punjab Government's Health and Family Welfare Department and under the supervision of Civil Surgeon Hoshiarpur Dr Mandeep Kamal, the Community Health Centre (CHC) Harta Badla has launched a special awareness campaign across the block to prevent dengue and malaria during the monsoon season. As part of the drive, every Friday is being observed as 'Fry Day-Dry Day' to encourage residents to clean homes, offices, schools and all surrounding

areas where water may collect. Senior Medical Officer of CHC Harta Badla, Dr Manpreet Singh Bains, said mosquito populations that spread dengue and malaria rise sharply during the rainy season. The most effective prevention is to stop mosquitoes from breeding.

He urged every citizen to ensure at least one day a week is dedicated to eliminating stagnant water around their premises, which would significantly reduce the risk of dengue transmission. Dr Bains explained that the dengue vector, the Aedes mosquito, lays eggs only in clean, still water.

Wards of villages included in Kharar Council should be immediately demarcated and elections be held soon: Kang



SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, JULY 24

Senior Congress Party leader and former Punjab Minister Jagmohan Singh Kang held a meeting with the residents of villages Rasanheri, Gabbemajra, Nagalgaizgarh and Tolemajra under the leadership of Gagan Singh Samiti member at village Tolemajra in which they demanded that the villages that were included in Kharar Municipal Council many years ago should be demarcated soon so that elec-

tions in Kharar Municipal Council be held earliest possible.

According to the press note issued in this regard, the residents of that place said that Tolemajra, Tipri, Bhukhri, Radiala, Daumajra, Pir Suhana etc. were included in Kharar Council many years ago.

Even after the notification of inclusion of these villages in the committee, the committee did not do warding etc. regarding these villages. They said that for this reason,

the Honorable Punjab and Haryana High Court had postponed the Kharar Municipal Council elections.

They said that everything happened due to the negligence of the responsible officials, otherwise the Kharar Municipal Council elections would have been held along with the elections of other councilors of Punjab. He demanded that the warding of these villages be done immediately so that the Kharar Council elections could be held soon.

MP Satnam Singh Sandhu raises promotion of AI & digital platforms in cooperatives in Parliament



SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, JULY 24

"Union government is progressively promoting Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital platforms in cooperatives. Technology-driven teaching pedagogy and learning platforms are also being adopted at cooperative training institutions like Regional Institute of Cooperative Management

(RICM) Chandigarh in Punjab," Union Minister for Cooperation, Amit Shah, informed Parliament informed in reply to a question asked by Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Satnam Singh Sandhu during the on-going Monsoon Session of the House. In his question, MP Sandhu had asked the Union Ministry of Cooperation whether AI and digital platforms are being promoted in cooperative institutions and educational systems. He had also sought details of the steps taken to integrate technology-driven teaching pedagogy and learning platforms in Punjab and support being provided for the capacity building programmes for teachers and cooperative professionals.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University establishes 'Sri Guru Nanak Sacred Forest'

AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB, JULY 24

The Department of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Religious Studies, in collaboration with EcoSikh, established the 'Sri Guru Nanak Sacred Forest' on the campus of Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib. As part of this initiative, 550 indigenous saplings were planted using the Miyawaki technique, developed by the renowned Japanese botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki, to promote biodiversity and ecological sustainability.

On the occasion, Dr. Gursimran Kaur donated the saplings in loving memory of her parents, Brigadier (Dr.) Niranjan Singh Bamrah and Mrs. Roop Bamrah. Addressing the gathering, Vice-Chancellor



Prof. (Dr.) Prit Pal Singh said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji's message of reverence for nature and Sarbat da Bhala has, for centuries, inspired humanity to live in harmony with the environment.

He remarked that many of the values now articulated through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have long been embedded in the teachings of Gurbani. He added that

Farmers make Harsa Mansar toll plaza toll-free for three hours in protest against proposed trade agreement with the US



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT, JULY 24

In response to the call given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the Doaba Kisan Committee (Punjab)—representing the Pathankot district and Mukerian circle—staged a protest at the Harsa Mansar toll plaza against the proposed trade agreement with the United States. During the protest, the farmers ensured that the toll plaza remained free for motorists for three hours, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. A large

number of farmers gathered at the toll plaza and expressed their protest against the Central Government's anti-farmer policies. This protest demonstration was led by Doaba Kisan Committee President Mehar Singh Sandhu, Circle Presidents Malkit Singh and Avtar Singh, and General Secretary Daljit Singh. Farmer leaders stated that the trade agreements being pursued by the central government with the United States could have a direct impact on the country's farmers and the agricultural sector.

GST officials harass traders for personal interests: Garg



HISAR (SUMER GARG): A meeting of trader representatives was held under the chairmanship of Haryana Pradesh Beopar Mandal State President and former Haryana Confederation Chairman Bajrang Garg. The meeting discussed allegations of unnecessary harassment of traders by GST officials, frequent raids, inspection procedures, and other issues being faced by the business community.

Addressing the gathering, Bajrang Garg said that the trading community has always stood with the government. He stated that traders and industrialists conduct business honestly and pay GST and other taxes to the government on time. Since the trade and industry sector is the largest contributor to government revenue, traders deserve respect and protection rather than unnecessary fear and harassment.

After rains water gets accumulated in Ward No. 16-Akali leader Khara besieges AAP govt

SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, JULY 24

The 'Bolega Kharar, Badlega Kharar' foot march led by SAD Kharar constituency in-charge Ravinder Singh Khara entered its 11th day on Thursday, during which Ward No. 16 of the constituency was covered. The day-long march started from Gugga Mardi near Dussehra Ground and ended at Swaraj Nagar via Gilco Valley, Colony and Sant Majra Colony.

Addressing the gathering, Khara raised the issue of water logging and the long-pending problem of sewage in Ward No. 16. Kheda said that the residents of the ward complain that even after light rains, water stagnates in the



area and the streets are filled with 3 to 4 feet of water, making the life of the people a living hell. Khara alleged that the current government has not done anything concrete for the constituency in the last four and a half years, but has misled the people with hollow claims and false promises through misleading advertisements in newspapers. Giving a stern warning to the

state administration and the AAP government, Kheda said that the government has only six months left to remain in power, so now be ready to make visible development at the ground level or be out of power. He further said that the people of Kharar will give a befitting reply to the government's negligence and apathy in the upcoming elections.

Campus interview for 23 posts at Fagu Resort on July 27

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA: The District Employment Office, Shimla, will organise a campus interview on July 27 at Holiday Inn Resort, Fagu, for recruitment to 23 hospitality sector posts, an official said on Friday. District Employment Officer Praveen Nagraik said the vacancies include five Food and Beverage Supervisor posts, six Front Office Staff posts, seven Food and Beverage Assistant posts, and five Commis-

I, II and III posts. Eligible candidates with qualifications in hotel management or food production can appear for the interview with their original documents, resume and other required certificates. The monthly salary ranges from Rs 18,881 to Rs 25,500, depending on the post. Both male and female candidates are eligible to apply. Applicants must be registered on the state's EEMIS employment portal before appearing for the interview, the officer added.



Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu listening to public grievances at Shimla on Friday.

CM expresses grief over death of 13 persons in road accident

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has expressed grief over the death of 13 persons in a road accident at Karunallah in Lahaul-Spiti district on Friday. The ill-fated vehicle was on its way from Kullu to Pangti. The Chief Minister directed the Deputy Commissioner of Lahaul-Spiti to proceed immediately to

the incident site and supervise the rescue and relief operations. He also asked to provide all possible assistance to the next of kin of the deceased and best of treatment to the injured. He wished speedy recovery to the injured. Sukhu prayed to the Almighty to grant peace to the departed souls and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss.

CM launches Thematic Garden Project for Durgesh Aranya International Zoo

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JULY 24

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched an ambitious Thematic Garden Project to be established at Durgesh Aranya International Zoo, Dehra in Kangra district and released Rs. 4 crore for its implementation through the Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (HPSBB) to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh. The Chief Minister said that the project reflects the State Government's commitment to conserve Himachal Pradesh's rich biodiversity while promoting environmental education, scientific research and sustainable eco-tourism. Spread over 22,247 square



metres (about 5.5 acres), the thematic garden has been designed as a unique ecological destination that will provide visitors with an immersive experience of the State's diverse flora and natural heritage.

He said the project envisages a Ficarium showcasing various species of

the genus Ficus and highlighting their ecological, cultural and conservation significance, an Arboretum featuring indigenous and exotic tree species to promote conservation, education and scientific learning along with a watch tower offering panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, and a

Bamboosetum displaying diverse bamboo species of ecological and economic importance while demonstrating the sustainability and versatility of bamboo. Sukhu said that biodiversity conservation forms the cornerstone of the State Government's vision for sustainable development. He said that the thematic garden would emerge as an important centre for conservation awareness, environmental interpretation, experiential learning and scientific research, besides creating new opportunities for nature-based tourism. The project, he said, would benefit students, researchers, tourists and nature enthusiasts by providing a platform to understand and appreciate the

State's rich biological diversity. The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board and the Forest Department in conceptualizing this landmark initiative. He expressed confidence that upon completion, the thematic garden would significantly enhance the visitor experience at Durgesh Aranya International Zoo and establish it as a model destination for biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism in the country.

The project will be executed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh, with technical guidance and support from the Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board.

Hamirpur to celebrate Kargil Vijay Diwas with full enthusiasm on July 26



ANIL KUMAR

HAMIRPUR: The district administration has completed preparations to celebrate Kargil Vijay Diwas with enthusiasm in Hamirpur on July 26, where tributes will be paid to soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Deputy Commissioner Gandharva Rathore reviewed the preparations during a meeting with senior district officials on Thursday. She said the district-level function would be held at Shaheed Captain Mridul Sharma Park and the premises of the under-construction War Memorial, where floral tributes would be paid to the martyrs. The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments and the Municipal Corporation to ensure necessary arrangements at the venue. She also instructed officials of the Sainik Welfare Department to invite as many serving and retired armed forces personnel and their family members as possible to the event. During the meeting, Deputy Director of the Sainik Welfare Department Squadron Leader (Retd.) Manoj Rana briefed officials on the preparations for the programme. Among those present were Superintendent of Police Balbir Singh, Director of the Army Recruitment Office Colonel Sridhar Rajan, Municipal Commissioner Rakesh Sharma, SDM Sanjeet Singh, Assistant Commissioner Rajat Chaudhary, Home Guards Commandant Lieutenant Commander (Retd.) Vinay Kumar, and other officials.

Rain fury causes Rs 20 crore loss in Bilaspur; DC urges public to stay vigilant

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: Bilaspur district has suffered losses of nearly Rs 20 crore due to the ongoing monsoon, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar said on Wednesday, while urging residents to remain alert and avoid unnecessary travel during heavy rainfall. Deputy Commissioner in the Public Works Department has reported the highest loss of around Rs 19.05 crore, followed by the Jal Shakti Department with approximately Rs 66 lakh, the Education Department with about Rs 30 lakh, and the Electricity Board with nearly Rs 2 lakh in damages. Rahul said one road under the Public Works Department remains closed due to the rains, and directions have been issued for its early restoration. The Jal Shakti Department has also been instructed to restore rain-affected drinking water supply schemes on priority. He said the district administration has identified landslide-prone locations and is maintaining heightened surveillance in vulnerable areas. Residents have been advised to avoid venturing outdoors or undertaking non-essential travel during periods of intense rainfall. Rahul also cautioned people about seasonal risks, including snakebites and drowning incidents. He urged residents to remain vigilant while moving outdoors, seek immediate medical attention in case of a snakebite, and stay away from rivers, streams and other water bodies during the monsoon.



Rohru-Dodra-Kwar road project to be completed on time: Vikramaditya Singh

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JULY 24

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh on Friday said the under-construction Rohru-Dodra-Kwar road project will be completed within the stipulated timeframe and in accordance with prescribed quality standards.

Inspecting the project, the minister directed officials to ensure timely execution of the works and maintain construction quality. Addressing a public meeting at Dodra later, he said around Rs 45 crore is being spent on the Chidgaon-Dodra-Kwar road project, which is expected to improve connectivity in the remote region.



Singh said the Centre has approved an extension of the deadline for the remaining works under Phase-I of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) till March 2027, considering the difficult terrain, limited working season and adverse weather

conditions in the area.

He said work on the Rohru-Chirgaon road is also progressing at a cost of around Rs 20 crore and will be completed within the scheduled period. Discussions have also been held with the Uttarakhand government on a proposed

road linking Dodra-Kwar with the neighbouring state, he added.

The minister said financial approvals have also been granted for several link roads, including Kitarwari, Jiskun-Jakha and Jadhkot roads, while construction of the Dodra-Chamdar road is underway at an estimated cost of Rs 5.5 crore.

Singh said development projects worth nearly Rs 70 crore are currently under execution in the Dodra-Kwar region, adding that improved road connectivity would boost tourism and create employment opportunities for local residents. He also said the state government would explore the possibility of developing a ropeway in the Chanshal Valley in the future.

Rajat Rana appointed Hamirpur Block Social Media Coordinator by Himachal Congress

ANIL KUMAR

HAMIRPUR: The Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) has appointed young party leader Rajat Rana as the Social Media Coordinator for Hamirpur Block, party leaders said on Friday.

Expressing gratitude to the party leadership, Rana described the appointment as a mark of trust and responsibility towards strengthening the organisation. He said he would work with dedication and sincerity to meet the expectations of the party and help expand its outreach through social media.

Rana thanked Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and HPCC General Secretary (Organisation) Vinod Jinta for reposing confidence in him and assigning him the responsibility.

He said he would actively contribute to strengthening the organisation and ensure that the Congress party's policies and welfare initiatives reach people through digital platforms. He also expressed confidence that the growing participation of young leaders would further strengthen the organisation. Rana further said he believes the Congress, under the leadership of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, will return to power in Himachal Pradesh in the next Assembly elections.



The dossier on fake degrees sold during Congress rule is massive: Rakesh

SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA, JULY 24

Responding sharply to a statement by Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi regarding former BJP National President and Union Minister JP Nadda, state BJP spokesperson Rakesh Sharma stated from Dharamshala that the record of paper leaks and fake degrees sold during the Congress regime is extensive. He noted that the Modi government at the Centre has taken strict action against all those responsible in the NEET paper leak case. He urged Negi to recall how the education system deteriorated during the long tenure of Congress rule, with numerous incidents of cheating and fake degrees surfacing across various states. Corruption had become rampant a source of immense profit for the



Congress until the Modi government curbed it immediately upon assuming power. Rakesh Sharma pointed out that the rules and procedures for establishing private universities in Himachal Pradesh originated under previous Congress governments; when cases of fake degrees emerged during that time, the former BJP government took stringent action. He labeled the Congress a "factory of fake news," noting that party

leaders use such fabrications to make baseless statements and tarnish the Centre's reputation. The BJP spokesperson stated that under former Chief Minister Jairam Thakur, the state held the top position in the country in the education sector, whereas the Sukhu government has effectively stifled education over the past four years. He remarked that Jagat Singh Negi seems to have forgotten that the Congress government shut down approximately 900 educational institutions immediately after coming to power. He added that during the UPA government's tenure at the Centre, thousands of youths were sold fake degrees; Congress leaders maintained links with the operators of this fake degree racket and collected hefty commissions.

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JULY 24

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday accused the Himachal Pradesh government of failing to fulfil its promises on employment and transparent recruitment, and demanded answers over alleged irregularities and backdoor appointments. Addressing a press conference, BJP state spokesperson Sandipani Bhardwaj criticised Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi for targeting the party's leadership and said he should instead respond to questions regarding the state government's handling of recruitment and employment. She alleged that despite promising large-scale regular recruitment before the Assembly elections, the Congress



government has failed to provide jobs to the youth. Bhardwaj also questioned the government's decision to shut down the Himachal Pradesh Staff Selection Commission, alleging that no white paper or investigation report on the alleged recruitment irregularities has been made public. The BJP leader claimed that recruitment processes initiated during the previous BJP government were halted after the Congress came to power, affecting thousands

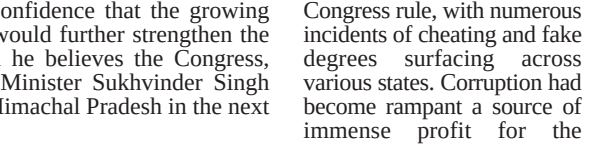
of job aspirants awaiting appointments. Bhardwaj further alleged that the state government had encouraged backdoor appointments and misused the outsourcing recruitment process, contrary to its poll promises of ensuring transparent and merit-based recruitment.

She also contrasted the state government's handling of recruitment issues with the Centre's response to examination paper leak cases, claiming the Union government had acted promptly through investigations and legal action. The BJP will continue to raise issues concerning unemployed youth and demand transparent recruitment and completion of pending appointments, Bhardwaj said. The Congress government has not responded to the allegations.

Tech-based CCTV surveillance network strengthens law and order in Una

KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA, JULY 24

A technology-driven surveillance network has significantly strengthened law and order, crime prevention and road safety across Himachal Pradesh's Una district, officials said on Friday. Developed under the district administration's 'Samarthya' initiative, the system has been established with support from the District Red Cross Society and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions from industrial units. The initiative was undertaken under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Jatinder Lal. Officials said modern CCTV cameras have been installed at roads, markets, major intersections and other public places, enabling round-the-clock monitoring of sensitive



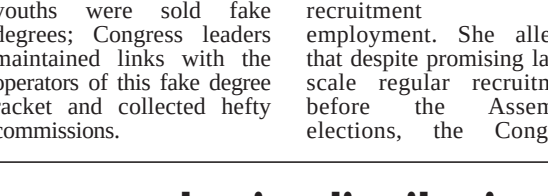
locations. The surveillance network is helping police keep track of suspicious activities, gather evidence for investigations and respond more effectively to criminal incidents. As part of the project, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems have been installed at 50 locations across Una, Bangana, Mehatpur, Amb and Chintpurni. Each location has two ANPR cameras and two evidence cameras, creating a network of 200 cameras. In Una town, another 100 cameras have been installed, including 30 ANPR cameras, 60 evidence cameras and 10 pan-tilt-zoom

(PTZ) cameras. The entire system is monitored round the clock from the Una Command and Control Centre. The district has also strengthened traffic management through the installation of Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS) at eight locations and Vehicle Actuated Speed Signage at 30 locations to improve compliance with traffic rules, monitor speeding vehicles and enhance road safety. The surveillance network has also been expanded to other parts of the district, with 32 cameras installed in Bangana and 16 in Gagret.

Horticulture Department begins distribution of fruit saplings in Una during monsoon

KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA, JULY 24

The Horticulture Department has launched its monsoon fruit sapling distribution and sale campaign in Himachal Pradesh's Una district, providing farmers with improved varieties of fruit plants at government-approved rates, an official said on Friday. Deputy Director (Horticulture) Dr K.K. Bhardwaj said the department is distributing saplings through Horticulture Development Officers posted across various development blocks. Farmers are also being provided technical guidance on scientific plantation, care and orchard management. He said around 5,500 fruit saplings sourced from registered nurseries have already been supplied across



all horticulture development blocks in the district. The saplings include improved varieties of mango, litchi, kinnow, malta, sweet lime, lemon, galgal, guava, pomegranate, amla, papaya, karonda and jackfruit. Dr Bhardwaj said the monsoon season is considered the most suitable period for planting fruit trees as higher soil moisture improves plant survival and supports better initial growth. He urged farmers planning to establish new orchards to register their demand with the concerned Horticulture Development

Officer at the earliest to ensure timely availability of saplings. The official also advised farmers to complete plantation before August 15 to maximise the chances of successful establishment and achieve better yields in the future. Considering the climatic conditions of Una district, he recommended improved varieties such as Mallika, Chausa and Langra mango; Allahabad Safeda, Lucknow-49, Shweta and Lalit guava; Dehradun litchi; and Mosambi, Blood Red and Jaffa citrus varieties for better returns.

Vashisht Public School holds English competitions to boost communication skills



KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: Vashisht Public School in Una organised English-language competitions for students to enhance their communication skills, confidence and creative expression, school authorities said on Friday. An English Poem Recitation competition was held for students of Classes I to IV, while students of Classes V to X participated in an English Extempore competition. Participants showcased their speaking abilities with confidence and enthusiasm. Students from different groups secured top positions in the competitions across various classes. Winners were felicitated for their performances. School Director Anuj Vashisht congratulated the winners and said such competitions provide students with a platform to display their talent, improve self-confidence and contribute to their overall personality development. Principal Deepak Kaushal said the competitions help strengthen students' pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and public speaking skills while encouraging creative expression and greater proficiency in the English language.

NEWS BRIEF

Protest against MLA Sudarshan Bablu in Amb Bazaar

AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: On Friday, Sumesh Kumar Bittu and his supporters protested against Chintpurni MLA Sudarshan Bablu in Amb Bazaar, raising slogans against an alleged statement by the MLA, calling it an insult to the army. Sumesh Kumar Bittu said that a few days ago, the MLA allegedly made derogatory and offensive remarks about the Indian Army, which hurt the sentiments of soldiers and fellow citizens. He alleged that this statement exposed the mentality of the MLA and his party. Bittu also alleged that school and college students were forced to participate in a recent protest in Amb and chant slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that involving students in political activities compromises their education, mentality, and future. The protesters demanded a public apology from the MLA to the Indian Army and the people of the country.

Minister Barinder Goyal inaugurates canal projects worth Rs. 82 cr at Sandhu Kalan and Bhagatpura

KULDEEP SOOD

BARNALA: In a major boost to irrigation infrastructure in district Barnala, Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal on Thursday inaugurated two canal projects worth over Rs. 82 crore at Sandhu Kalan and Bhagatpura villages. The projects will provide assured canal irrigation to 23 additional villages and bring 13,461 acres of agricultural land under reliable irrigation. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government has dedicated irrigation projects worth nearly Rs. 7200 crore across the state to strengthen agriculture, improve water management and ensure the availability of canal water to farmers.

Himachal social worker Deep Lal Bhardwaj receives international recognition

ANIL KUMAR

KULLU: Deep Lal Bhardwaj, National President of the Himachal Ekta Manch and a social worker from Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, has been honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation by the International University of Culture, Art and Science in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of art and culture. According to a statement, the university conferred the international honour on Bhardwaj for his work in the fields of social service and cultural promotion. Expressing gratitude after

receiving the award, Bhardwaj described the recognition as a matter of pride and said it would inspire him to continue serving society. He dedicated the honour to his teachers, parents, colleagues and supporters, saying their encouragement and blessings had contributed to the achievement. He thanked Marcela Mendes Zabala, Director General (Brazil), and the founder and president of the Palestinian International University of Culture, Art and Science, along with Dr Bassam Bishara Zablah, Deepak Panchore, and Sheikh Shakeel Haider, for the recognition.

Congress announces district-level candlelight marches, Satyagraha today over NEET row

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

The Congress on Friday directed its state units to organise candlelight marches and satyagraha at the district level on July 25 (Saturday) in solidarity with students over alleged NEET and CBSE examination irregularities and to condemn the alleged "brutal assaults" on protesting students. In a letter to All Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) presidents, AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal said the programmes should be organised under the direction of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. "As per the direction of Hon'ble Congress President, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, you are requested to direct each District Congress Committee (DCC) under your jurisdiction to organise a massive Candlelight March and Satyagraha on Saturday evening, 25th July, 2026,"



Venugopal said in the letter. The letter said the march should proceed towards and culminate at a statue of Mahatma Gandhi or Dr BR Ambedkar, with the satyagraha being held in solidarity with students and youth. The Congress also directed its workers to demand the immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging a "complete breakdown of examination integrity" and failure to safeguard the future of the country's youth. "We must also unequivocally demand the immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan for the complete breakdown of examination integrity and his

failure to safeguard the future of the nation's youth," the letter said. The party called for the participation of PCCs, DCCs, Block Congress Committees, frontal organisations, departments, cells and Congress workers, along with students, youth, parents and members of civil society. The PCC presidents were also asked to ensure that the marches and satyagraha were held in a "peaceful, disciplined, and effective manner" and receive extensive media and social media coverage. "The Indian National Congress stands firmly with the students of India and will fiercely oppose any attempt to suppress democratic voices through intimidation, repression, and the misuse of state machinery," the letter said. The Congress' announcement comes amid continuing protests over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2026 examination and demands for the resignation of Pradhan.

Women Panel Chief flags lapses at Panipat Civil Hospital



RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT, JULY 24

Haryana State Women Commission Chairperson Usha Priyadarshini on Friday conducted a surprise inspection of the Civil Hospital here and flagged several deficiencies in healthcare services, directing the authorities to address them immediately while ordering a probe into the absence of an ultrasound doctor. During the inspection, Priyadarshini found patients waiting for long hours to collect medicines, pending diagnostic tests and delays in ultrasound examinations for pregnant women. She also noted that the government doctor assigned to conduct ultrasounds was absent. Expressing dissatisfaction over the functioning of the hospital, she said the problem was not a lack of resources but poor management. She instructed the Civil Surgeon to improve hospital services, including seating and waiting arrangements, particularly for women patients. The Chairperson said a notice would be issued to the hospital administration and announced that she would conduct a follow-up inspection after 15 days.

'Van Mahotsav' tree plantation drive launched at Dyal Singh College

CHAMAN LAL
KARNAL, JULY 24

A seven-day tree plantation drive, organised across the district to mark 'Van Mahotsav' (Forest Festival), was launched today at Dyal Singh College. A plantation program was held on the college premises under the joint aegis of the District Red Cross Society (Karnal), the National Service Scheme (NSS), the National Cadet Corps (NCC—Army and Air Wings), and the Youth Red Cross. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Dr. Rahul Raiya inaugurated the campaign by planting a sapling on the college campus, accompanied by District Red Cross Society Secretary Kulbir Malik and College Principal Dr. Ashima Gakkhar. During the event, saplings of



various fruit-bearing and shade-providing species were planted on the premises. ADC Dr. Rahul Raiya stated that 'Van Mahotsav' is not merely a plantation program but a campaign to fulfill our collective responsibility towards nature and the environment. He remarked

that if every citizen resolves to plant and nurture at least one sapling a year, we can ensure a clean, green, and healthy environment for future generations. He urged students to provide regular care to the saplings and protect them until they grow into full-fledged trees.

Strong urban local bodies key to developed India, says Mayor Renu Bala Gupta

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JULY 24

Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta, who is also the President of the All India Mayors' Council, said strong, transparent and citizen-centric urban local bodies are essential to achieving the vision of a developed India. Speaking at a meeting of the Council at its office in Gol Market, New Delhi, Gupta said planned urban development extends beyond infrastructure and also includes good governance, public participation, environmental conservation and responsive administration. She said public service remains the foremost priority of municipal bodies, which



constitute the closest tier of democratic governance. The meeting focused on the activities of the All India Mayors' Council and various organisational matters. Participants also discussed issues related to urban governance, municipal administration, public service delivery, civic

infrastructure and the overall development of urban local bodies across the country. According to a statement, representatives exchanged experiences and best practices from different states with the aim of improving urban management and making

public welfare initiatives more effective. Gupta said such interactions provide a platform for coordination, innovation and the sharing of successful governance models among urban local bodies. She added that these discussions help formulate better strategies for sustainable and inclusive urban development. Expressing confidence in the role of the Council, the Mayor said it would continue to raise the concerns of urban local bodies more effectively at the national level and contribute constructively to the areas of urban development, good governance and public welfare. Anil, Mandeep, and other associates were also present at the meeting.

Congress launches awareness campaign against paper leaks, flaws in education system, and repression of youth

JAGBIR UPLANA
ASSANDH, JULY 24

Congress Block President Jitendra Chopra, Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee Delegate and former Block President Surjit Singh Rana, Block Youth Congress President Jatin Bindal, and Congress leader and advocate Sonia Bohat called upon the youth, women, and general citizens to engage with the electoral process to strengthen democracy, while urging for the intensification of the new voter registration drive. The leaders termed the lathi-charge, use of tear gas, and use of force against students and youth—who were staging a peaceful protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar regarding flaws in the education system, recurring paper leaks, and employment-related issues—as unfortunate and contrary to



democratic values. The Congress leaders jointly stated that party workers should run campaigns at the booth level to assist eligible youth and women in getting their names added to the voter list, ensuring that no citizen is deprived of their right to vote. They appealed to the youth to ensure active participation in voting to safeguard democratic values. Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee Delegate and former Block President Surjit Singh Rana stated that the futures of lakhs of young people are being

affected by recurring paper leaks. The treatment meted out to the youth who were peacefully voicing their demands at Jantar Mantar is not in keeping with the spirit of democracy. He emphasized that every eligible citizen's name must be registered on the voter list so that the public can ensure accountability through their votes and the youth can become a force for change. Congress Block President Jitendra Chopra stated that the country's youth are raising their voices regarding their future, yet instead of being heard, they are facing repression. He urged all youth who have attained the age of 18 to get themselves registered as voters and to participate in shaping the direction of the country and the state by exercising their democratic rights.

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL, JULY 24

With the aim of transforming environmental conservation into a mass movement within the Pundri Assembly constituency, MLA Satpal Jamba participated in the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign. He planted saplings alongside students, teachers, villagers, and party workers at Government Senior Secondary School Dherdu, Government Primary School Kheri Sakra, Government Senior Secondary School Sakra, and Government Senior Secondary School Kaul. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Satpal Jamba stated that tree plantation is not merely an event but a responsibility towards ensuring a secure future for coming generations. He



urged students to pledge to plant and nurture at least one sapling every year. He remarked that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign has awakened a renewed consciousness regarding environmental conservation across the nation. MLA Jamba stated that the resolve of the Pundri constituency is to develop every village into a 'Green Village' by planting the maximum number of

saplings annually. Public participation is crucial to this endeavor. He emphasized that if every individual plants and protects a sapling in honour of their mother, the dream of a Green Pundri, Green Haryana, and Green India will certainly be realized. He called upon villagers, teachers, students, and social organizations to join the campaign, plant as many trees as possible, and ensure the regular care of the saplings planted.

Father marks Canada-based son's birthday with plantation drive in Punjab



AJAY MALHOTRA

BASSI PATHANA: Setting an example of celebrating special occasions with a social cause, a Bassi Pathana-based family marked the 24th birthday of their son, who is settled in Canada, by organising a tree plantation drive and spreading awareness about environmental conservation. Social worker and former Treasurer of Bharat Vikas Parishad, Bassi Pathana, Sanjeev Soni, along with his wife Minakshi Soni, organised the plantation campaign at Government Senior Secondary School (Boys), Bassi Pathana, where fruit-bearing, flowering and shade-giving saplings were planted. The couple said that although their son, Anubhav Soni, now resides in Canada, the family has been celebrating his birthday in India by planting trees for the past four years. They said Anubhav's concern for environmental protection inspired them to replace conventional birthday celebrations with plantation drives.

Traffic curbs on Swarghat-Mandi Bharari stretch on July 24-25; Alternate route via old NH-21

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: To facilitate ongoing National Highway construction work, Bilaspur District Magistrate Rahul Kumar has ordered a temporary suspension of vehicular traffic on the Swarghat (Kainchi Mod Tunnel-1)-Mandi Bharari Chowk stretch from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on July 25. The orders, issued under Section 115 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, follow a request from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Project Unit Mandi, and recommendations of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Civil), Sri Naina Devi Ji, to ensure the safe and timely execution of construction activities. During the closure period, all general traffic will be diverted through the old National Highway-21, from Swarghat (Kainchi Mod Tunnel-1) to Nauni Chowk, Bilaspur, and back via the same route. Commuters have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and cooperate with the traffic arrangements. The District Magistrate clarified that ambulances, VIP vehicles, school buses, and other emergency service vehicles will continue to enjoy unrestricted movement during the traffic restrictions to ensure that essential services remain unaffected. The district administration has appealed to motorists to follow the diversion plan, comply with instructions issued by traffic personnel, and exercise caution while travelling through the alternate route. The temporary restrictions are aimed at ensuring both public safety and the expeditious completion of the highway construction work.

IDP organises IELTS (writing on paper) orientation session in Ambala



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 24

IDP IELTS organised an exclusive IELTS (Writing on Paper) Orientation Session at MapleLeaf, Regenta Marrievilla, Ambala Cantt. The session aimed to familiarise IELTS coaching institutes, educators, and students with the newly introduced Writing on Paper test format and the latest updates to the IELTS examination. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Kartar Singh, Senior Area Manager (Punjab

& Haryana), and Ms. Amandeep Kaur, Territory Manager, explained that from September 1, 2026, candidates in India will have the option to take the Writing section on paper, while the Listening and Reading modules will continue to be conducted on a computer. The new format is designed to provide greater flexibility and cater to candidates who prefer handwriting their responses. The speakers highlighted that the new format will offer a faster, fairer, and more accessible test experience, along with quicker results and

increased test date availability. They also answered participants' queries and explained the key features and benefits of the updated IELTS testing system. The orientation session witnessed participation from IELTS institute owners, trainers, and students from Ambala as well as other parts of Punjab and Haryana. Participants appreciated IDP's initiative and welcomed the introduction of the new Writing on Paper format, describing it as a significant step towards enhancing the IELTS test experience.

Workshop on biotech startups held at Guru Nanak Girls College

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 24

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) of Guru Nanak Girls College organized an online workshop on "Funding Opportunities for Biotech Entrepreneurs" on Friday under the guidance of MIC-AICTE. The keynote speaker for the program was Ms. Taranjeet Kaur, Senior Manager at BIRAC. She provided students and faculty with detailed information about government funding schemes, grants, and other support programs available for biotech startups. She explained that with proper guidance, innovation, and by leveraging government schemes, young people can



successfully grow their startups. The college Director Dr. Varinder Gandhi and Principal Dr. Sukhwinder Kaur also attended the program. The online session was screened collectively in the seminar hall, with active participation from IIC members, teachers, students, and alumni. The following teachers made

special contributions to the successful organization of the event, Dr. Poonam Saini, Mrs. Deepika Sharma, Mrs. Ruhi Grewal, Mrs. Ramanjot Kaur, Mrs. Shammi Bajaj, Dr. Amandeep Kaur, Dr. Mandeep Kaur, Ms. Charu, Mrs. Deepshikha, Ms. Ritu, Ms. Riti, Ms. Pallavi, and Ms. Harkamal.

State records major gains in TB fight, ranks second nationally in TB mukt registrations

YUGMARG BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, JULY 24

Haryana has posted significant gains in its fight against tuberculosis, registering 35,229 users on the TB Mukht Bharat App—the second-highest in the country—while increasing TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) coverage to 49 per cent, raising molecular (NAAT) testing to 67 per cent and extending differentiated TB care to 71 per cent of eligible patients. The achievements came to the fore during a review of the state's 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign chaired by Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi.

During the review, officials informed the Chief Secretary that Haryana has witnessed steady progress across key indicators since the launch of the campaign on March 24, 2026. The state has not only secured the second position nationally in total registrations on the TB Mukht Bharat App but has also mobilised 22,888 volunteers and 2,067 Nikshay Mitras to strengthen community participation in the fight against tuberculosis. Out of 51,526 TB cases notified between January 1 and July 23, 8,939 TB patients have registered on the TB Mukht Bharat App, enabling better patient monitoring and support.

The review highlighted a signifi-



cant improvement in TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) coverage. Of the 44,574 eligible household contacts of pulmonary drug-sensitive TB patients, 21,697 individuals (49 per cent) have received preventive treatment, compared with 31 per cent at the beginning of the campaign. Fourteen districts have already crossed the 50 per cent coverage mark. To further improve performance, particularly in districts below the national average, the Health Department has

launched a 60-day intensive campaign, supported by training, supervision and home visits by ASHAs, Community Health Officers and TB Health Visitors.

Officials also reported substantial progress in active case finding and early diagnosis. So far, 4,711 screening camps, including 2,814 camps in high-risk villages and urban wards, have screened 5,31,178 vulnerable individuals. A total of 2,57,081 chest X-rays have been conducted as part of the screening exercise. To

strengthen diagnostic capacity, the Government of India has allotted 200 hand-held X-ray machines to Haryana. Of these, 36 have already been installed, while the remaining 164 machines are expected to be commissioned shortly.

The state's diagnostic capability has also improved considerably. Officials informed the Chief Secretary that 1.5 lakh NAAT tests have been conducted during the campaign, raising molecular testing coverage from 42 per cent to 67 per cent. Simultaneously, 22,571 out of 31,849 eligible TB patients (71 per cent) have been brought under differentiated TB care. Twenty districts have crossed the 50 per cent coverage mark under this indicator, and no district remains in the red category for differentiated TB care. The department is now working towards achieving 100 per cent upfront NAAT testing by August 2026 by extending testing hours, optimising the use of diagnostic equipment and strengthening private sector participation.

The review also assessed progress under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana and the Nikshay Mitra initiative. Officials said 55,348 beneficiaries have received Direct Benefit Transfer assistance under the 2025 component of the nutrition support scheme, while 9,000 beneficiaries have been covered under the 2026 component.

No compromise on quality of Outer Bypass Road project, says Karnal MC Commissioner



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JULY 24

Karnal Municipal Corporation Commissioner Saloni Sharma on Friday conducted a surprise inspection of the ongoing Outer Bypass Road construction project and directed officials to ensure that quality standards are strictly maintained while completing the work within the stipulated timeline.

During the inspection, Sharma reviewed the progress of construction and examined whether the work was being carried out in accordance with prescribed technical standards. She instructed engineers and the executing agency to maintain quality at every stage and submit daily progress reports. Executive Engineer Pradeep Kalyan, Assistant Engineer Manjeet Rathi, and Junior Engineer Gaurav Hooda were also present.

Officials informed the Commissioner that the Water Bound Macadam (WBM) layer had been completed on the western stretch of the road from Noor Mahal Chowk to the gurdwara behind Sector 6. The remaining stretch up to the Meerut Road T-point is expected to be completed within a week, after which the Dense Bituminous Macadam

(DBM) layer will be laid. On the eastern side, the DBM layer has already been completed. Officials said a pipeline is also being laid beneath the proposed footpath to ensure proper stormwater drainage and prevent future waterlogging. The Commissioner directed engineers to closely monitor the project on a daily basis and ensure uninterrupted progress. She also instructed the construction agency to maintain adequate barricading and traffic safety measures to minimise inconvenience to commuters. Sharma further directed the agency to keep sufficient construction material available at the site to avoid delays. She instructed engineers to conduct regular site inspections, ensure quality testing of construction materials, and closely supervise every stage of the project. She warned that any compromise in quality or negligence would invite strict action against the concerned agency.

The Commissioner said the 4.5-km Outer Bypass Road is being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹7.92 crore. Besides road strengthening, the project includes the development of a central verge, plantation, footpaths, cycle tracks, zebra crossings, cat's eyes, road safety markings, and other traffic safety infrastructure to improve road safety, urban aesthetics, and environmental sustainability.

SDM conducts surprise inspections of government offices in Nissing

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JULY 24

Acting on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand Sharma, Karnal SDM Devendra Sharma conducted surprise inspections today at the Nissing Sub-Tehsil, Patwarkhana (Revenue Office), Municipal Committee Office, and the Community Health Centre in Nissing. During the inspections, the SDM reviewed staff attendance, work arrangements, and official records, and assessed the services being provided to the public. He directed officials and staff to ensure timely arrival at the office and to complete departmental tasks within the stipulated timeframes. He emphasised that public grievances must be resolved promptly, transparently, and on a priority basis. He specifically instructed that citizens



visiting the offices be treated with courtesy and sensitivity, and that their issues be resolved in a timely manner.

He urged all officials and staff to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity so that citizens are not forced to make unnecessary repeated visits to

the offices. He further directed the concerned officials to ensure the timely delivery of the benefits of public welfare schemes and services to eligible individuals and to maintain discipline, transparency, and accountability within the offices.

Skill, industry integration with education essential: Mahipal Dhanda

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
PALWAL, JULY 24

Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU) on Friday hosted a follow-up workshop on Skill-Based Curricula and Micro-Credentials in Higher Education under the aegis of the Haryana State Higher Education Council (HSHEC).

Inaugurating the workshop, Haryana Higher Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda said education must be integrated with skills and industry to make students employable and entrepreneurial. Welcomed by HSHEC Chairman Prof. Kailash Chandra Sharma and SVSU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dinesh Kumar, the Minister said the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has made higher education more flexible and employment-oriented, and its effective implementation will help India achieve the goal of



becoming a developed nation by 2047. He also reviewed the progress made by universities in introducing skill-based programmes and micro-credentials.

OSD to CM, Dr Raj Nehru stressed the need to raise Haryana's Gross Enrolment Ratio from around 33 per cent to 50 per cent among the 18-24 age group and said industries increasingly value micro-credentials. Prof. Kailash Chandra Sharma highlighted the importance

of integrating internships and experiential learning with academic curricula in line with UGC guidelines, while HSHEC Vice-Chairman Prof. S.K. Gakhar said skill-based education has become essential in today's era.

SVSU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dinesh Kumar said skill programmes should be aligned with the NEP and include micro-credentials to improve placement opportunities.

Dr. Sujoy Khanna Uchani of LUVAS successfully represents University at Global UNESCO conference

MEGH RAJ LUTHRA

KARNAL: Dr. Sujoy Khanna, an Extension Education Specialist at the Haryana Veterinary Science Centre (Karnal)—part of Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS)—participated in a significant international conference held in Paris, France. He represented the university with distinction at the "2026 Global Conference on the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development," held at the UNESCO headquarters from July 15 to 17, 2026. Congratulating Dr. Khanna on this occasion, LUVAS



Vice-Chancellor Dr. Vinod Kumar Verma stated that such international platforms provide the university with global recognition and facilitate the exchange of experiences. Meanwhile, Director of Extension Education Dr. Gautam also congratulated him, noting that this achievement stands as a testament to LUVAS's scientific excellence, three direct benefits of which will reach the university's farmers and livestock owners. During the conference, Dr. Sujoy Khanna actively presented his views on critical topics such as sustainable livestock management, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), biodiversity conservation, and the "One Health" approach. Furthermore, in-depth deliberations took place regarding global issues such as climate change, the implementation of science-based innovations ("Invention in Action"), and marine biodiversity. A key emphasis of the conference was that sustainable development is impossible without preserving the Earth, its wildlife, and the entire ecosystem. Dr. Khanna also apprised the international community of LUVAS's extension programmes. He shared details on the university's initiatives to empower women and youth in livestock management and to address the challenges of climate change by reducing methane emissions.

Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation should be the minimum accountability: Bhupinder Singh Hooda

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JULY 24

Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of the Congress Legislature Party Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Friday said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan should resign over the issue of repeated examination paper leaks, while welcoming stricter legal provisions against those involved in such offences.

Speaking to reporters in Karnal, Hooda said the new law providing stringent punishment for paper leak cases was a positive step, but added that the government must also fix accountability for the recurring incidents.

He said the Centre should hold discussions with all political parties on the issue rather than consulting only one group, asserting that the movement against paper leaks had received support



from across the political spectrum.

Hooda was in Karnal to offer condolences to the family of Captain Iqbal Singh who had studied at Kunjpura Sainik School.

During the visit, Hooda paid floral tributes to the deceased and expressed condolences to his wife Sarita Kadi-

yan, sons Saurabh Singh Kadiyan and Samar Singh Kadiyan, brothers Mehtab Singh Kadiyan, Gyan Singh Kadiyan, Mahender Singh Kadiyan, and nephew Yashpal Singh Kadiyan.

Several Congress leaders and party workers, including Virender Singh Rathore, Kulveer Singh Hooda, Prembir Singh, Kanwaljeet Singh Prince, Ram Sharan Bhola, former Haryana Congress General Secretary Ramesh Saini, District Congress President Parag Gaba, Surjeet Saini, Rajendra Gupta, Rajesh Vaidya, Surender Narwal, Raghubir Singh Sandhu, Dr Arvind Kadiyan, Rajendra Kalyan, Pankaj Gawa, former MLA Dharampal Gonder, Manoj Badhwa, Ashok Jain, Hari Ram Sabha, Anil Sharma, M.S. Mahendru, Rajpal Singh, and Jasbir Singh Panu, were also present to pay their respects.

Children showcase talent at KS Convent School Action dance competition

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA, JULY 24

An action dance competition was organised on Friday at the primary wing of KS Convent School to provide a platform for the young children to showcase their talent. Students from Pre-Nursery, Nursery, and KG classes participated enthusiastically, winning everyone's hearts with their delightful performances. The event aimed to boost the children's self-confidence, enhance their stage presence, and foster an interest in Indian culture and art programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and a Saraswati Vandana by School Manager Gurinder Singh Ghai, Principal Radha Gupta, and Vice Principal Kanchan Sharma. This was followed by the vibrant start of the competition, where young artists garnered thunderous applause for their captivating solo performances set to patriotic, folk, and Bollywood music. The children's colorful costumes, innocent smiles, and confident performances left the attending parents and teachers spellbound.



School dance teacher Pooja Paswan evaluated the competition based on criteria such as coordination, expressions, costumes, and stage presence. In the results, Ridima secured first place, Agamjot second, and Harsh third in the Pre-Nursery category. In the Nursery category, Chirag stood first, Avik second, and Vanshika third. Meanwhile, in the KG category, Anvi secured the first position, Anver Singh the second, and Sahaj the third. School Manager Gurinder Singh Ghai and Principal Radha Gupta honored the winning students by presenting them with medals and certificates.

Kashyap Mahapanchayat's memo to National Commission for BC demanding 27 pc quota

MAINPAL KASHYAP

INDRI: A delegation from the Kashyap Mahapanchayat Haryana submitted a memorandum to the Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes, Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti, regarding various demands related to the rights and reservation of backward classes. The delegation urged the Central and Haryana governments to protect the interests of the backward classes and expedite the implementation of pending demands. The delegation included Kashyap Mahapanchayat Haryana Patron Ramkumar Kashyap, State President Ramji Lal Kashyap, State Chief Spokesperson Mainpal Kashyap, State General Secretary Balbir Kashyap, State Advisor Jilhe Singh, Block President Sham Lal Kashyap, and Paramjit Kaur, along with other officials. The memorandum demanded that backward classes be granted 27% reservation in Class 1 and Class 2 government jobs in the Haryana government and that all vacant backlog positions pending for years be filled soon. In addition, 27 per cent reservation for backward classes should be ensured in Panchayati Raj institutions, municipal corporations, municipal councils, and municipalities. The Mahapanchayat also demanded the inclusion of a separate column for the OBC category in the 2026 caste census, so that the actual population of backward classes across the country can be accurately estimated and policies can be formulated accordingly. The memorandum also demanded that backward classes be provided with equal facilities and benefits of welfare schemes on the lines of Scheduled Castes (SCs).



Man alleges wife swindled him of Rs. 9 crore

JAIBEEER RANA THAMBER
BARARA, JULY 24

A major fraud case tarnishing the sanctity of marriage has emerged from the Barara area of Ambala district. Here, a woman married to Taranpreet Singh—a resident of Ugala village—swindled her husband of approximately 9 crore using fake government documents and by citing a gas agency business and investment opportunities. Furthermore, the accused wife married another man without divorcing her husband. Following an investigation, the police have registered an FIR against the wife and one other individual at the Barara Police Station. The complainant, Taranpreet Singh (son of the late Mahanga Singh) of Ugala, stated in his complaint to the Ambala SP that he married Anupreet Kaur, a resident of Patiala, in March 2018. Taranpreet farmed his 13 acres of land and also owned a gas agency in Ugala. Before the wedding, his in-laws had claimed that the woman was preparing for the UPSC examinations. Trusting this information, Taranpreet agreed to the marriage, but the claim turned out to be false. After the wedding, the couple began living in a rented house in Zirakpur. During this period, his wife Anupreet, father-in-law Arvinder Singh, mother-in-law Rajindra Kaur, and brother-in-law Simarjot lured him with false

promises—ranging from purchasing land and investing in businesses to putting money into relatives' companies and securing partnerships in various commercial ventures. Consequently, Taranpreet sold approximately 10 acres of his land and handed over 5 crore to the accused.

Subsequently, the group—comprising Sunil Singh, Sahil Rothan, his wife Roshni, Kamal Singh, and Umed Singh (all residents of Hanuman Colony, Barara)—told the victim that Anupreet had been appointed as an Income Tax Commissioner. They collected 3 crore from him under the guise of training and security deposits; a fake email was also sent regarding this matter. Furthermore, they forged the signature of Taranpreet's sister, Anreet Kaur (who resides in Australia), to withdraw approximately 40 lakh from her account. Using forged signatures, they created a fake lease deed and transferred the gas agency to the names of Kamal Singh and Umed Singh of Barara.

They then embezzled around 1 crore from the agency's accounts. Taranpreet alleged that his wife, Anupreet Kaur, was having an illicit affair with Sahil Rothan from Barara. The two married without obtaining a divorce and fled Barara. According to Taranpreet, the child born to the accused wife is also believed to be Sahil's.

EDITORIAL

Govt relaxes FDI rules to Boost E-commerce exports

The government has amended the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy to allow FDI in the inventory-based model of e-commerce exclusively for exports of goods manufactured or produced in India, in a move aimed at boosting exports through e-commerce. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said the existing FDI policy has been reviewed to facilitate greater exports by Indian sellers. The department noted that under the current policy, "FDI is permitted in Business to Business (B2B) e-commerce and marketplace model of e-commerce. However, FDI is not permitted in Business to Consumer (B2C) e-commerce and inventory-based model of e-commerce where inventory of goods and services is owned by e-commerce entity and is sold to the consumers directly."

Announcing the policy change, DPIIT said, "In order to facilitate greater exports through easier and increased access of global markets by Indian sellers, the extant FDI Policy has been reviewed and it is decided that the restrictions on inventory-based model of e-commerce shall not apply in case of exports of domestically manufactured and/or produced goods/products." Under the revised policy, a new provision has been inserted allowing an e-commerce entity to engage in the inventory-based model only for exports. The new provision states, "An e-commerce entity is permitted to engage in inventory-based model of e-commerce exclusively for the export of goods/products manufactured and/or produced in India" in accordance with the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, the Handbook of Procedures, and the Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations, 2015, as amended from time to time. It further clarifies that "the restrictions on B2C and the inventory-based model of e-commerce... shall not apply to the export of goods/products through e-commerce" under the newly inserted provision. DPIIT said the decision will come into effect from the date of notification under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

From studio portraits to digital verification

At the corner of most Indian neighbourhoods sits a small photo studio, often no bigger than a storeroom, run by someone who has been taking passport-size photographs for decades. He knows your face the way a family doctor knows your pulse. He remembers you as a schoolgirl needing a photograph for your first identity card, then as a young woman applying for a passport, and now, years later, returning with another set of forms that require one more passport-sized photograph. He never needed a database. He remembered you.

The latest round of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has reminded many Indians just how much authority rests in that tiny printed image. Every application demands documents and, almost invariably, a passport-sized photograph. It is remarkable how much of modern identity now depends on a photograph no bigger than a few square centimetres. The studio photographer does not ask you to prove who you are. He simply looks up, recognises you, and says, "Same pose as last time?" That recognition, human, informal and uncertified, has quietly served as a form of identity verification for generations. It is this quiet witness that we are on the verge of losing.

There was a time when cameras primarily preserved memories. They documented birthdays, weddings, festivals and family holidays. In many households, there was one prized camera, brought out only for special occasions. Those photographs mattered because they captured moments families returned to for years. Then the camera changed jobs. A passport photograph is not meant to preserve memory but to establish identity. Today, photographs verify passports, unlock bank accounts, enable facial recognition and identify travellers at airports. The camera has quietly moved from the family album to the government database.



For much of this history, however, every photograph carried an unspoken second layer of verification. A person had taken it. The studio owner had watched you settle into the chair and look into the lens. If something seemed wrong, there was at least the possibility that another human being would notice. It was never foolproof, but every photograph still had a witness behind it. Artificial intelligence has quietly removed the witness. Today, a convincing identity photograph may require no camera, no

studio, and no sitting at all. AI tools can generate photorealistic faces that have never existed or subtly alter existing ones to resemble someone else closely enough to deceive visual checks. The irony is hard to miss. Just as photographs have become one of our most important forms of identity verification, they have also become easier than ever to fabricate. The risks are no longer theoretical. Earlier this year, police in Ahmedabad uncovered a fraud in which AI-generated visuals were allegedly used alongside

stolen Aadhaar details to bypass facial authentication and obtain fraudulent loans. The union Home Ministry's cyber-crime coordination centre has since warned banks and fintech firms that criminals are increasingly using AI to defeat facial authentication and video-KYC systems. Aadhaar now employs "liveness" detection by asking users to blink, smile or turn their heads, but the race between forgery and detection is unfolding in real time, with no guarantee that defence will always stay ahead. The neighbourhood studio, by contrast, offered something technology

still struggles to replicate: context. Someone who knew the locality, recognised familiar faces and could instinctively sense when something did not look right. The author argues that society has not simply digitised the photograph; it has separated it from the presence of a human witness and transferred its authority to a digital file that only needs to resemble a face, not necessarily belong to one. The sociologist Zygmunt Bauman described our age as one of "liquid modernity", in which social life becomes increasingly detached from place, familiarity and enduring human relationships. The neighbourhood photographer belonged to a more solid world, where identity was reinforced through repeated encounters and local knowledge. Digital verification belongs to another. It values speed and standardisation over familiarity. It asks not whether someone is known, but whether their face matches the record on file. Seen in this light, the SIR exercise is about more than updating electoral rolls. It reflects a broader shift in how modern states establish identity: less through people who know us, and more through systems that compare our faces with the records they hold. The story of the camera, then, is not simply one of technological progress. It is also the story of a witness slowly leaving the room. The neighbourhood photo studio was never merely producing photographs. It was producing recognition. Someone looked at your face, knew who you were and quietly vouched for it. As AI turns identity into something that can be generated as easily as it can be recorded, perhaps the question is no longer whether a photograph resembles us. It is whether anyone, human or machine, can still truly recognise us.

Dr Shashwati Ghose
UNI

Capital mobilisation hits record Rs 3.15 lakh crore in June 2026

Total fund mobilisation through equity, debt, and business trusts surged 122 per cent month-on-month (MoM) to Rs 3.15 lakh crore in June 2026, marking the highest monthly mobilisation on record, according to the NSE Market Pulse report. The sharp increase was primarily driven by debt

strong funding demand from corporates," the report stated. Fund raising through equity issuances also recovered strongly, increasing 83 per cent MoM to approximately Rs 53,000 crore, led by higher preferential allotments and Qualified Institutional Placements (QIPs) also



issuances, which rose 142 per cent MoM to Rs 2.59 lakh crore. Higher mobilisation through Commercial Papers (CPs) and privately placed Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) supported this debt expansion. "CP issuances more than doubled to Rs 1.9 lakh crore (+137% MoM), while private NCD issuances increased to -Rs 69,700 crore (+157% MoM), reflecting

strengthened, mobilising -Rs 7,500 crore, while IPO mobilisation remained relatively modest at -Rs 1,900 crore across the Mainboard and NSE EMERGE platforms," the report said. Conversely, fund mobilisation through Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) moderated to approximately Rs 2,000 crore, down from Rs 5,000 crore

recorded in May. The report noted that "Within equity issuances, preferential allotments remained the largest source of capital, raising -Rs 22,500 crore (including Mainboard and NSE EMERGE issuances), followed closely by secondary market Offer for Sale (OFS) issuances at -Rs 21,000 crore." During the first quarter of FY27, primary market activity remained measured. Eight companies listed on the Mainboard platform raised approximately Rs 4,700 crore, while fourteen companies listed on the NSE EMERGE platform mobilised Rs 976 crore through initial public offerings (IPOs). Although the pace of listings slowed compared to FY26, the primary market continued to attract issuers across diverse sectors. "Despite a slower pace of listings, the IPO pipeline remained healthy, with several draft offer documents (DODs) under various stages of processing at the exchange, indicating sustained issuer interest in accessing the capital markets," the report said. For FY27 up to June, the average IPO size stood at approximately Rs 585 crore on the Mainboard platform, down from Rs 1,603 crore in FY26. On the SME platform, average IPO size rose to approximately Rs 70 crore from Rs 48 crore in FY26.

Global power demand to rise in 2026 and 2027

The global power demand will rise faster in 2026 and 2027 than in 2025, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has said in its mid-year review. The outlook comes in the backdrop of electricity generation costs rising due to the ongoing West Asia conflict. The report said that electricity demand will grow by 3.6 per cent in 2026 and 3.8 per cent in 2027, up from 3 per cent in 2025. The report highlighted that the increasing demand from data centres, along with accelerating uptake of electric vehicles, air conditioning and heat pumps, will boost power consumption. "As a result, global electricity consumption is set to reach 30 700 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2027, up from 28 600 TWh in 2025," according to the report. The ongoing West Asia conflict could serve as a downside risk to the outlook as rising



energy prices could weigh on the global economy and lead to an overall consumption slowdown. The report further underscored the shift in fuel used for generation from natural gas to coal on account of elevated gas prices. "The temporary loss of nearly 20% of global

LNG supply has triggered significant price volatility, pushing natural gas prices in both Asia and Europe to their highest levels since the 2022-2023 energy crisis. The elevated gas prices have, in turn, prompted fuel switching from natural gas to coal in several Asian and

European countries," the report stated. Rising share of renewable energy in the overall mix has "played a key role in diversifying electricity supplies, thereby supporting energy security and helping limit the impacts of the shock." Some of the world's

largest economies will see strong rises in electricity consumption. China's electricity demand growth is expected to rise to 5.5 per cent in 2026 from 5.2 per cent in 2025, driven by rising EV adoption as well as stronger manufacturing activity, according to the report. For India, the report pegs electricity demand growth to rebound significantly to 7 per cent, up from 1.6 per cent in 2025 as the early monsoon last year cooled demand for electricity. The report further said that a stronger El Nino event in 2026 will raise demand for cooling in many regions, thereby boosting electricity demand. "El Nino weather pattern also typically affects electricity supply by reducing hydropower and wind generation, especially in regions such as Latin America and Southeast Asia, leading to greater reliance on coal and gas to prevent shortfalls," the report mentioned.

Artificial heart patients can regenerate heart muscles: Study



A research team at the University of Arizona College of Medicine--Tucson's Sarver Heart Center found that a subset of artificial heart patients can regenerate heart muscle, which opens the possibilities of new ways to treat and perhaps someday cure heart failure. The results of the research which was co-led by a physician-scientist were published in the journal Circulation. Comparing the repair of skeletal muscles to heart muscles, Hesham Sadek, MD, PhD, director of the Sarver Heart Center and chief of the Division of Cardiology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine -- Tucson's Department of Medicine said that when a heart muscle doesn't grow back if it gets injured, "We have nothing to reverse heart muscle loss." Sadek led a

collaboration between international experts to investigate whether heart

muscles can regenerate. The study was funded

through a grant by the Leduqc Foundation Transatlantic Networks of Excellence

Program. The project began with

tissue from artificial heart patients provided by colleagues at the University of Utah Health and School of Medicine led by Stavros Drakos, MD, PhD, a pioneer in left ventricular assist device-mediated recovery. Jonas Frisen, MD, PhD, and Olaf Bergmann, MD, PhD, of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, led teams in Sweden and Germany and used their innovative method of carbon dating human heart tissue to track whether these samples contained newly generated cells. The investigators found that patients with artificial hearts regenerated muscle cells at more than six times the rate of healthy hearts. "This is the strongest evidence we have, so far, that human heart muscle cells can actually regenerate, which really is exciting,

because it solidifies the notion that there is an intrinsic capacity of the human heart to regenerate," Sadek said. Earlier, Sadek published a paper in Science showing that while heart muscle cells actively divide in utero, they stop dividing shortly after birth to devote their energy to pumping blood through the body nonstop, with no time for breaks. In 2014, he published evidence of cell division in patients with artificial hearts, hinting that their heart muscle cells might have been regenerating. "The pump pushes blood into the aorta, bypassing the heart," he said. "The heart is essentially resting." Sadek's previous studies indicated that this rest might be beneficial for the heart muscle cells, but he needed to design an experiment to

determine whether patients with artificial hearts were actually regenerating muscles. "Irrefutable evidence of heart muscle regeneration has never been shown before in humans," he said. "This study provided direct evidence." However, Sadek wants to figure out why only 25 per cent of patients responded to the regeneration of the muscle. "It's not clear why some patients respond and some don't, but it's very clear that the ones who respond have the ability to regenerate heart muscle," he wrote. Sadek believes that in future a mechanical heart will not be a therapy on which people will rely and with this study, he hopes to deliver regeneration of heart muscles in future.

NEWS BRIEF

NHRC takes suo moto cognizance of sexual harassment case in Moga school

JAGRAJ SANGHA
MOGA: The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports alleging sexual harassment of girl students by the Principal of a government school in Moga district, Punjab. The Commission said that if the contents of the news reports are true, it raises a serious issue of violation of the human rights of the students. Taking note of the matter, NHRC has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Moga. They have been asked to submit a detailed report within two weeks. The report should include details of the FIR registered, action taken against the accused, and measures taken to ensure the safety, security and counselling of the victim students. The case came to light after media reports alleged that the Principal had sexually harassed girl students of the government school.

Do not worry; effective action will be taken on everyone’s grievances: CM Yogi

YUGMARG BUREAU GORAKHPUR, JULY 24

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a Janata Darshan at Gorakhnath Temple on Friday morning, the second consecutive day of his stay in Gorakhpur. During the Janata Darshan, he met people and listened to their grievances. On the occasion, assuring those who had come with complaints and problems, the Chief Minister said, "Do not worry, effective action will be taken on everyone's problems." He directed the officials present at the Janata Darshan to ensure that the complaints received there are resolved and the problems addressed promptly.

During the Janata Darshan, CM Yogi met around 150 people. The Chief Minister personally went to those seated on chairs outside the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhavan, listened to their grievances one by one, and received their applications. He issued necessary directions to the



officials standing nearby to resolve their problems. Referring the applications related to various matters to the concerned administrative and police officials, he directed that every case should be resolved impartially and within the stipulated time.

On complaints related to crime and forcible encroachment

of land, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed police officials to take strict action. On applications seeking financial assistance for medical treatment, he instructed that the process of obtaining cost estimates from hospitals be completed expeditiously. The Chief Minister assured the people, "As soon as

the estimate is received, the government will immediately provide the funds." Some women had come to the Janata Darshan with their children. The Chief Minister affectionately interacted with the children and blessed them while giving them chocolates.

During his stay at Gorakhnath Temple, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the temple's gaushala on Friday morning and performed goseva. While touring the gaushala, CM Yogi called out to some of the cattle by their names. His voice was familiar to them. Hearing his affectionate call, the cattle came running towards him. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gently patted them on their foreheads, showered them with affection, and fed them jaggery with his own hands. He also fed jaggery to the other cows and Nandi in the gaushala with his own hands. He also issued necessary instructions to the gaushala workers regarding the care of the cattle.

INLD protests police action on students at Jantar Mantar



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 24

The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) on Friday staged a protest in Yamunanagar against the alleged police action on students demonstrating over the NEET paper leak issue at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and submitted a memorandum addressed to the President through the Deputy Commissioner.

The protest was led by the party's youth wing, student wing (ISO) and legal cell, and was attended by former MLA Dilbag Singh and other party leaders. Addressing the gathering, Dilbag Singh condemned the

alleged use of force, including lathi-charge, tear gas and pellet guns, against students protesting peacefully. He demanded a judicial inquiry into the alleged NEET paper leak, saying students were seeking a fair, transparent and leak-free examination system.

He alleged that instead of addressing students' concerns, the government had resorted to intimidation and force. As a teacher, he said, it was distressing to see students being met with police action rather than dialogue, adding that examination paper leaks shatter the aspirations of lakhs of students and their families.

Revenue staff strike disrupts public services in Barnala



KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: Public services at the Deputy Commissioner's office, SDM office, tehsils and sub-tehsils in Barnala remained affected for the second consecutive day on Friday as revenue department employees continued their "pen-down and computer quit" strike in support of their long-pending demands. With employees abstaining from work, government offices were a deserted look and many people who had come to avail official services returned without getting their work done. District President of the employees' union Nirmaljit Singh Chane and General Secretary Vicky Dabla said several departmental demands have remained unresolved despite repeated meetings with senior government officials and successive Revenue Ministers. They said the ongoing strike, scheduled from July 23 to 26 as part of a statewide protest, was launched after negotiations failed to yield any positive outcome. The employees are demanding, among other issues, enhanced promotional quotas, implementation of pending Punjab Pay Commission benefits, regularisation and better wages for outsourced staff, restoration of the Old Pension Scheme, release of pending dearness allowance and creation of additional posts in revenue offices.

MLA Chandraprakash condemns lathicharge on protesting students at Jantar Mantar

MAHENDER GOYAL
HISAR: MLA Chandraprakash strongly condemned the lathicharge and brutality against students peacefully protesting for paper leaks, improvements in the education system and youth-related issues. He said that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan should immediately resign from his post and that the youth should get justice. He said that the cases filed against the youth who protested at Jantar Mantar in Delhi should be withdrawn and strict action should be taken against those responsible for leaking the NEET paper. He said that while the leak of competitive exam papers was jeopardizing the future of the youth, the poor education system was discouraging students. Furthermore, no effective steps are being taken to address the problems of the youth. He added that Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a crusader for justice, has supported the youth's demands and justified the demand for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Rahul Gandhi has asked the government what crime the students committed that they were brutally beaten by the security forces. MLA Chandraprakash stated that tear gas and water cannons were used against students protesting at Jantar Mantar in Delhi to press for their demands. Furthermore, many students were severely beaten, resulting in injuries. He stated that the current government repeatedly claims to stand with the youth, but the actions taken to suppress the youth movement have exposed the true face of the current government. MLA Chandraprakash stated that the lathi charge on protesting youth is a blow to democratic rights.



Awareness is key to preventing dengue, malaria and chikungunya: Dr Ramita



NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: Health Department held a program in Naharpur village. Villagers were made aware of prevention of dengue, malaria and chikungunya. It was chaired by Dr Ramita Gutain, Senior Medical Officer at Community Health Center, Naharpur. Dr Ramita Gutain explained that like every year, people are being made aware of dengue prevention in July. It sees heavy rainfall, causing water to accumulate in many places. This stagnant water becomes main reason for mosquito breeding. Dengue mosquito breeds in clean water. Dengue mosquitoes lay eggs in refrigerator trays, cooler water, broken utensils lying on roof of house or in covered tanks. These eggs transform into mosquitoes after a week from larval stage. Symptoms of dengue are high fever, body and joint pain, vomiting. He told that fever testing is done free of cost in all government hospitals. If any person shows symptoms of dengue, then consult a doctor. Empty fridge, cooler, flower pots and other places where water stagnates once a week.

Dushyant Chautala addresses workers convention: calls upon to strengthen party



MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI: Addressing a workers' convention held at a private palace in Indri on Friday, senior national leader of the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) and former Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana, Dushyant Chautala called for strengthening the organization down to the booth level. Present at the convention were JJP's BLA-2, office bearers, representatives from various cells and a large number of workers. Dushyant Chautala said that a strong organization was the greatest strength of any political party. He called on workers to spread the party's policies to every village and booth level and to intensify public relations campaigns. He said that workers were the party's true asset and only on their strength would the JJP emerge as a strong alternative in the state. Speaking to reporters, he launched a scathing attack on the BJP government, saying that the state and national governments have failed on every front. Raising the issue of the alleged lathicharge during a student protest in Delhi, he said that the students were peacefully protesting against alleged irregularities in the NEET exam, which was their democratic right. Had the government addressed their problems in a timely manner, this situation would not have arisen.

Painting and quiz competitions held, students share message of environmental protection

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: Forest Department organized painting and quiz competitions at Government Senior Secondary School, Jakholi Adda to commemorate 77th Forest Festival 2026. Students from various schools participated enthusiastically in competitions, showcasing message of environmental protection, tree planting and awareness of nature through their talents. In quiz competition, Kriti of Suparsva Bal Sadan School, Kaithal, secured first place, Anshika secured second place and Gurnoor, a student of PM Shri Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Jakholi Adda secured third place. In junior painting competition, Radhika from Government Girls Senior Secondary School and Nazarana of same school, jointly secured first place. Meenakshi from PM Shri Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Jakholi Adda and Suhani from Government Senior Secondary School, Patti Afghan shared second place. Yuvika from Darshan Academy and Asha from Government Senior Secondary School, Khurana jointly secured 3rd place. Forest Department officials congratulated all winning students and stated that purpose of such competitions is to inculcate a sense of responsibility towards environmental protection, tree planting and nature in students. They said that environmental protection is not just a campaign, but a moral responsibility of every citizen and such programs play an important role in developing sensitivity and positive thinking towards nature in children.

NEET row highlights need for transparency, student mental health support: Expert

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 24

NEET and other highly competitive examinations can place such immense pressure on students that it deeply affects their mental well-being, leaving them emotionally distressed and overwhelmed by stress. In some cases, this psychological burden becomes so severe that a few students feel compelled to take extreme steps, including suicide. Therefore, prioritizing students' mental health, providing emotional support, and ensuring timely guidance are essential to help them cope with academic pressure and safeguard their



well-being. For lakhs of students, NEET is not just a test but the culmination of years of dedication, sacrifice, and hope. It is understandable that any unaccountability at this level would lead to a lot of suffering not only to students but also to parents. At the

same time, it is important to recognize that allegations alone cannot determine the credibility of an examination. While students have every right to seek transparency and question irregularities, conclusions should ultimately be guided by impartial investigations and evidence rather than speculation. Public confidence is strengthened when institutions respond promptly, fairly, and openly. The protests also underscore the need for continuous trust the people need in the government. The successful resolution of the protest is not achieved due to the difference in the endpoints defined by the government and protestors.

Khijarpura girls win Block-Level Kabaddi Gold, qualify for districts

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, JULY 24

Under-14 girls' Kabaddi team from Government Secondary School, Khijarpura, performed brilliantly and won the gold medal in the block-level sports competition. In the final, the Khijarpura team defeated the Government Secondary School, Ramgarh, by a huge margin of 31-2 in a one-sided match, winning the block-level champion title. With this impressive victory, the team has qualified for the district-level competition. Congratulating the girls on becoming block-level



champions, village sarpanch Anil Kumar said that sports resources would be provided to nurture their sports talents. He added that the girls have brought glory to the village by winning the block-level championship and will soon be honored in a special ceremony organized by the village panchayat. This achievement has brought joy to the school, parents, and the entire village. Team head coach Sandeep Singh Machal and PTI Sushil Kumar stated that the Khijarpura team displayed excellent sportsmanship, discipline and team spirit in the Under-14 category.

Students from Janta Public School of Alahar excells in block-level sports competition



NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: Students from Janta Public School, Alahar, brought laurels to school with their outstanding performances in the ongoing block-level sports competition at PM Shri Government Senior Secondary School, Jathlana. School's athletes achieved impressive achievements in various track and field competitions. Kavya secured second place in 800-meter race for under-17 category. Anshika brought honor to school by securing first place in 600-meter race for under-14 category. In 100-meter race, Frankie secured second place and Alvin third. School Chairman Mukesh Shastri, Managing Director Ruby Kamboj and Principal Dr Kalpana Bajaj honored and congratulated all winning athletes and their coaches upon their arrival at school, wishing them a bright future.

Laparoscopic surgery enables faster recovery: Dr Kalra

RAKESH BHAYANA PANIPAT: Renowned laparoscopic surgeon and Ravindra Hospital Director Dr Ashutosh Kalra has said that advancements in minimally invasive surgery have significantly improved patient outcomes, enabling faster recovery, less pain and greater surgical precision. With over three decades of experience in laparoscopic surgery, Dr Kalra said the technique has transformed surgical care since its introduction in India and has become the preferred option for a wide range of procedures. Reflecting on his professional journey, he said surgery is not merely about treating a disease but about improving a patient's overall quality of life through safe and effective treatment. Addressing the younger generation, Dr Kalra stressed the importance of preventive healthcare, healthy eating habits and regular physical activity. He said neglecting health due to fast-paced lifestyles often leads to avoidable medical complications, adding that "prevention is better than cure." Highlighting the benefits of laparoscopic surgery, he said the procedure involves smaller incisions, causes less post-operative pain, reduces hospital stay and enables patients to return to their routine activities more quickly than conventional open surgery. He also noted that high-definition imaging technology has enhanced surgical precision, contributing to improved clinical outcomes when performed by trained specialists.



Mannat selected for Haryana govt's prestigious Super-100 scheme

JITENDRA KAUSHIK BARWALA: Mannat, a promising student from Jhalauli village in Barwala area has achieved a significant milestone through her talent and hard work, securing a place in Haryana government's prestigious Super-100 scheme. Mannat's selection has brought joy not only to her family but to entire village, school and Barwala block. Significantly, Mannat is first student from Barwala block to be selected for Super-100 scheme, further enhancing region's pride. Mannat is a meritorious student of Government Senior Secondary School, Jhalauli. She achieved this position through her dedication, discipline and consistent hard work. Her selection proves that even students from government schools can achieve great success with proper guidance and hard work. Haryana government's Super-100 scheme aims to provide meritorious students studying in government schools with high-quality, free residential coaching, study materials, expert faculty guidance and a better educational environment to prepare for national-level competitive examinations like IIT-JEE and NEET. Through this scheme, many students have secured admission to prestigious engineering and medical institutions in country. Upon receiving the news of Mannat's selection, a wave of joy swept through Government Senior Secondary School, Jalauli. School principal, teachers, students and villagers congratulated Mannat, distributed sweets and wished her a bright future. Festive atmosphere prevailed in school campus and everyone described this achievement as matter of pride for entire area.

Special awareness programme for girl students by Vidya Bharti Kurukshetra and Shiksha Samiti



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: Under the joint aegis of Vidya Bharti Haryana and Hindu Shiksha Samiti, a special awareness program was organized for the girl students at Geeta Kanya Senior Secondary School, Amin Marg, Kurukshetra on social media awareness, cyber security, 112 emergency service of Haryana Police and Trip Monitoring App to stay safe in the digital age. Speaking as the keynote speaker, Superintendent of Police (SP), Mrs. Amita, educated the students about the safe and responsible use of social media, protecting them from cybercrime, Online fraud, fake links, OTPs and not sharing personal information. She explained that the 112 app is extremely useful for citizens in case of an emergency, allowing them to obtain immediate police assistance. She also informed the students about the trip monitoring feature, which can ensure safety during travel. On this occasion, female constable, Harjeet Kaur explained to the students how to download and use of the 112 app, encouraged them to immediately report cybercrime and remain vigilant.

ABD Reports Steady Q1FY27 Performance as Premiumisation and Growth Investments Continue

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: Allied Blenders and Distillers Limited (ABD), one of the leading spirits companies in India, has announced its unaudited financial results for the quarter Q1FY27. Performance Highlights of the Quarter Q1FY27: Standalone Highlights:-Income from Operations at ₹975 crore, up 5.3% vs ₹ 926 crore in Q1FY26, EBITDA at ₹ 140 crore, up 14.4% vs ₹122 crore in Q1FY26, PAT at ₹ 68 crore, up 11.9% vs ₹61 crore in Q1FY26, Strong profitable growth momentum maintained. Consolidated Highlights:- Income from Operations at ₹ 984 crore, up 5.8% vs ₹ 930 crore in Q1FY26, EBITDA at ₹ 120 crore vs ₹ 119 crore in Q1FY26.

Maaza® marks 50 years with Special Cover; Mango farmers felicitated on National Mango Day

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: India's homegrown billion-dollar fruit-based drink, Maaza® celebrates 50 years of bringing the authentic taste of Indian mangoes from orchards to millions of consumers. On National Mango Day, Coca-Cola India and the Department of Posts, Government of India, released a 'Special Cover' celebrating 50 years of Maaza®. The occasion also honoured mango farmers associated with Project Umnati by Anandana – The Coca-Cola India Foundation, recognizing the generations of farming communities whose contribution has helped preserve India's mango heritage and made Maaza®'s five-decade journey possible. The Special Cover was released by Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, in the presence of Col.

JLR India offers greater ownership flexibility with assured buyback programme and enhanced financing

LUDHIANA : JLR India today announces the introduction of its Assured Buyback Programme and enhanced financing solutions designed to make ownership of Range Rover, Defender and Discovery vehicles more accessible, predictable and convenient for clients across India.JLR specifically developed the programme for the Indian market to combine a pre-determined future value with attractive financing options, helping clients benefit from greater certainty throughout their ownership. Eligible customers can now avail a minimum assured buyback value of up to 55 per cent of the ex-showroom value, with flexible ownership tenure – within the agreed mileage cap, subject to model eligibility and pre-agreed retailer-specific terms and conditions. The Assured Buyback Programme addresses one of the most important considerations for luxury vehicle buyers – future value. By establishing a guaranteed minimum vehicle value at the start of ownership, customers benefit from enhanced confidence and greater financial predictability when planning their next vehicle purchase or upgrade.

UT Boys Storm into Siechem Trophy 2026 Final with 32-Run Victory over Goa

CHANDIGARH, UT boys produced an all-round performance to defeat Goa by 32 runs and secure a place in the final of the CAP Under-19 Men's Inter State One Day Tournament (Siechem Trophy 2026) at Pudukcherry on Thursday. Chandigarh will take on Himachal Pradesh in the finals which is scheduled for Friday. Owing to bat first after Goa won the toss and elected to field, Chandigarh posted a challenging 297 all out in 47.4 overs with the help of scintillating knocks from Ehi Salaria (85 off 64 balls) and Meet Dahiya (82 off 52 balls). The duo dominated the Goa bowling attack with aggressive stroke play, stitching together a crucial partnership after Chandigarh had slipped to 127/4. Meet Dahiya's explosive innings was studded with eight boundaries and six sixes while Ehi Salaria struck four fours and five sixes.

From Silent Infection to Liver Cancer: Why Routine Hepatitis Screening Matters

AMRITSAR: India is facing a growing yet often overlooked public health challenge in the form of viral hepatitis. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 29 million Indians are living with Hepatitis B and 5.5 million with Hepatitis C, with many remaining unaware of their infection and its potentially life-threatening consequences. Left untreated, these viruses silently damage the liver over time, leading to the formation of scar tissue that can progress to cirrhosis (liver failure) and hepatocellular carcinoma, the most common form of liver cancer. Together, Hepatitis B and C account for over 18,500 liver cancer deaths in India annually, in addition to thousands of deaths caused by cirrhosis.

Repeated Miscarriages May Point to Hidden Genetic Causes, Say Fertility Experts

AMRITSAR: While a single miscarriage is relatively common and often does not indicate a long-term fertility problem, fertility specialists are observing that more than two or three pregnancy losses indicate hidden problems related to genetic issues or poor sperm quality. Fertility Specialists at Nova IVF Fertility, Amritsar, say they are observing nearly 3 in 10 couples seeking fertility care report repeated miscarriages or pregnancy loss. Dr. Smriti Anand, Fertility Specialist, Nova IVF Fertility, Amritsar, said, "At Nova IVF Fertility, we recommend genetic testing only when there is a medical requirement, and follow all guidelines on this as per the ART Act." Take the case of this couple who had approached us both in their late thirties, already had a child, who was born with Down syndrome, and they wanted to better understand the risks in a future pregnancy. We counselled them and recommended IVF with genetic testing, for a healthy embryo. We transferred healthy embryos, and the couple conceived successfully with twins. This case shows that IVF is not just for couples who cannot conceive but also used in cases of genetic issues".

CDSL IPF Conducts Regional Investor Awareness Seminar in Jalandhar

JALANDHAR – CDSSL Investor Protection Fund (CDSL IPF), under the aegis of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), successfully conducted three Regional Investor Seminar for Awareness (RISA) programmes across Patiala, Faridkot and Jalandhar, at the Municipal Corporation of Patiala, the District Bar Association, and the Women & Child Development Project, respectively. The seminars are part of CDSSL IPF's ongoing investor outreach initiatives aimed at promoting investor awareness, enhancing financial literacy, encouraging safe investing practices, and strengthening investor protection among citizens. The seminars witnessed the enthusiastic participation from investors, professionals, and members of the local community. The sessions were led by Shri Rajudeen Khan, Deputy General Manager, SEBI, and Shri Sandeep Puri, Assistant Manager, CDSSL, who shared valuable insights into the functioning of the securities market, investor rights and responsibilities, and the importance of making informed investment decisions.

The Lawrence School, Sanawar’s SNAMUN 2026 commenced with theme "One Voice for World Peace"



CHANDIGARH, The Lawrence School, Sanawar witnessed its inauguration of the Sanawar Model United Nations (SNAMUN) 2026, a three-day conference themed on 'One Voice for World Peace' that commenced at the school campus on Friday.

The opening ceremony was followed by a vibrant cultural programme that showcased India's artistic heritage and global spirit.

This edition of SNAMUN has brought together over 120 student delegates representing ten leading schools from across India including Mayo College Girls, Ajmer; Mayo College,

Ajmer; Yadavindra Public School, Patiala; Pinegrove School, Dharampur; Roots Country School, Panchkula; The British Co-Ed High School, Patiala; Daly College, Indore; Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar and the host The Lawrence School, Sanawar.

The delegates are engaged in rigorous debates and negotiations on pressing global and national issues through five specialised committees: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Lok Sabha and the Historical Security Council (HSC). The agenda includes thought-provoking discussions on issues such as the Iranian Revolution, immigration, examination paper leaks and strategies to mitigate Hate-speech, encouraging participants to explore solutions through diplomacy, dialogue, and consensus-building.

The Guest of Honour, Professor Jasteena Dhillon, Barrister and Solicitor associated with the University of Toronto inaugurated the conference.

Her address underscored the importance of principled diplomacy, international cooperation and the vital role that young leaders can play in

Axis Mutual Fund inaugurates its latest branch in Patiala

PATIALA: Axis Mutual Fund, one of India's leading and fastest-growing fund houses, today announced the inauguration of its newest branch in Patiala. This expansion is a part of the company's ongoing efforts to provide accessible investment solutions and foster financial empowerment for investors in Patiala and surrounding regions. The new branch is located at Axis Asset Management Company Limited 1st Floor, New Leela Bhawan Market, SCO-30, Near Vishal Mega Mart, Patiala, Punjab - 147 001. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Rohit Mattoo, Head - Retail Sales. This new branch will offer a wide range of essential services, including the acceptance and processing of new applications, KYC, statement of accounts, and more. It will also feature a team of dedicated relationship managers to provide personalised support and guidance, ensuring that investors receive the necessary assistance for their financial journey. With the addition of the Patiala branch, Axis Mutual Fund continues to strengthen its commitment to making investment opportunities more accessible and ensuring local communities have the tools they need to achieve their financial goals. Commenting on the launch, Rohit Mattoo, Head – Retail Sales, Axis Mutual Fund, said, "Patiala has long been a vibrant hub of culture and commerce, making it an important market for us as we expand our reach. We are delighted to strengthen our presence in the city through this new branch and enhance access to investment solutions for investors and distributors in the region. Axis Mutual Fund remains committed to driving financial awareness, inclusion, and growth at the local level."



Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Marks Fifth Year by Taking Design Thinking to 135 Cities Across India

CHANDIGARH : Marking the fifth edition of its flagship CSR programme Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, Samsung India has taken its Design Thinking Workshops to 135 cities across the country, creating one of India's largest grassroots innovation platforms for young people. Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is a nationwide innovation and education competition that empowers young people aged 14-22 to identify pressing challenges in their communities and develop technology-based solutions through design thinking, mentorship and incubation. Over the years, the programme has evolved into a launchpad for India's next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs and social changemakers. This year, Samsung conducted 184 Design Thinking Workshops, reaching thousands of students across schools, colleges and universities — from Jammu & Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to Tripura. The workshops introduced participants to human-centered design thinking, Design Thinking Workshops now concluded, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow enters its next phase, where the top 100 teams will be selected based on the ideas submitted by participants before progressing through mentorship, expert guidance and further evaluation. "Every breakthrough starts by listening, observing and asking the right questions.



GCL Broking Inaugurates New Branch in Ludhiana, Accelerating Expansion Across North India

LUDHIANA : GCL Broking, one of India's leading full-service stock broking companies, today inaugurated its new branch in Ludhiana, marking another significant milestone in its expansion across North India. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the company's CEO, Ravi Singhal, senior officials, business associates, investors and distinguished guests.

For over two decades GCL Broking has been delivering comprehensive financial services to thousands of investors across India. The company offers a wide range of investment solutions, including capital market services, commodity trading, mutual funds, IPOs, bonds, insurance, wealth management, and other financial products. Backed by advanced technology and an experienced research team GCL Broking remains committed to helping investors make informed financial decisions through reliable and research-driven investment solutions.

Speaking on the occasion, "Ravi Singhal, CEO of GCL Broking, said, "The inauguration of our new branch in Ludhiana, one of India's leading industrial and commercial hubs, marks an important step in our growth journey. Our objective extends beyond providing trading facilities—we aim to empower investors with expert guidance, research-backed advisory services, and trusted support to help them achieve long-term financial prosperity." The new Ludhiana branch will offer local investors, traders, entrepreneurs, and young professionals access to a comprehensive suite of financial products and services, including equity, commodities, derivatives, mutual funds, IPOs, insurance, bonds, and personalized investment advisory from experienced financial experts. In recent years, GCL Broking has significantly strengthened its presence across multiple cities in India. With the launch of its Ludhiana branch, the company aims to bring transparent, technology-driven, and customer-centric financial services closer to investors across Punjab.



UT Finance Secretary unveils TRIGYA THRIVE-2026 scholarship exam for IIT-JEE, NEET aspirants



CHANDIGARH: In a significant push towards promoting merit-based education and expanding access to quality coaching for competitive examinations, Finance Secretary, Chandigarh Administration, Deeprava Lakra unveiled TRIGYA THRIVE-2026, a flagship scholarship examination designed to identify talented students and help aspiring IIT-JEE and NEET candidates realise their academic ambitions through scholarships of up to 100 per cent. Speaking at the launch held at the IMA Auditorium, Sector 35, Lakra emphasised the importance of quality education and merit-based opportunities in shaping the country's future, and encouraged students to pursue excellence in science, technology and healthcare. Addressing the media, Parmeshwar Jha, Co-Founder and Director of Trigya Eduventure, said that open to students of Classes VII to XII, THRIVE-2026 will offer scholarships of up to 100 per cent, along with cash prizes, merit certificates, academic recognition and opportunities to participate in educational and scientific exposure programmes. Special scholarship assistance will also be provided to financially challenged yet meritorious students. The media interaction also saw the participation of the other 3 co-founders of Trigya Eduventure - Rajat Garg, Daljeet Singh and Shailesh Gupta. Notably the launch event was also attended by many school Principals and representatives of tricity schools.

Paragon School - 71 Organises Blood Donation Camp, 80 units of Blood Collected

MOHALI: Paragon Senior Secondary School, Sector 71, Mohali, organised its second Blood Donation Camp on the birth anniversary of its former Director and renowned educationist, Late Iqbal S. Shergill. The camp was held as a tribute to Late Iqbal Shergill's inspiring legacy of selfless service, humanitarian values, and unwavering commitment to social welfare. A total of 80 units of blood were successfully collected during the camp. On the occasion, Sardar Jatinder Singh Shergill, Mentor of the Paragon Educational Society, graced the event as the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by Paragon Educational Society's President Kulwant Kaur Shergill, the school's Director Farag Shergill, and Principal Jasmeet Kaur. Speaking on the occasion, Director Farag Shergill said that the blood donation camp was a heartfelt tribute to Late Iqbal S. Shergill and reflected his lifelong values of compassion, service, and selfless dedication. She added that Late Iqbal S. Shergill was not only a source of inspiration in the field of education but also a strong symbol of humanity and social responsibility. She said that the ideals he established continue to inspire people to serve society with dedication and commitment. The blood donation camp was organised in collaboration with the Department of Transfusion Medicine, Sohna Hospital. The medical and blood collection procedures were efficiently managed by the hospital's paramedical team under the leadership of Dr. Gurmeet Singh (M.D.), Head of the Department of Transfusion Medicine. The school's NCC cadets warmly welcomed all the blood donors upon their arrival. After donating blood, each donor was served nutritious refreshments and honoured with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their valuable contribution. The blood donation camp will be organised every year on the birth anniversary of Late Iqbal S. Shergill to carry forward his spirit of community service and to encourage.



Samsung India Announces Exciting Pre-order Offers For The New Galaxy Ultra2 and Watch9



Chandigarh – Samsung has announced that the newest additions to its Watch lineup, the Galaxy Watch Ultra2 and Galaxy Watch9 are available for pre-

Ultra2 and Galaxy Watch9 embody this vision, offering advanced health tracking features that act as a reliable companion for users, providing proactive insights and timely alerts to support their health journey," said Aditya Babbar, Vice President, MX Business, Samsung India. Galaxy Watch Ultra2 targets outdoor athletes. The Galaxy Watch Ultra2, Samsung's most capable smartwatch to date, is aimed at users who spend significant time outdoors or participate in endurance sports. It combines rugged construction with specialised tracking modes for activities including trail running and diving. The new Trail Run feature measures elevation, climbing progress and terrain impact to help runners manage their pace. Nutrition Alert, a new addition to the existing Sweat Loss feature, estimates hydration needs by measuring sweat loss relative to body weight.

Keep the Kids Entertained in Dubai This Summer

CHANDIGARH: Looking for ways to keep little ones entertained this summer? Dubai offers an exciting mix of indoor attractions, interactive activities and family-friendly experiences designed to delight visitors of all ages. From immersive entertainment parks and hands-on workshops to sweet treats and water adventures, here's a curated roundup of experiences that promise fun-filled family moments throughout the season.



experience that's as delightful as it is Instagram-worthy. Perfect for families, friends and anyone looking for a colourful indoor escape this summer. AquaFun: Make a splash at AquaFun, the region's largest inflatable waterpark, located just off The Beach, JBR. Bounce, climb and slide your way across a giant floating obstacle course shaped like the word "Dubai", with all-day access giving visitors plenty of time to enjoy the fun. Kids Pizza Academy by Dodo Pizza: Little chefs can get hands-on at the Kids Pizza Academy by Dodo Pizza, where children learn the art of pizza making through interactive workshops and fun-filled activities. Designed for ages 3 to 12, it's an engaging indoor experience that blends creativity with learning. The Green Planet: Take little explorers on a journey through a tropical rainforest at The Green Planet, home to over 3,000 plants, animals and birds. From spotting sloths and colourful birds to learning about fascinating ecosystems, this immersive indoor attraction offers a fun and educational experience for the whole family.

Star Health Flags Fever, Dengue and Malaria Risk

HARYANA : As Haryana enters the monsoon season, when dengue, malaria, fever and other infectious diseases typically rise, Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited (NSE: STARHEALTH; BSE: 543412), one of India's leading standalone health insurance companies, is stepping up its monsoon healthcare outreach across the state. Star Health's FY25-26 Haryana data shows around eleven-fold increase in Home Healthcare utilisation for fever and infectious diseases. Alongside this growth, the company has seen exceptional demand for its recently launched Virtual OPD service across the country, with a growing number of customers choosing it as their first point of medical consultation. The outreach focuses on early intervention by connecting polyclinicians to Talk to Star and Home Healthcare support, while enabling the general public to access free 24/7 Virtual OPD consultations through the Star Health Customer app. For polyclinicians, Talk to Star at 7200 222 333 remains the guided access point: press 1 for Home Healthcare and press 2 for planned hospitalisation. Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Mannu Batura, Business Head, Haryana, Star Health Insurance, said: "Monsoon season brings a predictable spike in fever, dengue, malaria and infections, but families often wait until symptoms worsen.

HMSI unveils 10-product Made-in-India portfolio



KARNAL : Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) today unveiled an expanded portfolio of 10 motorcycles and scooters for the Indian market - seven all-new models and three refreshed models with new color options. The lineup spans cruising, adventure touring, roadsters, lifestyle-oriented riding, electric and flex fuel mobility, addressing diverse customer needs across multiple segments. The localization of these models marks a significant milestone in HMSI's journey, reinforcing its focus on strengthening product development, engineering, and manufacturing capabilities in India. It also widens access to Honda's global technologies while enhancing local sourcing and manufacturing competitiveness. The expansion comes as India's two-wheeler market moves beyond being predominantly utility-led towards more differentiated mobility choices. While affordability, fuel efficiency, and total cost of ownership remain fundamental considerations, customers are increasingly seeking products aligned with their individual lifestyles and riding aspirations. Responding to this shift, HMSI's 10-product lineup offers customers a wider choice of motorcycles and scooters to match their diverse riding needs and preferences. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tsutsumi Otani, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, India remains one of Honda's most strategic global markets. This 10-product portfolio offers a wide range of mobility solutions. It reinforces Honda's multi-pathway approach, with advanced ICE vehicles, electric mobility offerings, and flex-fuel technologies designed to address diverse customer needs and varying infrastructure readiness.

Hindustan Zinc Posts Record Q1 Net Profit of ₹5,469 Crore, Revenue Rises 77% YoY



CHANDIGARH: Hindustan Zinc Limited, the world's largest integrated zinc producer and among the top 10 silver producers globally, has delivered its strongest-ever first-quarter performance for FY27, reporting record financial and operational results. The company posted its highest-ever quarterly revenue from operations of ₹13,747 crore, a 77% year-on-year increase, while EBITDA reached an all-time high of ₹8,074 crore, up 109%. Net profit surged 145% YoY to ₹5,469 crore, supported by record production, improved operational efficiency and disciplined cost management. The company also achieved its highest-ever first-quarter mined metal production of 268 KT

for the fifth consecutive year and recorded its lowest quarterly zinc cost of production at US\$851 per tonne, down 16% YoY. The company generated a strong free cash flow of ₹5,263 crore before growth capex, increased renewable energy consumption to 22% of total power usage and secured the mining lease for the Gundlupet Rare Earth Elements and Yttrium Block in Karnataka. Hindustan Zinc announced a first interim dividend of ₹11 per equity share, amounting to ₹6,648 crore, and contributed nearly ₹6,450 crore to the national exchequer through royalties, taxes and other payments. The Board also appointed Amarendra Prakash as Chief Executive Officer and Whole-time Director, effective August 1, 2026, while Amit Gupta assumed charge as Chief Financial Officer from June 1, 2026. Commenting on the results, Anur Misra, Chief Executive Officer, said, "We have started the year on a strong note with our highest-ever first-quarter mined metal production, reflecting the strength of our world-class assets and relentless focus on operational excellence. As demand for zinc continues to grow,

Haryana Medical Council Clarifies FMGL Rules for Students

NEW DELHI: The Haryana Medical Council (HMC) has issued a fresh clarification, reiterating the National Medical Commission's (NMC) Foreign Medical Graduate Licentiate (FMGL) Regulations, 2021 for Indian students planning to pursue medical education abroad. The clarification refers to Samarkand State Medical University (SSMU), Bukhara State Medical Institute (BSMI) and Tashkent State Medical University (TSMU), advising students to ensure that the institutions comply with FMGL Regulations before taking admission. The HMC stressed that the advisory is aimed at ensuring regulatory compliance and encouraging students to carry out proper due diligence. The Council also noted that the Embassy of India in Tashkent had earlier clarified that the NMC advisory issued on April 1, 2026 does not amount to a ban on these universities. According to the Embassy, it is working with the three universities to strengthen compliance with FMGL Regulations, enhance clinical training where required, and safeguard the interests of Indian students. The HMC has urged students to verify that their chosen foreign medical institution fully complies with NMC regulations before enrolling.

Punjab Raises the Call for a Hindu Chief Minister in 2027: National President Sandeep Kumar "Sonu Pump Wale" Samana

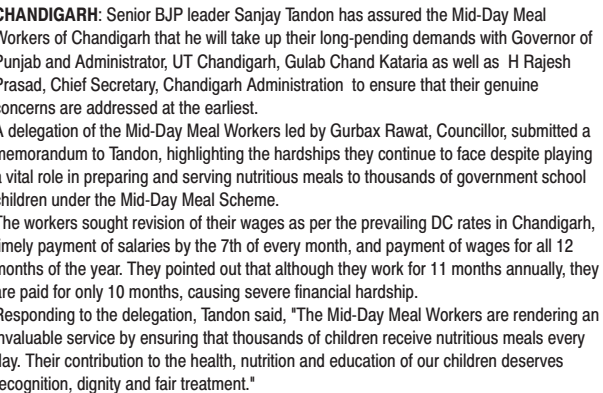


SAMANA: Citing what they described as the continued neglect of the Hindu community in Punjab, several Hindu organizations have intensified their demand for a Hindu Chief Minister in the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections. Leaders at the gathering expressed concerns over incidents of alleged desecration at Hindu temples, the registration of what they termed false cases against Hindu leaders, and increasing incidents of extortion targeting business owners by gangsters, which they said have created an atmosphere of fear across the state. Addressing the gathering, Rajiv Babbar, National Religious Preacher of Shiv Sena Hindu Taksali, said that a Sanatani Family Conference was organized at Aggarwal Dhamrashala, Samana, where representatives of various Hindu organizations from Punjab came together on a common platform. After deliberating on key issues, the participants resolved to field strong Hindu candidates in all Punjab Assembly constituencies in the 2027 elections with the objective of electing a Chief Minister from the Hindu community. Sandeep Kumar "Sonu Pump Wale" Samana, National President of Shiv Sena Hindu Taksali, thanked all the participating Hindu organizations for attending and supporting the conference. Among those present were: Sanjeev Ghanoli, National President, Shiv Sena Punjab; Rajiv Tandon, National Chairman; Mahant Kashmir Giri, National Religious Preacher; Anuj Gupta, National Vice President; Jai Gopal Lali, National Chairman; Bajrang Dal Hindustan; Rajesh Kehar, National Chief; Akhli Bharatiya Hindu Suraksha Samiti (Shri Hindu Taktli).

AGI Welfare School Provides Free Education, Transport and Mid-Day Meals to Underprivileged Children



BUNNY SODHI JALANDHAR: Reinforcing its commitment to social welfare, AGI Infra Limited is providing completely free education to around 150 children from economically weaker sections through AGI Welfare School, located at its Jalandhar Heights-1 township on 66 Feet Road. The initiative aims to ensure that financial constraints do not prevent children from receiving quality education and essential learning facilities. Chairperson of AGI Educational Society, Mrs. Sawinderjit Kaur, said every child deserves an equal opportunity to learn and achieve his or her dreams, irrespective of the family's economic background. She emphasized that education is the right of every child and no one should be deprived of quality schooling because of poverty. Managing Director of AGI Infra Limited, Sardar Sukhdev Singh, said the company believes that serving society is as important as achieving business success. He added that providing free education to deserving children is AGI's social responsibility and reflects its commitment to the welfare of society. Principal Mrs. Jaswinder Kaur informed that the school provides free education along with textbooks, notebooks, stationery, school uniforms for summer and winter, shoes, socks, school bags and all other essential study material at no cost. She said students are also provided free transportation from their homes to the school and back, while admissions are open to children from any part of Jalandhar without any fee. In addition, every student receives a nutritious mid-day meal prepared and served by the Club of Jalandhar Heights-1, ensuring both educational and nutritional support for the children.



SADHNA: A Rath Yatra featuring the idol of Lord Jagannath was flagged off today in Sadhna.

SADHNA MLA Renu Bada inaugurated the procession by lighting a ceremonial lamp and breaking a coconut. The journey commenced at the Krishna Mandir in Sadhna and is set to proceed to the Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir in Vyaspur. With hundreds of devotees moved through Sadhna's main market, dancing to the chants of "Hare Krishna, Hare Rama." The idol was beautifully adorned, and prayers were offered for the town's prosperity and well-being. People of all ages—youth, the elderly, and women—participated in the procession. MLA Renu Bada noted that the procession had also passed through the Mustabad block and Vyaspur area. She remarked that Lord Jagannath had stepped out of the temple to bless the residents of Sadhna. She prayed that this would bring blessings to the people and usher in happiness and prosperity for every household in the town. Town residents saw the procession off amidst the sounds of dhol and the singing of shanties. Dignitaries present at the event included Chairperson Shalini Sharma, Market Committee Chairman Naveen Ashish, Anul Jagad, BJP leader Pawan Saini, Sunit Jain, Wazir Chand Kharia, Mangat Ram Saini, and other prominent figures.

UDHIANA: The liver is a vital organ in the human body. It plays a crucial role in eliminating toxins from the body, converting food into energy, aiding digestion and producing essential proteins, and fighting off diseases.

Dr. Vipul Gautam, Consultant in the Department of Liver and Biliary Sciences at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, explained, "Viral hepatitis remains a major cause of liver cirrhosis and liver cancer worldwide. The good news is that an effective vaccine is available to prevent Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C can be completely cured."

with medication. However, many patients discover the illness only after significant liver damage has already taken place. Therefore, timely testing and treatment are essential." Many people infected with Hepatitis B and C do not exhibit any specific symptoms in the early years. However, some individuals may experience symptoms such as yellowing of the eyes and skin (jaundice), persistent fatigue, loss of appetite, abdominal swelling, nausea, dark urine, or unexplained weight loss.

AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Assets
Property #
Road,
Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block
Pandurang Budhkar Mar
Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd fl
Law garden, Ellorib
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE REGARDING
U/S 13(4) OF SA
Notice is hereby given under the
Financial Assets and Enforcement
2002) and in exercise of powers
with rule 9 of the Security Interest
notice was issued on the dates men
hereinafter calling upon them to rep
date of receipt of said notice.


CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD
 A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING
 8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

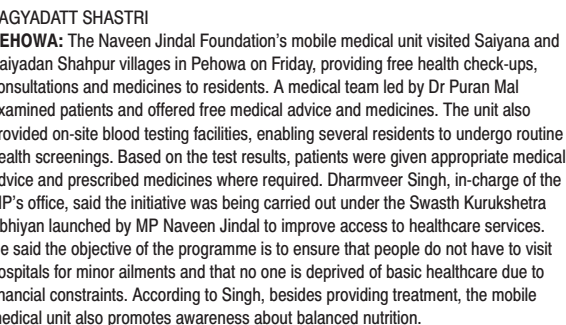
Subject:- Mutation/Transfer of allotment/ Registration of Ownership in respect of DU No.2803-2 of Category-LIG, Sector 47-C, Chandigarh in the name of (i) SMT. SHEELA DEVI W/O LATE SH. GIAN CHAND & (ii) SH. RAKESH KUMAR S/O LATE SH. GIAN CHAND from the name of allottee/transferee SH. GIAN CHAND S/O SH. GOPALA RAM on the basis of Registered WILL.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that (i) SMT. SHEELA DEVI W/O LATE SH. GIAN CHAND & (ii) SH. RAKESH KUMAR S/O LATE SH. GIAN CHAND after the death of allottee/transferee SH. GIAN CHAND S/O SH. GOPALA RAM, have applied to Chandigarh Housing Board for transfer the DU No 2803-2 of Category-LIG, Sector 47-C/Chandigarh in their favour, as SH. GIAN CHAND S/O SH. GOPALA RAM expired on dated 05.01.2026 at Chandigarh and left behind a WILL which was Registered with Sub Registrar, Bhoranji, Distt. Hamirpur (HP) on 07.04.2006, in their favour. They have further stated that the WILL of the deceased allottee/transferee is the last WILL executed by him which has neither superseded nor cancelled till the death of the deceased.

If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant(s), he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the registration and allotment of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary

Naveen Jindal Foundation's mobile medical unit provides free healthcare in Pehowa villages



n Bangar graduates m UK university

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a red dress, is smiling and holding a book and a diploma. She is standing outdoors near a building with large windows.

Government Working for Farmers' Welfare: Jindal

JAGBIR UPLANA ASSANDHA farmers' awareness camp was organized at the Market Committee office located in the city's New Grain Market. The event was presided over by Ram Avatar Jindal, Vice-Chairman of the Market Committee. He briefed the farmers present about the government's guidelines for the upcoming paddy season. He emphasized that both the central and state governments are working for the welfare of farmers. All farmers were urged to ensure the online registration of their paddy sowing acreage on the 'Meri Fasal-Mera Byora' portal. Farmers were advised to bring their produce to the market along with proof of identity and trolley numbers. They were asked to bring their crops to the market only after they had fully ripened and were properly cleaned. Farmers were instructed to adhere to the rules set by the market administration and procurement agencies and to keep their bank accounts in order to facilitate payment for their produce. Additionally, they were asked to follow government guidelines to avoid any difficulties while selling their crops. Market Committee Secretary Devi Ram, Joint Secretary Sanjay Sharma, Kisan Union President Joginder Singh, Balwinder Singh, Kashmir Singh, Ranjit Singh, Amarjit Singh Bassi, Premchand Balla, Balwant Singh, Amrik Singh Thali, Grain Market Association President Narendra Garg.

Airtel Payments Bank Partners with CSC to Expand Digital Banking, Financial Inclusion Across India

CHANDIGARH : Airtel Payments Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited to strengthen financial inclusion and enable access to digital banking and bill payment services across the country. The partnership was formalized during CSC's 17th Foundation Day celebrations in Kolkata. Through this collaboration, Airtel Payments Bank's banking and digital payment solutions will be made available at CSC's network of over 560,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs), significantly enhancing access to formal financial services for citizens in rural India. Set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to oversee the implementation of Government to Citizens (G2C) schemes, CSC e-Governance provides G2C services to citizens through its outlets, known as Common Service Centres. Customers visiting CSC outlets will now be able to open an Airtel Payments Bank savings account, link their accounts to receive eligible government benefits, and conveniently make utility and other bill payments.



SMT. SANTOSH BHANOT alias SANTOSH BAKSHI D/O SH. BAKSHI MULKH (MULK) RAJ CHHIBBAR (MULKH RAJ CHHIBBAR) on the basis of Registered WILL.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that **SH. ANAND CHHIBBAR S/O SH. RAJINDER KUMAR CHHIBBAR** after the death of allottee/transferee **SMT. SANTOSH BHANOT alias SANTOSH BAKSHI D/O SH. BAKSHI MULKH (MULK) RAJ CHHIBBAR (MULKH RAJ CHHIBBAR)**, has applied to Chandigarh Housing Board for transfer the DU No 2680 of Category-MIG(Ind), Sector 40-C, Chandigarh in his favour, as **SMT. SANTOSH BHANOT alias SANTOSH BAKSHI D/O SH. BAKSHI MULKH (MULK) RAJ CHHIBBAR (MULKH RAJ CHHIBBAR)** expired on dated 30.05.2026 at Chandigarh and left behind a WILL which was Registered with Sub Registrar, UT Chandigarh on 08.12.2023, in his favour. He has further stated that the WILL of the deceased allottee/transferee is the last WILL executed by her which has neither superseded nor cancelled till the death of the deceased.

If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant(s), he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the registration and allotment of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

**Secretary,
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh**

13th Foundation Day of Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University, Jind celebrated

JIND: The 13th Foundation Day of Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University, Jind was celebrated today. On this occasion, the university community recalled the institution's glorious achievements and reaffirmed its commitment to education, values, environmental conservation, and nation-building. The programme commenced with a heartfelt tribute paid to Martyr Captain Pawan Kumar by offering floral tributes at his statue located on the university campus. Subsequently, floral tributes were offered at the statue of the great freedom fighter and renowned public leader, Chaudhary Ranbir Singh, honoring his invaluable contributions to nation-building, social service, and public welfare. Following the floral tribute to Chaudhary Ranbir Singh, a tree plantation drive was organized on the campus. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ram Pal Saini and Registrar Prof. Seema Gupta planted saplings, conveying a message of environmental conservation and the importance of making the university campus greener and cleaner. They urged all students, faculty members, and staff to plant as many trees as possible and to pledge to nurture them. To mark the Foundation Day, a Havan and prayers accompanied by the chanting of Vedic mantras were organised at the Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Central Library, seeking the university's continued progress, prosperity, and academic excellence. The university community prayed for the institution's bright future, sustained growth, and the attainment of new milestones.



NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tendering

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT-07/2026-27 Dated 24.07.2026

Open tenders through E-tendering are invited on & behalf of President of India by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/G, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 Hrs or the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

S/N	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of closing & opening
1	T-07/2026-27	30- Electrical work in connection with 2nd entry gate at Yamunanagar Jagadhari under Amrit Bharat Scheme(2nd Revised Estimate for Provision of 12.00 in wide FDB at Yamunanagar Jagadhari Railway station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme) and upgradation of Parcel office over Ambala Division.	Rs. 2331664.40	Rs. 46600.00	04 Months	14.08.2026

- Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligible documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions.
- The required Bid security will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/or Payment Gateway only well before and upto 15.00 Hrs of closing date & time of tender.
- Tenderers should have class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in e-Tendering of works tenders.
- For detail, please log on IREPS website WWW.IREPS.Gov.in
- GST will be levied as per GST Act,2017.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

2560/2026



CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

(A Chandigarh Administration Undertaking)

8, JAN MARG, SECTOR 9-D, CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the General Public that the following person(s) have applied for Permission for the Gift/Sale/ Purchase of Dwelling Unit in their names under Regulation of the Chandigarh Housing Board (Allotment, Management and Sale of Tenements) Regulations 1979:-

Sr. No.	NAME OF THE PURCHASER/ APPLICANT (PROPOSED TRANSFEREE)	Name of the SELLER/ALLOTTEE /TRANSFEREE (PROPOSED TRANSFEREE)	D.U. No.	Cat.	Sector Chandigarh
1	SMT. POONAM BHATIA W/O SH. VIJAY KUMAR	SMT. KRISHNA DEVI W/O SH. VARINDER KUMAR	3327-1	LIG	DHANAS, CHANDIGARH
2	SH. SANJEEV PURI S/O SH. LEKH RAJ PURI	(I) SH. KAMALJIT SINGH S/O LATE SH. HAKAM SINGH (II) SH. RAJIVR SINGH LATE SH. HAKAM S/O SINGH & (III) SMT. RUPINDER KAUR, D/O LATE SH. HAKAM SINGH, W/O SH. KULBIR SINGH	492	LIG	41-A, CHANDIGARH

In case anybody has any objection for the Sale/Purchase in respect of above said dwelling Unit he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 21 days of the publication of this notice before the undersigned alongwith documentary evidence, if any.

SECRETARY
CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD,
CHANDIGARH



CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

(A Chandigarh Administration Undertaking)

8, JAN MARG, SECTOR 9-D, CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the General Public that the following person(s) have applied for the transfer of **66.66% SHARE** OF allotment of the below said Dwelling Unit under the **Blood Relation Transfer Policy** in his/her name under Regulation 16 of the Chandigarh Housing Board (Allotment, Management and Sale of Tenements) Regulations 1979 -

Sr. No.	Name of the applicant (PROPOSED TRANSFEREE)	Name of the allottee/ transferee (TRANSFEROR)	D.U. NO.	Cat.	Sector
1	SH. VINOD KUMAR PAUL S/O LATE SH. RAM PRAKASH PAUL (RAM PARKASH PAUL) (HAVING 33.34% SHARE)	(i) SMT. SANTOSH WALIA W/O SH. MANMOHAN SINGH WALIA & (ii) SMT. NEENA WALIA (NEENA WALIA THAKURAL) W/O SH. KRISHAN KUMAR THAKURAL (HAVING 33.33% SHARE EACH)	1240-2	HIG	43-B, CHANDIGARH

In case anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Dwelling Units, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 21 days of the publication of this notice before the undersigned alongwith documentary evidence, if any.

SECRETARY
CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD,
CHANDIGARH



SANTOSH BAKSHI D/O SH. CHHIBBAR (MULKH RAJ S/O WILL.
son of the general public and all CHHIBBAR S/O SH. RAJINDER
death of allottee/transferee SMT. SH BAKSHI D/O SH. BAKSHI
(MULKH RAJ CHHIBBAR), has
d for transfer the DU No 2680 of
Chandigarh in his favour, as SMT.
SH BAKSHI D/O SH. BAKSHI
(MULKH RAJ CHHIBBAR) expired
and left behind a WILL which
DU Chandigarh on 08.12.2023,
that the WILL of the deceased
deceased by her which has neither
of the deceased.
the mutation of the said property in
may submit the objection in writing
of the publication of this notice,
ment of the said dwelling unit
said claimant(s).
Secretary,
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh



& (iii) MS. SHREYA SHARMA D/O LATE SH. VINAY KUMAR on the Intestate Demise of allottee/transferor SH. VINAY KUMAR S/O SH. ISHWAR DUKHIA.

It is hereby notified for the information of the General Public and all concerned that SH. VINAY KUMAR S/O SH. ISHWAR DUKHIA, allottee/transferor of No.2109-B of One Bed Room Category & Parking in Block No.27 in Sector-63, Chandigarh expired on 10.03.2026 at Chandigarh as informed by his legal heirs. (i) SMT. SAVITA RANI W/O LATE SH. VINAY KUMAR, (ii) SH. SUDHANSHU SHARMA S/O LATE SH. VINAY KUMAR & (iii) MS. SHREYA SHARMA D/O LATE SH. VINAY KUMAR have requested for transfer of ownership of DU No.2109-B of One Bed Room Category & Parking in Block No.27 in Sector-63, Chandigarh in their name on the basis of intestate demise of allottee/transferor SH. VINAY KUMAR S/O SH. ISHWAR DUKHIA. They have further stated that no other legal heir has been left out.

In case anybody has any objection regarding the claim/right/interest in the dwelling unit which is proposed to be transferred by the Chandigarh Housing Board in favour of (i) SMT. SAVITA RANI (Wife), (ii) SH. SUDHANSHU SHARMA (Son) & (iii) MS. SHREYA SHARMA (Daughter), he/she may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the registration and allotment of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of the above claimant/s.

**Secretary,
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh**

Municipal Council's major step towards clean Hansi: Special sanitation drive in 5 wards

HANSI: With the aim of providing a clean, beautiful, and healthy environment for the city, the Hansi Municipal Council conducted a special sanitation drive on Friday in Wards 8, 12, 21, 25, and 27. Organised under the guidance of ADC and DMC Lakshmi Sarin, the campaign involved extensive efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the sanitation system. As part of the drive, Municipal Council sanitation teams carried out thorough cleaning of streets, main roads, public spaces, drains, and vacant plots in the respective wards. Silt and waste accumulated in the drains were removed and transported to designated disposal sites. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring smooth drainage—keeping the monsoon season in mind—to prevent any instances of waterlogging. ADC and Municipal Council Administrator Lakshmi Sarin stated that the cleanliness is not merely a campaign but also a civic responsibility. The Municipal Council is conducting special sanitation drives in every ward of the city in a phased manner to ensure uniformly high standards of cleanliness across all areas. He appealed to citizens to dispose of waste from homes and commercial establishments only at designated locations, to avoid littering in the open, and to cooperate with the Municipal Council in building a clean Hansi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
(i) SH. YAL PAL ARORA S/O SH. KRISHAL LAL & (ii) SH. GURVINDER SINGH S/O SH. KHEM SINGH approached to the Chandigarh Housing Board for the issuance of **Duplicate copy of (i) Allotment Letter & (ii) Possession Form** in respect of **DU No.5179-B, Sector 38-W, Chandigarh** due to loss of these documents. They have also furnished Lost Article Information Report in P.S. 39 at Serial No.261129 LAR No.2026/023932 registered with CHANDIGARH Police on dated 20.07.2026, regarding the loss of above said document(s). Any person having any objection against the issuance of **Duplicate copy of (i) Allotment Letter & (ii) Possession Form**, of above said DU to the applicant(s), he/she should file the objection before the undersigned in writing within 15 days from the publication of this notice, failing which the document shall be issued. Further, in case original document as mentioned above is found by anyone, the same should be submitted in the above noted Police Station or in the office of the undersigned.

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board
Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh
Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.3113-1 of
Category-UG, Sector 45-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH.
VINOD YADAV S/O SH. CHHOTU LAL YADAV from the name of allottee/transferor(s)
SMT. SHELJA MODGIL D/O SH. NARDEV KUMAR SHARMA,
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned the DU
No.3113-1 of Category-UG, Sector 45-D, Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/
transferor(s) SMT. SHELJA MODGIL D/O SH. NARDEV KUMAR SHARMA. Now
SMT. SHELJA MODGIL D/O SH. NARDEV KUMAR SHARMA has sold the above
said dwelling unit to SH. VINOD YADAV S/O SH. CHHOTU LAL YADAV vide Sale
Deed executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh dated
27.05.2026. SH. VINOD YADAV S/O SH. CHHOTU LAL YADAV has requested this
office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in his name on the basis of Sale deed.
If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of
applicant, he/she may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21
days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling
unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board
Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh
Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.3295-2 of Category-UG, Sector 45-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. BAL KRISHAN PURWAL S/O SH. RAM PRASAD PURWAL from the name of allottee transferee(s) SH. RAJESH VERMA S/O SH. SITA RAM (SITA RAM VERMA).
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned the DU No.3295-2 of Category-UG, Sector 45-D, Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee transferee(s) SH. RAJESH VERMA S/O SH. SITA RAM VERMA. Now, SH. RAJESH VERMA S/O SH. SITA RAM (SITA RAM VERMA) has sold the above said dwelling unit to SH. BAL KRISHAN PURWAL S/O SH. RAM PRASAD PURWAL vide Sale Deed executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh dated 22.06.2026. SH. BAL KRISHAN PURWAL S/O SH. RAM PRASAD PURWAL has requested this office to transfer the above said dwelling unit in his name on the basis of Sale deed.
If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board
Chandigarh

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 2002

As the below mentioned borrower, co-borrowers and guarantors have availed loan(s)/ financial facility(ies) from HDB Financial Services Limited by mortgaging your immovable properties (security/ securities) and defaulted in repayment of the same, considering your default(s) your loan was classified as non performing asset(s). Consequently, the Company has issued this demand notice under Section 13(2) of the Bankruptcy Act, 2002 for the recovery of Total Asset(s) and Security Interest Asset(s). 2002 (the Act), the contents of which are being published herewith as per section 13(2) of the act read with Rule 13(2) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and as by way of alternate service upon you. Details of the borrowers, co-borrowers, loan account no., loan amount, demand notice under section 13(2) dated/amount claimed in the notice, NPA date and securities are given as under:

1) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/CO-BORROWER/GUARANTOR; 2) LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER; 3) LOAN AMOUNT; 4) DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE; 5) CLAIMED AMOUNT; 6) DETAILS OF SECURITIES; 7) DATE OF POSSESSION

NAME OF THE BORROWER & CO-Borrowers : 1) Sains Engg Works H No2465 St No 2 Janta Nagar, Gilt Road Ludhiana-141001 And Also, Property Measuring 403-1/2 Sq Yds H No B-2/4658, Kharsa No 6556/4037/377, Ashikhan At Viji Gilt No 02, Janta Nagar, Ludhiana-141003, 2) Bhai Ram, Kharsa No 6556/4037/377, 4 Ashikhan At Viji, Janta Nagar, Ludhiana-141003, 3) Bhai Ram, Kharsa No 6556/4037/377, 4 Ashikhan At Viji, Janta Nagar, Ludhiana-141003, 4) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 5) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 6) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 7) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 8) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 9) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 10) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 11) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 12) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 13) S. S. Nagar, Telsah and District Ludhiana 141003, 14) S. S. 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The ultimate serving of dinner-tainment! Reasons why the grand finale of COLORS' Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' is a must-watch!



CHANDIGARH: After weeks of laugh-out-loud chaos, impossible cooking challenges, delicious disasters, and unforgettable celebrity camaraderie, COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' is finally serving its biggest feast yet - the grand finale. The show that re-defined television with its irresistible blend of comedy and cooking turned everyday recipes into blockbuster experiences. From culinary catastrophes and playful rivalries to viral moments and heartwarming friendships, Laughter Chefs once again cemented its place as television's most-loved "Dinner-tainment" phenomenon. As the final stars are up for grabs and the coveted trophy hangs in the balance, the finale promises crossovers, star-studded surprises and an emotional goodbye that will leave viewers smiling through tears. Here are three reasons why the grand finale of COLORS' Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment is unmissable: It's a Khatamaak crossover-What happens when television's funniest chefs meet India's bravest stunt performers? It's absolute chaos. The Laughter Chefs kitchen throws open its doors to the contestants of the upcoming season of Khatron Ke Khiladi, making way for one of the greatest crossovers. The fun kicks off the moment Krushna Abhishek playfully teases Farhana Bhatt, setting the tone for an episode packed with laughter.The biggest surprise arrives with blockbuster filmmaker and action maestro Rohit Shetty, who swaps high-octane stunts for kitchen counters as he takes his seat on the iconic Dinner-tainment throne of spoons and forks. Making his first-ever cooking attempt on the show, Rohit hilariously struggles while preparing the batter, even as he mercilessly roasts everyone else's cooking.The hilarity skyrockets as the entire cast comes together for an energetic performance on the iconic Golmaal title track. The cook-off raises the stakes as celebrity pairings are announced for the intricate Bellam Pootharekulu (Paper Sweet) challenge. With just 45 minutes on the clock and an additional 10 bonus stars awaiting the winners, every second counts. Adding to the celebration, Krushna and Farhana light up the stage with Soni De Nakhre, joined by Nia Sharma and Harshi in a performance that's pure gold.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Registered Q1 PAT at Rs.317 Crore

CHANDIGARH : Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd. today announced its financial performance for the quarter ended June 2026.Ms. Carol Furtado, ED Ujjivan Small Finance Bank said "Despite ongoing global market uncertainties, domestic high-frequency economic indicators have shown stability. RBI maintained its policy repo rate at 5.25% with a neutral stance, projecting a re-calibrated real GDP growth for FY27 at 6.6% and inflation staying within defined band with full year of 5.1%, while noting that the banking sector remains resilient with healthy credit demand and steady deposits.The bank delivered another quarter of diversified business growth along with branch expansion, taking branch count to 814 as of Jun'26. Deposit grew by 24.6% YoY/ 5.4% QoQ to i48,129 Crore and Gross Loan Book reached i42,903 Crore, growing 28.9% YoY / 5.5% QoQ.In a tight liquidity scenario, we maintained comfortable CD Ratio at around 89%. To adjust for evolving market scenario, we effected rate increases on key buckets in line with our intended ALM outcome. CASA Deposit grew to i12,930 Crore, up 37.8% YoY. Deposit customer initiatives continue gaining traction, led by strong Ivory programme growth. Improved insurance cross-sell, rising mutual fund adoption through digital channels, and the upcoming co-branded credit card enhance engagement. The secured loan portfolio delivered strong momentum in Q1FY27, growing 42.7% YoY / 7.8% QoQ to i21,638 crore, accounting for 50.4% of the gross loan book. Quarterly disbursements increased 41.4% YoY to i9,245 crore. The micro banking portfolio grew 16.8% YoY in Q1 to i21,371 crore, supported by robust Bucket X collection efficiency of 99.68% and new customer acquisition of 1.72 lakh. Vehicle finance and gold loan portfolios crossed the i1,000 crore milestone. Housing comprising of Affordable Housing Loans and Micro Mortgage grew 40.8% YoY to i11,210 Cr and MSME grew 54% YoY to i3,470 Cr. Bank level asset quality strengthened with lower GNPA/NNPA to 2.17% / 0.34% and improved provision coverage ratio of 85% Net Interest Margin (NIM) improved to 8.5%, up 80 bps YoY with record NII at i1,186 Cr. Cost to Income improved to 62.0% down 497 bps YoY resulting in record PPOpP at i548 Cr. PAT stood at i317 Crore up 206.7% YoY. RoA at 2.2%, up 131 bps YoY with RoE at 18.2% up 1,145 bps YoY.

Jindal Stainless wins six awards at the 12th National Awards for Manufacturing Competitiveness



HISAR: As a validation of its commitment to manufacturing excellence, Jindal Stainless has won six prestigious honours at the 12th National Awards for Manufacturing Competitiveness (NAMC). The company's Hisar unit was conferred the Gold Medal and AatmaNirbhar Nation Builder Award under the AatmaNirbhar Factory Recognition Program (AFRP) for the fourth consecutive year. Hisar also received the Diamond Award for the second consecutive year for winning the top honours for three straight years, recognising its sustained performance and operational excellence. The unit was also adjudged the 2nd Runner-Up in the overall NAMC rankings, further reinforcing its position as a benchmark for manufacturing excellence. The Mundra unit secured the Silver Medal and the AatmaNirbhar Factory Recognition under the AatmaNirbhar Factory Recognition Program (AFRP), reflecting its commitment to manufacturing excellence, operational efficiency, and continuous improvement. The achievement reflects the impact of several strategic initiatives implemented at the facility, including the adoption of Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) and Lean Manufacturing practices, advancement of digitalisation and Industry 4.0 initiatives, strengthening of quality, safety, health and environment (QSHE) systems, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement through quality circles. The unit has also focused on energy efficiency, sustainability, resource optimisation, employee capability development, cross functional collaboration, and customer-centric, data-driven operational excellence practices.

Sony Entertainment Television's Indian Idol Season 16 Set to Crown the Next Indian Idol on July 26

CHANDIGARH: After months of unforgettable performances, cherished memories, and inspiring musical journeys, Sony Entertainment Television's Indian Idol Season 16 is heading towards its much-awaited Grand Finale, which will air on Sunday, July 26, 2026. Celebrating this season's theme, "Yaadon Ki Playlist" (Playlist of Memories), the finale promises a spectacular evening filled with music, nostalgia, and celebration. Anshika Chonkar, Jyotirmayee Nayak, Manraj Veer Singh, Mayskam Bosu, Suhail Sufi, and Tanishq Shukla have emerged as the Top 6 finalists, each hoping to lift the prestigious Indian Idol Season 16 trophy. Throughout the season, the contestants took viewers on a memorable musical journey, paying tribute to timeless melodies through their remarkable performances. Guided by judges Vishal Dadlani, Shreya Ghoshal, and Badshah, and hosted by Aditya Narayan, the season celebrated extraordinary talent, passion, and perseverance, making every performance a treasured memory for audiences across the country. Adding to the grandeur of the finale, judges Shreya Ghoshal and Badshah will be joined by a stellar lineup of special guests, including Usha Uthup, Udit Narayan, Papon, Kumar Sanu, Shehnaaz Gill, and Urmila Matondkar, making it a truly star-studded celebration of music, entertainment, and unforgettable performances.



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Lifestyle

Sara Ali Khan expresses solidarity with students amid youth-led CJP protests

On Thursday, actor Sara Ali Khan publicly addressed the ongoing protests linked to the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak by sharing a message focused on students and youth as demonstrations continued in Delhi.Sara Ali Khan posted a heartfelt note on her Instagram handle expressing solidarity with students and young people participating in the protest.In her message, the actor described the youth as the country's future and voiced confidence that justice would be delivered."Our students are our future and their future tugs at the very heart of our nation. Their resolve burns like a quiet, unquenchable flame that brings tears to my eyes, reminding us that true patriotism beats in the brave hearts of those who dare to stand up for what they believe in. Their courage and determination to seek a better and safer future is both inspiring and stirring; a powerful awakening of our shared conscience. We must listen to them with open hearts, care deeply and walk beside them. Their dreams are woven into ours. Our dreams live in theirs.

As an optimistic patriot, I have immense faith that our government will deliver justice," she wrote on Instagram. Her statement comes amid the ongoing youth-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protests in Delhi demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak.Veteran actor Mammooty also shared a message on his X handle in support of young people, calling them the nation's greatest asset and urging that their concerns be heard."The youth are the true treasure of our nation. Listen to their voices. Protect them. Empower them," he wrote on X.Meanwhile, Salman Khan addressed the students.In his post on X, Salman Khan reassured students that their education and security remained a priority, expressed confidence that strict action would be taken against those responsible for the alleged paper leak, and appealed to protesters to return home.He also made a personal appeal to activist Sonam Wangchuk, who is on a prolonged hunger strike supporting the youth-led Cockroach

Janta Party movement."The students are at top priority, educationally n security-wise, so they need not worry and have their parents worried for them. The Honorable Prime Minister has tweeted, and I am sure that he will take strict action against all those people who are responsible for this leak. So students, plz go back to your parents n homes. Sonam, it's done, bro. Don't extend this. Keep the spirit for another day if there be a need, which I doubt, n eat something. If u want, will send u food from home," Salman Khan wrote.Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court agreed to hear on Friday a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the July 20 'Sansad Chalo' protest



called by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET paper leak.The Delhi High Court has also issued notices to the Centre and Delhi Police on petitions alleging excessive use of force and directed authorities to preserve CCTV footage and other electronic evidence related to the incident.

'Nagabandham' to stream on Prime Video from today

Mythological fantasy adventure, Nagabandham, is set to make its global digital debut on Prime Video on July 24, with the film streaming in more than 240 countries and territories, including India. Directed by Abhishek Nema, the film is produced by Kishore Annapureddy and Nishita Nagireddy under the banner of NIK Studios. The film stars Virat Karma, Nabha Natesh, Aishwarya Menon, Jagapathi Babu, Murali Sharma, Mahesh Manjrekar and Rishabh Sawhney in lead roles. The film revolves around Rudra, a rural youth, whose life is upended when a treasure hunter attacks his sister's wedding. Abdali, in search of the mysterious "Nagabandham" ritual and its associated treasures hidden beneath ancient Vishnu temples in India, wreaks havoc.



Padma Shri Hans Raj Hans returns with the grand musical celebration “Aja Doven Nachiye”; First Look Unveiled

CHANDIGARH(R N KHERA): Legendary Singer and Music Wizard Padma Shri awardee Hans Raj Hans is all set to enthrall music lovers once again with his upcoming Punjabi single "Aja Doven Nachiye." The makers have unveiled the vibrant First-look of Poster and Video, creating excitement among fans ahead of the song's release. Presented by WaveKano Music and Harpreet Sekhon, the song promises to be a celebration of love, togetherness and Punjabi music. The project features Yuvraaj Hans who is first time appearing in any of his father's projects. The star cast also includes talented Sakshi Sharma, Harpreet Sekhon, Raj Dhalival, Arsh Naagra, Sartaj Sidhu, Bhupinder Singh, Simran Waraich, Daman Majithia, Sheetal Behl, Robinder Sidhu, Mandeep Sidhu and Jasleen Sandhu. The lyrics have been penned by Harpreet Sekhon, while the music has been composed by the celebrated duo Desi Crew. The music video has been directed by Bobby Bajwa with editing by Harmeet S. Kalra.



AZORTE expands its presence in North India with first-ever store in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH : AZORTE, Reliance Retail's premium fashion and lifestyle destination, is set to open its doors in Chandigarh, marking a significant step in the brand's expansion across North India. The new store at Nexus Elante Mall adds to AZORTE's growing network of neostores, each designed to merge fashion discovery with intuitive, tech-led shopping. Marking AZORTE's 44th store nationwide, the Chandigarh launch reflects the brand's continued retail expansion across India. Designed to encourage exploration and discovery, the space brings AZORTE's signature retail identity to life through an immersive and seamless shopping experience.

The launch was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by actor Tania, who also spent time interacting with fans and shoppers during a dedicated meet-and-greet at the store. Her presence lent the opening an energetic, community-driven spirit that mirrors AZORTE's broader brand



ethos. Shoppers at the new store can browse an extensive edit spanning womenswear, menswear, kidswear, and accessories, all curated to reflect the label's fusion of global style cues and homegrown sensibility. The collections are built for a customer who values individuality as much as trend awareness. Staying true to its identity as India's only neostore for fashion, the Chandigarh outlet is equipped with AZORTE's suite of retail innovations: •RFID & QR Code Technology for seamless inventory visibility and assisted shopping •Smart Trial Rooms offering contextual styling recommendations •Self Check-Out Counters enabling a faster, frictionless shopping journey With Chandigarh now part of its retail map, AZORTE looks to deepen its connection with a new set of style-conscious shoppers, offering them a space built around discovery, expression, and community.

Jennifer Aniston's 'The Morning Show' to conclude with season 5

Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon-led 'The Morning Show' is coming to an end with the fifth season. Apple on Thursday announced that the already renewed fifth season will be the last for the hit Emmy-winning series when it returns in 2027, as per The Hollywood Reporter. The media drama, starring and executive produced by Reese Witherspoon and Jennifer Aniston, was renewed in September 2025, just hours before its fourth season premiered. The season five release date will be announced at a later date.About the show, Aniston said, "From the beginning, Apple has supported our vision for The Morning Show, and we feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to tell stories that reflect what's happening in the world around us with a twist of dark humor," says Aniston. "It's been such a privilege to work with this insanely talented cast, and our extraordinary writers, producers and crew. We've become such a family and we're all so excited to share this final season.



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