

THURSDAY
AUGUST 6, 2026
CHANDIGARH
VOL. 31, NO. 191
12 PAGES, ₹2.00

SCAN QR CODE
FOR EPAPER

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NEWS BRIEFS

Rupee gains 13 paise to close at 95.15 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee gained 13 paise to settle at 95.15 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, after the Reserve Bank of India kept the key policy rate unchanged for the third time in a row in FY27 amid the West Asia crisis. Forex traders said investor sentiments were supported by an overnight decline in crude oil prices and a weakness of the American currency in the overseas market. Moreover, a decline in US treasury yields also supported the rupee.

Two held with 10kg heroin in Amritsar

HARPAL CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR: In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a drug-free state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Rural Police has busted a trans-border narcotics supply network with the arrest of two individuals and recovered 10 kg heroin from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Wednesday. Those arrested have been identified as Jasbir Singh alias Monu and Amritpal Singh alias Motta, both residents of Ranghar in Amritsar. Apart from recovering heroin, police teams have also impounded their motorcycle, which was being used for smuggling activities. DGP Gaurav Yadav said that further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages in this case to identify all associates involved, and dismantle the entire supply chain. Sharing operational details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amritsar Rural Kanwalpreet Singh Chahal said that police teams had received a reliable input that two operatives of trans-border narcotics supply network have retrieved a big consignment of heroin and are supposed to deliver it in the area of Gharinda. Acting swiftly on the inputs, police teams laid a naka in the area and apprehended Jasbir alias Monu and Amritpal alias Motta, when they were on the way on their motorcycle, he said.

Govind Mohan gets one-year extension as union Home Secy

UNI NEW DELHI: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a one-year extension in the service of union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Sikh cadre, allowing him to continue in the post until August 22, 2027, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. According to an official order issued on Wednesday, the extension has been granted beyond August 22, 2026, in relaxation of the provisions of Fundamental Rule 56(d) and Rule 16(1A) of the All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958. Govind Mohan has been serving as the union Home Secretary since August 23, 2024, after briefly functioning as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Ministry of Home Affairs from August 14-22, 2024. Before taking charge as Home Secretary, he served as Secretary, Ministry of Culture, from October 2021 to August 2024. His long association with the Ministry of Home Affairs also includes stints as Additional Secretary from September 2018 to September 2021 and Joint Secretary from May 2018.

Zuckerberg apologises for child abuse, deepfake content; errors in platform

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has apologised for child abuse content, deepfakes and errors in operating the platform, sources said on Wednesday after the company's global team met IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, following the government's recent summons over the removal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's post on Facebook.

Government sources said it was made clear to the Meta team that they are not covered under the 'intermediary' definition.

The social media platform selects who receives the content, and Safe harbour under the IT Act is not applicable, according to sources.

Meta team admitted that a lot of money was paid for boosting a certain type of content; they apologised and regretted the mistake, they added.

Meta team, including Global Affairs officer Joel Kaplan, on Wednesday met IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and had a separate meeting with IT Secretary SKrishnan.

The meeting assumes significance as the government had summoned Meta's top global executives after Prime Minister Modi's recent Facebook post addressing Indian youth and promising stringent action against paper leaks was briefly restricted on the platform.

While the US-headquartered social media giant had attributed the incident to a technical glitch and apologised, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had found the explanation "inadequate". The company, which owns Facebook, had said that the content was removed "in error" and was subsequently restored on



the platform.

Meta has also been under regulatory scrutiny over the issue of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) in paid advertisements on Instagram, and the government, last month, slapped a notice on the social media giant over the issue.

"There are a range of issues...the CSAM issue was raised, so what measures have been taken regarding that, and synthetically generated information...to what extent that is being looked at. Then, for prominent personalities when they have verified accounts, if content has to be taken down, there have to be safeguards...all of these will be the issues (taken up)," Krishnan told reporters on Tuesday.

Meta, as one of the leading technology

companies in the world, should have the technology to address such issues effectively, he had said.

"We would like to understand from them (Meta) as to why some of these things have not been working the way they are supposed to work, and what are the challenges," Krishnan added.

For platforms, there needs to be a clear understanding of India's law, what compliance must look like, "and a clearer understanding of how they intend to make sure compliance happens", Krishnan said.

Government sources had earlier said that the issue is not just about technical aspects, but about "national security and public order". As the government delivers an ultimatum to Meta, the company's global team will be "categorically" asked to clarify issues around algorithmic bias, how their algorithm operates and the company's role in public order.

In the immediate aftermath of the issue, Meta had informed the IT Ministry that posts by the prime minister and select prominent accounts will be subject to additional oversight on the platform, with multiple levels of checks involving senior company officials. Meta wrote to the government outlining the specifics of enhanced and rigorous safeguards it implemented (on July 28) for content posted by PM Modi and other prominent accounts.

Modi's July 23 Instagram post, later shared on Facebook, had marked his first direct selfie video aimed at engaging with the youth and underscoring the government's commitment to crack down on paper leaks amid students' protests organised by the Cockroach Janta Party at that time.

Punjab cabinet passes bill to regulate fee of un-aided educational institutions

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, AUG 5

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Cabinet on Wednesday took a series of landmark decisions aimed at strengthening education, improving governance and public service delivery, and promoting inclusive development across the state. The Cabinet passed the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to regulate unnecessary and unreasonable fee hikes by private un-aided educational institutions, besides approving the Punjab State Outsourced Personnel Transition to Contractual Engagement Bill, 2026, establishment of three new Digital Open Universities and several other key policy initiatives.

A decision to this effect was taken by the Council of Ministers in a meeting on Wednesday at Punjab Vidhan Sabha.

Disclosing this, the Chief

Minister's Office said that the Cabinet gave nod to bring the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2026 for regulation of unnecessary and unreasonable increase in fee by Private Un-Aided Educational Institutions.

The Bill has been necessitated as some un-aided Private Educational Institutions were arbitrarily and unreasonably increasing their an-

nual fees, which was imposing unnecessary financial burden on students and their parents. Thus, a need has been felt to amend the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Unaided Educational Institutions Act, 2016, the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions Amendment Act, 2019 and the Rules framed under the Act to check unjustified fee hikes by Private Un-Aided Schools.

Gives nod to set up three new digital open universities

To attract best quality Educational Institutions of national and international repute to the State of Punjab, the Government of Punjab has prepared the Punjab Private Digital Open Universities Policy, 2026. As per the policy, the Cabinet also gave nod to Cloud University at Bohan, Hoshiarpur, MS Digital University at Fatehpur and Physicswallah Digital University at Nandpur Kesho in Patiala. The setting up of these universities is expected to bring quality education to the city and will help in the overall development of the area.

PM Modi marks seven years of Article 370 abrogation, reaffirms commitment to JK's development



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A seven years ago marked the beginning of a "decisive new chapter" for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, asserting that the regions have witnessed significant progress in infrastructure, education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and social empowerment since the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019. In August 2019, the Central government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, repealed Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, effectively ending the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the state into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Seven years ago, on this day, Articles 370 and 35(A) became history, marking a decisive new chapter in the journey of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh." The Prime Minister noted that the women and marginalised communities who were deprived of their rights for decades were empowered through the Constitution of India. "Since then, the lives of the people of J&K and Ladakh have witnessed wide-ranging transformation. Infrastructure has expanded, opportunities in areas such as education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and sports have grown. Be it the women or the marginalised communities, those who were denied their basic constitutional rights for decades have been empowered thanks to the full application of the Constitution of India," he said. PM Modi said the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 assumes greater significance this year as it coincides with the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, whose vision of national unity, he said, was realised on August 5, 2019.

LS clears Bankers' Books Evidence Bill to modernise legal framework for Digital Banking

UNI
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 by a voice vote amid continued uproar by Opposition members, replacing the colonial-era Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 with a modern legal framework designed to accommodate India's increasingly digital banking ecosystem.

The legislation, moved by union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, seeks to update evidentiary provisions governing banking records by recognising electronic and digital records as legally admissible evidence in judicial proceedings, while retaining the long-standing principle that



certified copies of bank records can be produced in courts instead of original documents.

The Bill was passed by voice vote

as the House witnessed persistent protests by Opposition members on a range of issues, including their demands for discussions on Jammu and Kashmir statehood, the alleged police action against students, and allegations relating to the Ram Mandir donations.

One of the key features of the legislation is the expansion of the definition of "bankers' books" to include electronic, digital, virtual and cloud-based records. The move reflects the transformation of the banking sector from paper-based record-keeping to digital platforms, ensuring that modern banking documents receive the same legal recognition as traditional physical records.

Parliament passes bill to raise Supreme Court judge strength to 38

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, completing Parliament's approval of the legislation, as the Lok Sabha had already cleared it. The Bill increases the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 34 to 38, including the Chief Justice of India. The bill was moved in the Upper House by Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill on Monday by voice vote.

I want to return to my country even if they kill me: Hasina

UNI
NEW DELHI: Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Wednesday that she is prepared to return to her country despite the possibility of being detained or killed, asserting that it was her duty to return to her people.

"I may be detained, but it is my duty to my people to return," Hasina said. She said she wanted to return so that Bangladesh could get back on the path of "progress, secularism and peace". While thanking India for its hospitality, the former Bangladesh prime minister said Bangladesh remained her country and she needed to get back on its hour of need. "I was arrested in 1983, 1985, and 1987, some seven times. They may jail me or kill me, I have to go back to my people," she said. Recalling attacks on her life, Hasina said there had been 19 attempts on her. She also said she wanted to return to Bangladesh in December, which she described as the country's "victory month". "I will tell everybody the date when I come," Hasina said. She said the situation in Bangladesh had not changed with the BNP coming to power. Hasina alleged that poverty had increased, more than two crore people had become unemployed, and factories had been shut down.



poverty had increased, more than two crore people had become unemployed, and factories had been shut down.

Hry to honour Commonwealth Games 2026 medal winners tomorrow

YUGMARG BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5

Haryana Minister of State for Sports, Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, Sh. Gaurav Gautam said a grand State-level felicitation ceremony will be organised on August 7, 2026, to honour Haryana's medal winners and participating athletes who brought laurels to the country at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026. The function will be held at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Sector 3, Panchkula.

Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini will attend as the Chief Guest and present cash awards and commendation certificates to the athletes.

Sh. Gaurav Gautam said Haryana's



athletes once again demonstrated their outstanding sporting excellence on the international stage at the Common-

wealth Games. He said 10 athletes from the State won medals, including seven gold, two silver and one bronze. Under the Haryana Government's Sports Policy, cash awards amounting to Rs 13.47 crore will be distributed to the medal winners and participating athletes.

The Minister said each of the seven gold medallists will receive Rs 1.50 crore, while each of the two silver medallists will be awarded Rs 75 lakh. The bronze medallist will receive Rs 50 lakh. He further said that 13 participating athletes will also be honoured with Rs 7.50 lakh each as an incentive to encourage them.

Sh. Gaurav Gautam said that under the leadership of Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, the

Haryana Government's foremost objective is to provide the youth of the State with world-class sports facilities and an excellent training environment. He said the Government is committed to ensuring that talented athletes receive every possible support at the grassroots level so that they can compete fearlessly at international events and win more medals for the country.

The Minister said that on Tuesday, he had personally received Haryana's Commonwealth Games medal winners on their return from Scotland at Delhi International Airport, where they were accorded a grand civic reception with traditional drumbeats and floral garlands.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.25%

UNI
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Wednesday unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent, while maintaining its neutral policy stance.

Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate remains at 5.00 per cent, while the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate remain at 5.50 per cent. The MPC also decided to continue with the neutral stance, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said.

Governor Malhotra said the Indian economy

has remained resilient despite persisting global headwinds.

On the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) outlook, the Governor said real GDP growth for 2026-27 is projected at 6.7 per cent, with Q1 at 7.0 per cent, Q2 at 6.4 per cent, Q3 at 6.5 per cent, and Q4 at 6.8 per cent. Real GDP growth for Q1 of 2027-28 is projected at 7.3 per cent.

On the inflation front, he said Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation increased to 4.4 per cent in June 2026 after remaining below the target for 16 consecutive months. However, it was 30 basis points (bps) lower than the MPC's projection for Q1 of 2026-27.



Sukhwinder Singh Goldy congratulated on his appointment as BJP Punjab Co Cashier

KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): Punjab BJP has appointed Sukhwinder Singh Goldy from here as the State Co-Cashier. As soon as the news came to light, a large number of BJP workers and city residents went to his office and congratulated him. Goldy thanked the high command for this appointment and assured that he will discharge his responsibility with dedication. It is noteworthy that Goldy has been serving as the state cashier of BJP since the year 2022. Today, he was congratulated by Kharar BJP Mandal President Rakesh Gupta Bunty, Senior Leader, Preeti Rana and other leaders.

"Teyan Nabha Diyan" festival organized under leadership of MLA Dev Mann



RAKESH JINDAL
NABHA: "Teyan Nabha Diyan" festival dedicated to Punjabi culture and folk heritage was organized today at Vishwakarma Bhawan, Bhadson Road, Nabha under the leadership of Constituency MLA Gurdev Singh Dev Mann. On this occasion, Dr. Gurpreet Kaur Mann attended the event as the chief guest. On this occasion, famous Punjabi singer Amar Noori, Punjabi singer S. Hor, folk singer Sucha Rangeela and singer Mandeep Mendi attended as special guests and made the event memorable with their wonderful performances. Apart from this, Madam Raj Lali hairperson, Gayatri Bishnoi and Veerpal Kaur (District President) also specially participated and added to the splendor of the event. During the festival, Gidha, Boliangs, folk songs and other colorful cultural performances entertained the audience.

Villagers halt sports ground project over land dispute in Arrichan



AMRISH ANAND
DORAHA: A dispute erupted over the construction of a sports ground on Doraha-Arrichan Road after residents of Arrichan village stopped the ongoing work, claiming the land falls within the village's jurisdiction. The project had been launched a day earlier by Doraha Municipal Council officials. Village representatives, including the Sarpanch and local residents, insisted that any development on the land should be carried out under the supervision of Gram Panchayat Arrichan Shiromani akali dal leader Bibi Jaspreet Kaur dhaliwal Social activist & Sad Leader bibi Nilu Singh also supported the villagers' stand, stating that the Panchayat's role cannot be ignored.

Academic session begins at Aman Bhalla Group of Institutes with 'Aarambh-2026'



SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT: The new academic session 2026-27 at Aman Bhalla Group of Institutes commenced with an orientation program titled 'Aarambh-2026' amidst an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm and optimism. Trustee Akash Narang specially attended the event. The program was inaugurated by the Institute's President Raman Bhalla, Chairperson Anu Bhalla, Trustee Akash Narang, and Managing Director Dr. Pooja Ohri through the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and prayers offered to Goddess Saraswati.

Mission Asra Sanstha distributes stationery kits and registers to needy children



TILAK RAJ
MOHALI: Bubby Badal Foundation Punjab organized holy Sunderkand Path with devotion and spirit. On this occasion, Mr. Vikramjit Singh "Vicky Khairpur", Vice President, Bubby Badal Foundation Punjab, attended the function on behalf of the founder of the foundation, Mr. Harsukhinder Singh "Bubby Badal" and addressed the congregation. During his address, Mr. Vikramjit Singh "Vicky Khairpur" said that religious functions inspire us to follow the path of service, philanthropy and humanity. He said that the capable people of the society should always come forward to help needy families and children so that every child gets equal opportunities for education and the spirit of service in the society is further strengthened. He also appealed to the congregation to contribute as much as possible in social and religious works.

Transport dept conducts enforcement drive near major schools in Mohali



SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, AUG 5

In a concerted effort to strengthen the safety of school-going children, the Transport Department, SAS Nagar, conducted a special enforcement drive near major educational institutions in Mohali to ensure strict compliance with the Punjab Government's Safe School Vahan Policy. The inspection drive was carried out in the vicinity of Yadavindra Public School (YPS) and Lawrence Public School following complaints received from parents and members of the public regarding safety violations and traffic irregularities during school open-

ing and closing hours. The enforcement team, led by Regional Transport Officer (RTO), SAS Nagar, Sh. Harpreet Singh Atwal, along with Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) Sh. Gagandeep Singh and Sh. Rohit Garg, carried out surprise inspections of school buses, private vans, auto-rickshaws and other vehicles engaged in transporting students. During the drive, several vehicles were found violating provisions of the Safe School Vahan Policy and the Motor Vehicles Act. Challans were issued against vehicles found over-crowding students, operating without mandatory safety equipment, or failing to comply



with prescribed transport regulations. RTO Sh. Harpreet Singh Atwal said that the safety and well-being of school children is the Transport Department's foremost priority. He stated that the department has adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards violations affecting student safety and that no compromise would be made in enforcing the prescribed norms. He further informed that the violations detected during the drive included over-crowding of students in private transport vehicles, non-availability or malfunctioning of mandatory safety features such as CCTV cameras, speed governors, first-aid boxes and fire ex-

tinguishers, besides deficiencies in essential documents including commercial permits, fitness certificates and other statutory requirements. The RTO appealed to school managements, transport operators and parents to ensure that only authorised and roadworthy vehicles are used for transporting students in accordance with the Safe School Vahan Policy. He also informed that similar surprise enforcement drives will be conducted on a regular basis near educational institutions across the district to ensure complete adherence to safety regulations and to provide a safe commuting environment for school children.

Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana: 2.91 lakh patients receive cashless treatment worth over Rs 1,044 crore

CHANDIGARH, AUG 5

The real measure of a healthcare scheme is not just the amount spent or the number of cases processed, it is whether people are able to get treatment when they need it most. Bhagwant Mann Government's Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana (MMSY) has now reached a significant milestone, with 2,91,417 beneficiaries receiving treatment support since 8 January 2026.

As per recent data from the State Health Agency (SHA), Punjab, Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana has provided healthcare services worth around Rs 1,044 crore through cashless treatment facilities. Behind these numbers are families who were able to focus on recovery instead of worrying about arranging money during medical emergencies. Speaking on the achievement, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh said, "A health-



care scheme is successful only when it reaches people at the time they need it. Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana is not just about numbers; it is about making sure that a patient does not have to choose between treatment and financial burden. Every beneficiary represents a family that received support during a difficult time." The Health Minister further said, "We know that healthcare needs are constantly changing, and our responsibility is to keep improv-

ing the system. Through Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana, we are working to make cashless treatment more accessible, strengthen healthcare delivery, and ensure that every eligible citizen gets the benefit of this initiative."

Many beneficiaries have expressed their happiness and satisfaction over Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana. For Sureshpal Kaur, Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana became a support system during a difficult pregnancy. "During my pregnancy, I faced health complications because of high blood pressure and needed a C-section delivery, that's when the Sehat card came to rescue.

After birth, my baby required special neonatal care, which was also provided under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana package. The scheme supported us at a difficult time and gave my baby the care needed for a healthy start," said Sureshpal Kaur.

Zirakpur police's big success: First-ever 'Ice' drug consignment seized



VICKY BHABAT
ZIRAKPUR, AUG 5

Zirakpur Police has achieved a big success in its campaign against drug smuggling. For the first time, the police have seized a consignment of expensive and dangerous synthetic drug called 'Ice' and arrested an alleged drug smuggler. The value of the seized drug in the international market is said to be around Rs 12 lakh.

Informing the reporters, the police chief said that during the blockade carried out by the police in the area, a team of Havildar Gurfateh Singh stopped a person on

suspicion and searched him. During this, a large quantity of ice drug was recovered from his possession.

The arrested accused has been identified as Gautam Kumar, son of Jagdish Singh, a resident of Pirdbadh Bagra, district Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh). The police have produced the accused in the court and remanded him in two-day police custody.

Police officials said that the main focus of the investigation is to find out from where the accused used to bring this drug, which network is working behind it and where this consignment was to be supplied.

The Sanskaar school excels at Inter Zonal School Games 2026



ISHWER GARG
TALWANDI SABO, AUG 5

The Sanskaar School proudly celebrates another remarkable achievement as its Under-14 Chess Team secured the Silver Medal at the Inter Zonal School Games 2026, displaying exceptional strategy, concentration, and sportsmanship.

Adding to this proud accomplishment, Arnab Singh Mehra (Class 8) and Armandeep Singh (Class 8) have

qualified for the District Level, reflecting their dedication, perseverance, and outstanding performance.

The school extends heartfelt congratulations to the students, their coaches, and parents for this commendable success.

We wish our young chess champions continued excellence and success in the upcoming District Level competition, bringing greater laurels to The Sanskaar School.

Patiala Clinches Punjab State Inter-District women under-19 one day tournament title



TILAK RAJ
MOHALI, AUG 5

Patiala were crowned champions of the Punjab State Inter-District Women Under-19 One Day Tournament after defeating Moga in the final played at the PCA New International Cricket Stadium, New Chandigarh.

After winning the toss, Moga opted to bowl first. Patiala produced an impressive batting display to post 238 for 8 in their allotted 50 overs. Opener Harsimrat Kaur top-

scored with 79 runs off 90 balls, while Jyoti contributed 42 off 89 balls. Mehtab Kaur added 34 runs off 52 balls, and Disha Saini provided the finishing touch with a quick-fire 28 off 19 balls, including three sixes. For Moga, Ankush was the pick of the bowlers with three wickets, Chasing 239, Moga made a promising start with an opening partnership of 68 runs, but Patiala's disciplined bowling attack struck at regular intervals to seize control of the match.

MP Satnam Sandhu demands entry-exit point at Bajheri toll plaza on Mohali IT-Kurali Expressway

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, AUG 5

Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Satnam Singh Sandhu on Wednesday raised the issue of improving road connectivity to Fatehgarh Sahib by providing entry-exit point on Mohali IT City-Kurali Expressway at Bajheri Toll Plaza during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha.

The provision of Entry-Exit point on expressway is a crucial demand by the farmers and local residents of nearby villages including Pir Sohana, Sakrulpur, Rora, Sotal, Bajheri, Gharanga and Batta. This would also be beneficial for the lakhs of devotees visiting the historic pilgrimage town of Shri Fatehgarh Sahib. MP Satnam Singh Sandhu raised the concern of local



residents of 7 Villages which falls in the vicinity of Bajheri Toll Plaza and due to lack of any entry-exit point onto the newly constructed Mohali IT City-Kurali Expressway are facing the issue to direct connectivity to the nearby towns of Kharar, Kurali and Mohali. Satnam Singh Sandhu further urged to look into the matter by conducting a technical feasibility study for construction of Entry-Exit point or Service

Be the sword of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, slay the demon of addictions: Yogi Suri calls upon youth at MCM

CHANDIGARH, AUG 5

Calling upon the youth to become the torchbearers of a drug-free India, Sh. Yogi Suri, National President, Arya Yuva Samaj, exhorted students to "be the sword of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and kill the demon of substance abuse" during an inspiring discourse on 'No Nasha Nation' organised by Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Victory Against Drug Abuse (VADA) Club, as part of Induction Week 2026.

The programme sought to sensitise newly admitted students to the growing menace of addictions while encouraging them to embrace a life guided by values, discipline and social re-



sponsibility. Sh. Yogi Suri graced the event as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Amanjit Singh, IRS, Zonal Director, Narcotics Control Bureau, Chandigarh, attended the programme as the Guest of Honour. MCM alumna and noted social activist Mrs. Priya Suri, philanthropist Mr. Naresh Nayyar, Mrs. Suman Nayyar, Sh. R. C. Jeevan, Senior Governing Body Member, DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi, and Dr. Anoop Kumar Vatts, Nation-

al Coordinator (Colleges), DAV College Managing Committee, were the special guests. In his keynote address, Sh. Yogi Suri lauded MCM as a coveted seat of higher learning and congratulated the freshers on joining an institution committed to nurturing young minds into achievers. Reflecting on the meaning of true freedom, he remarked that the greatest freedom lies in taking charge of one's life and making wise, responsible choices.

Time has come to take account of the government that cheated the people": Simarjit Singh Bains



SARBJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA, AUG 5

A huge and enthusiastic gathering of the Congress party was held in ward number 43 of South constituency today against the anti-people policies and false claims of development of the current government.

The huge crowd that reached this event has made it clear that the people of South constituency are fed up with the failure of the current

government and are now standing with change and strong leadership.

On this special occasion, under the guidance of former MLA and senior Congress leader Mr. Simarjit Singh Bains, Mahila Congress Ludhiana President Bibi Surinder Kaur Ji appointed Amarjit Kaur Pinky, a hard-working leader of the area, as the new ward president of ward number 43 and honored her by handing over the appointment letter.

Annual maintenance and repair of govt buildings mandatory under rule 2.4 of manual of orders issued by Punjab

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, AUG 5

The State President of Swarnraj Samaj Punjab Regd, Hemraj Verma, and State General Secretary Amrit Verma jointly informed the press that the Government of Punjab has assigned the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of all Government Hospitals and Health Centres in the State to various departments.

However, it appears that the concerned departments have neglected the annual maintenance of the Kurali Health Centre building for a considerable period. Meanwhile, the city's social service organizations are willing to come forward and extend



their cooperation in getting the necessary works carried out. Considering the present condition of the building, the concerned departments are expected to undertake its complete renovation. Initially, repair estimates are prepared on the basis of the percentage of the total cost prescribed under the Public Works Department PWD Code. Whenever required, separate estimates for Special

Repairs or Renovation are also prepared and, after approval by the B&R (Buildings & Roads) Department, the necessary construction and repair works are executed. It was further informed that, following discussions with senior officials of the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation, the concerned engineering staff was deputed to inspect the Kurali Health Centre.

NEWS BRIEF

Entries invited for Punjabi literary creation and poetry singing competitions

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: Following directions from the Director, Punjab Language Department, the District Language Office, Hoshiarpur, has invited registrations for this year's district-level Punjabi Literary Creation and Poetry Singing competitions. As in previous years, the contests aim to promote interest in Punjabi language, literature and culture among students. Entries must be submitted by August 20, 2026. Completed registration forms, verified by the head of the applicant's school, may be delivered in person to the District Language Office, Hoshiarpur (Mini Secretariat, Third Floor, Room Nos. 307-308) or sent by email.

National Lok Adalat in Courts of Amritsar on Sept 12

HARPAL SINGH
AMRITSAR: As per the directions of the National Legal Services Authority and the Executive Chairman of the Punjab State Legal Services Authority, S.A.S. Nagar, a National Lok Adalat will be organised in District Amritsar on September 12, 2026. Giving this information, Secretary-cum-Chief Judicial Magistrate, District Legal Services Authority, Amritsar, Mr. Amardeep Singh Bains said that various types of cases will be settled through mutual consent during the National Lok Adalat. These include cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, bank recovery cases, labour disputes, electricity and water-related cases, committee house matters such as sewerage, water supply, house tax, site plans, all types of civil cases, petty criminal cases with lesser punishments, matrimonial disputes, Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) cases and insurance claim cases, among others.

Ajay Singla re-elected President of Shri Ram Leela committee for historic 10th consecutive term

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB: Ajay Singla has been unanimously re-elected as President of the Shri Ram Leela Committee, Bassi Pathana, for an unprecedented tenth consecutive term during the committee's annual election meeting held at Aggarwal Dharmsghala. The meeting commenced with the unanimous appointment of Sam Gautam as the Election Officer. When nominations for the post of President were invited, Balram Chawla and Ravinder Rammi proposed the name of Ajay Singla. The proposal received unanimous support from all members present, reflecting the committee's continued confidence in his leadership and dedicated service. Following his re-election, Singla was authorized to constitute the new executive committee. He appointed Manoj Kumar Bhandari as Secretary, Jatin Parashar as Treasurer, Balram Chawla as Vice President, Gurvinder 'Mintu' as Joint Secretary, and Ravinder Rammi as Storekeeper.

Thar driver arrested for alleged firing and attempted abduction in Morinda

SANJEEV TEJPAL
MORINDA: The Morinda Sadar Police have arrested the main accused in a case involving alleged firing, a high-speed chase and an attempted abduction of a prosecution witness in the Ajnala police station incident. The accused was allegedly involved in chasing the complainant's vehicle, opening fire and attempting to forcibly abduct one of its occupants. Police have also recovered the Mahindra Thar SUV used in the crime, a .32 bore revolver and six spent cartridge cases from his possession. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Rajpal Singh said that the complainant, Varinder Singh alias Mavi, a resident of Salempur village near Morinda, stated that on August 4, he was returning to his village from Kharar in a Bolero SUV along with his associate, Harjinder Singh alias Happy. According to the complaint, when they reached near Gurdwara Sahib at Rasulpur, a speeding Thar SUV overtook their vehicle and blocked their way. The complainant alleged that the driver of the Thar immediately opened indiscriminate fire. Varinder Singh and his associate managed to escape from the spot and drove to their native village to save their lives. The complainant further alleged that the accused continued chasing them to Salempur village, where he rammed the Thar into their Bolero SUV. He then allegedly attempted to force Harjinder Singh alias Happy into his vehicle at gunpoint. During the incident, the accused allegedly fired two to three more rounds. Both victims managed to flee and subsequently informed the police. DSP Rajpal Singh said that, based on the complainant's statement, a case has been registered at Morinda Sadar Police Station under Sections 109, 126(2), 140(1), 62 and 324(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Sections 25, 54 and 59 of the Arms Act. Acting swiftly, the police arrested the main accused, Jasvir Singh alias Kala, son of Bhag Singh and a resident of Samaroli village.

Over 68k govt jobs to youth, 1.83 lac crore investments in 4.5 yaers in state: Aman Arora

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, AUG 5

Putting the opposition on the back foot in the state legislative assembly, Punjab Employment Generation, Skill Development & Training and Industries & Commerce Minister Mr. Aman Arora said that the state has provided over 68000 Government Jobs and attracted investments worth Rs 1,83,837 crore and generated 6,36,636 private sector jobs over the last four-and-a-half years.

Winding up the discussion on a resolution on employment opportunities moved by MLA S. Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal in the House, on Wednesday, Mr. Aman Arora told the House that the investment inflows had directly and indirectly created over 6.36 lakh jobs in the private sector.

He cited the example of Japanese steel major AICHI Steel, which scaled up its planned investment from Rs 500 crore to Rs 1,100 crore after being impressed by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann led state government's facilitation and ease of doing business. Catching the Congress



MLA Hardev Singh Laddi Sherowalia off guard on charge that no one from Shahkot assembly constituency got a government job, Mr Aman Arora challenged him to convene a gathering in his Shakkot constituency. "I will come and we will ask the people if they got jobs. If I am wrong, I will resign as minister and MLA. If I am right, then Laddi should resign," he said. MLA Laddi didn't accept the challenge and walked

away. He asserted that all government jobs had been given on merit, without any bribe or recommendation.

Mr. Aman Arora highlighted the state government's record push for skill development, noting that the state budget had allocated Rs 25 crore for the Skill Development Mission for the first time in 75 years, up from Rs 10 crore previously. He claimed over 22 lakh youth had been facilitated through placement camps and handholding exercises. At a recent mega job fair

Vigilance Bureau nabs Senior Assistant red handed accepting bribe of Rs 1,00,000/-

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its ongoing drive against corruption in the state, has apprehended Senior Assistant Bhupinder Kaur posted at RIA branch, DC Office SAS Nagar, red handed while accepting a bribe of Rs. one lakh. Disclosing this here today, an official spokesperson of the state VB said the above-mentioned accused has been arrested based on a complaint lodged by a resident of village Chit tehsil Batala district Gurdaspur. He informed that the accused senior assistant demanded a bribe of Rs. 8,00,000/- from the complainant in lieu of providing him an auction plot at the Sky Rock Welfare Society, Sector 111/112, Mohali. Unwilling to pay the illegal gratification, complainant approached the VB Flying Squad-1 SAS Nagar. Acting on his complaint, the VB team laid a trap during which the accused Senior Assistant was arrested red handed while accepting bribe money of Rs one lakh from the complainant in presence of two of ficial witnesses.



Mann govt waives power bills for all Gaushalas across state

CHANDIGARH, AUG 5

In a major pro-people initiative, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday gave approval for waiving electricity bills of all Gau Shalas across the state. The decision will extend the benefit of free power to 152 additional Gau Shalas, taking the total number of Gau Shalas receiving free electricity from the Punjab Government to 518.

Chairing a meeting here today, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Gau Shalas play a key role in addressing the issue of stray cattle across the state. At present, 366 Gau Shalas are receiving free electricity and now 152 more Gau Shalas will be brought under this facility. All these Gau Shalas will receive free power from the Punjab Government and not even a single penny will be charged for the electricity supplied to them."

Emphasising the importance of strengthening these institutions, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "It is the need of the hour to ensure proper management of Gau Shalas so that Gau Dhan is looked after properly. My doors are always open for the Gau Shalas, which are rendering a great service to humanity by managing stray cattle that would otherwise be roaming on the roads. The management committees deserve appreciation for dedicating their lives to serving Gau Mata, and Gau Sewa is the ultimate form of worship." Appreciating the efforts of the Gau Shala management committees, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The various Gau Shalas are efficiently taking care of and maintaining Gau Dhan, which otherwise could pose a serious threat to human lives by roaming on the roads."



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The Chief Minister affirmed, "The Punjab Government is fully sensitive to the concerns of every section of society and is committed to taking pro-people decisions. There is also a need to transform Gau Shalas on modern lines for efficient management and to effectively tackle the issue of stray animals.

Mann govt transforming state through employment, education and social equality: Dr. Baljit Kaur

CHANDIGARH, AUG 5

Punjab's Minister for Social Security, Women and Child Development and Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities, Dr. Baljit Kaur, today said in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha that the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab Government has transformed Punjab's future by placing employment, quality education and social equality at the centre of governance. She said the Government is committed to building a self-reliant, inclusive and progressive Punjab where every youth has access to dignified employment within the State and every child receives quality education. Quoting eminent Punjabi poet Dr. Navtej Bharti, Dr. Baljit Kaur said, "When working hands join together, the world becomes a better place to live. Our earth revolves not merely around the sun, but around hardworking hands." She said



this philosophy reflects the vision that drives the Mann Government's people-centric policies and welfare initiatives. The Minister said reversing the long-standing trend of youth migrating abroad in search of employment was one of the Government's biggest challenges. Over the past four years, the State Government has created large-scale employment opportunities, enabling young people to build successful careers in Punjab itself. She added that the Government's objective is to ensure that every section of society becomes an equal stakeholder in the State's growth and prosperity. Citing an example from her constituency, Dr. Baljit Kaur said that 25 young people from village Fakarsar have secured employment during the last four years, including 20 from the Scheduled Caste community. She said this demonstrates that the benefits of the Government's policies are reaching deserving and marginalised sections of society at the grassroots level.

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Amritsar to get major sanitation boost as govt clears 60 MLD STP

SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, AUG 5

For years, Amritsar's sewage system struggled to keep pace with the holy city's needs, with untreated waste often ending up overflowing in our streets. The Bhagwant Mann Government is now fixing this — approving a new 60 MLD (Million Litres per Day) Sewage Treatment Plant along with a matching pumping station, under the AMRUT 2.0 Scheme.

The tender is already out and set to close in August 2026, with work starting right after. Once ready, the plant will sharply boost Amritsar's sewage treatment capacity, taking pressure off the old, overloaded system and cutting down untreated discharge. It will also convert waste into Bio-CNG — clean, green energy generated right here in the city. This is part of the Punjab Government's wider AMRUT 2.0 drive to upgrade urban infrastructure in cities across the state. Under the Amrut 2.0, Punjab Govt. has already delivered more than 64 projects and around 50-60 are scheduled to be completed by March 2027. On this, Local Government Minister Harjot Singh Bains said, "Amritsar is our holy city and we will make sure all its problem are successfully resolved whether it is sewerage issues or garbage issues or any other issue. This is what the Bhagwant Mann Government stands for — infrastructure that's built to last."



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6th death anniversary of founder of Astha Enclave, Late Lala Amarnath Ji Bansal observed with devotion



BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA, AUG 5

On the 6th death anniversary of the founder of Astha Enclave, Late Lala Amarnath Ji Bansal, his sons, Deepak Bansal Soni and Ghanshyam Bansal and the Bansal family remembered him by placing a langar of saplings at the main gate of Astha Enclave and distributed 1,500 saplings. Lok Sabha member Gurmeet Singh Meet Hair, 'AAP' constituency in-charge Harinder Singh Dhaliwal, 'Barnala Municipal Corporation' Mayor Hasanpreet Bhardwaj and 'AAP' District President Parminder Singh Bhangu were present.

Representatives of religious, social, business organizations and political parties of Barnala city paid floral tributes to the late Lala Amarnath Ji Bansal. Speaking to the press, Deepak Bansal Soni said that his father was a very friendly, humble and kind person. He was always ready to help anyone. He preferred cow service, charity and service to humanity.

He further said that we all follow in his footsteps and are always ready to help the needy.

Various leaders of area share their grief with Garg family on death of Harbans Lal Garg

BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA, AUG 5

Former president of Sailors Association Dhanaula and prominent businessman Principal Garg was deeply shocked when his respected brother Harbans Lal Garg, completing his worldly journey, said goodbye to this mortal world forever. The news of his death sent a wave of grief in Dhanaula and the surrounding areas. On this sad occasion, Member of Parliament Gurmeet Singh Meet Hair, Harinder Dhaliwal, Congress MLA Kuldeep Singh Kala Dhillon, prominent social worker Dr. Shankar Bansal, BJP leader Jeevan Kumar, former and current councilors of Municipal Council Dhanaula including President Surjit Singh Sita, General Secretary of Rice Miller Association Punjab Anil Kumar Sethi, President of Cellar Association



Dhanaula Bonnie Bansal, social worker Surinder Singh Thunia, President of Vyapaar Mandal Dhanaula Raman Verma, gold trader Narinder Mohan Kala, Paramjit Pappu Khurmi Kottune Wale, Sikh scholar Jagtar Singh Dangarh, Dr. Dilshad Akhtar, former president of Gaushala Committee Dhanaula Babu Janak Raj, social worker Ramesh Kumar (Kitaban Wale), Sangh leader Rakesh Kumar Mittal, former councilor Bharpur Singh Bhura, Dharmendra Kande and many other social, political and business leaders expressed their deep condolences to the Garg family.

CBSE Cluster XVIII Athletics meet 2026 kicks off grandly at Pratap World School, Pathankot with participation of over 1,500 Athletes

VERMA
GURDASPUR, AUG 5

The much-awaited CBSE Cluster XVIII Athletics Meet 2026 commenced with great enthusiasm and grandeur at Pratap World School, Pathankot. More than 1,500 student-athletes from CBSE-affiliated schools across Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir are participating in this prestigious three-day championship. The school campus came alive with excitement, sportsmanship, and healthy competition as young athletes showcased their talent and determination.

The event began with a colourful opening ceremony attended by Mr. Lovepreet Singh, District Sports Officer (DSO), Pathankot, as the Chief Guest. Athletes representing various schools presented an impressive march



past, reflecting discipline, unity, and the true spirit of sportsmanship. The CBSE flag was ceremonially hoisted, marking the official inauguration of the championship, followed by the oath-taking ceremony in which participants pledged to uphold fairness, discipline, and sporting values.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Lovepreet Singh congratulated Pratap World

School for successfully hosting one of the most prestigious CBSE sporting events. He appreciated the excellent arrangements made for the athletes and officials and encouraged participants to compete with dedication, honesty, and mutual respect.

He remarked that sports not only create champions but also nurture responsible, confident, and disciplined citizens.

Dr. Paras Arora and Inner Wheel Club serve in weekly langar by Sri Bala Ji langar Seva Samiti



SURINDER DAMDAMI
KOTKAPURA, AUG 5

In the weekly langar being organized by the local religious organization 'Sri Bala Ji Langar Seva Samiti and Welfare Society', dentist Dr. Paras Arora served the langar of potato and puri. Along with this, the entire team under the leadership of Archana Gupta, President of Inner Wheel Club of Kotkapura, Dr. Rimpi Bansal and Dr. Neeru Sharma, specially arranged langar of kheer and malpuras for the devotees. On this occasion, President of Inner Wheel Club of Kotkapura Gold Dr.

Archana Gupta said that every year their club starts the new year by organizing langar of Lord Bala Ji. On this occasion, the Chairman of the Samiti, Deepak Goyal, President Karan Goyal and Secretary Sushant Bansal said that their organization is not limited to Langar Seva only, but is constantly striving in various works of human welfare and social service.

They informed that the Samiti is also successfully running a 'Roti Bank' and a 'Charitable Laboratory' to provide health check-up facility to the general public at low rates.

Congress will form govt in state in upcoming assembly elections: Raja Warring

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA
MOGA , AUG 5

District Congress Committee Moga under the leadership of District President Hari Singh Khai organized a massive workers' meet and organizational meeting at Rajiv Gandhi Auditorium under the "Har Booth Congress is Strong" campaign. Office bearers of various committees and a large number of party workers from all the four assembly constituencies of Moga district participated in this meeting. The meeting was attended by District President Hari Singh Khai, former Minister Dr. Malti Thapar, Moga constituency in-charge Malvika Sood, Nihal Singh Wala SC Cell President Parminder Singh Dimple, Swarn Singh Adiwali Nihal Singh Wala constituency, Jagsir Singh Baba Kale Ke from Bagha Purana, Advocate Ravinder Singh Ravi from Dharamkot, former President and MC Manjit Singh Mann, former Chairman Parampal Singh Takhtupura, former President of Improvement Trust Vinod Bansal and other leaders. On this occasion, in-charge of Punjab affairs and



former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel, co-in-charge Ravinder Dalvi and former minister Brahm Mohindra were specially present. The leaders called upon the workers to further strengthen the party at the booth level and work with full dedication for the upcoming assembly elections.

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Police arrests two members of gang that stole mobile phones from boutique/recovers 5 phones



ARVIND PATHAK
SULTANPUR LODHI, AUG 5

Under the supervision of ASP Dheerendra Verma and the leadership of Sub Inspector Davinder Pal SHO of Police Station Sultanpur Lodhi the police team has traced an important case of theft arrested two accused and recovered 5 stolen mobile phones from their possession. SHO Sub Inspector Davinder Pal of Police Station Sultanpur Lodhi said that a case was registered under sections 331(4) and 305 BNS at Police Station Sultan-

pur Lodhi on the basis of the recorded statement of Amitpal Singh son of Bhajan Singh resident of village Rampur Jagir.

He said that on the intervening night of July 28-29 unknown persons stole 10 mobile phones of artisans and filed. Investigating this matter seriously the police team arrested Sunny Bahadur and Suraj son of Anjit Bahadur residents of near Singh Bhavani Temple Sultanpur Lodhi and also recovered 5 stolen mobile phones from their possession.

DAV Public school organises Tree Plantation Drive



KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH, AUG 5

As part of the Government of India's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in Mother's Name) campaign, DAV Public School, Sardulgarh, organised a special tree plantation drive to promote environmental conservation and encourage a greener future. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from NCC cadets, students and teachers, who planted a variety of shade-giving and fruit-bearing saplings across the school campus. Participants also pledged to nurture the saplings and contribute towards maintaining a clean and green environment.

During the event, students were sensitised to the vital role of trees in maintaining ecological balance, improving air quality, conserving water resources and sustaining human life.

They were encouraged to adopt environmentally responsible practices and actively participate in preserving nature.

Tenders invited for paddy handling, transportation work in Una

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: The Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation has invited online tenders for labour and transportation work related to paddy procurement in selected mandis of Una district. District Controller, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

Rajeev Sharma said the tenders cover labour work at the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis at Rampur, Takarla and Tahliwal, besides transportation of procured paddy from these procurement centres to Sant Rice Mill and JK Rice Mill in the Tahliwal industrial area. He

said interested bidders can submit their tenders online through the state e-tendering portal till 5 pm on August 26. The bids will be opened at 11 am on August 27 before the Deputy Commissioner or an authorised officer in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

Historic hike of 78 percent in salary of Job Trainee Medical Officers Specialists

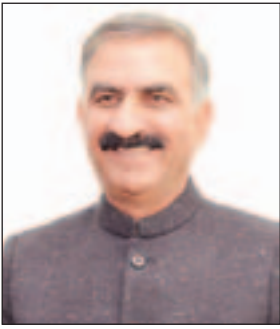
DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, AUG 5

In a significant decision aimed at further strengthening healthcare services in the state, Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has approved a historic increase of 78 percent in the monthly salary of contract and Job Trainee Medical Officers (Specialists). Under this decision, their monthly salary has been increased directly from Rs. 33,660 to Rs. 60,000. Earlier, in 2022, after the implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission, the salary of Job Trainee Medical Officers (Specialists) was raised from around Rs. 27,000 to Rs. 33,660 with an

increase of approximately 24 percent. Now, the Congress-led state government has approved a 78 percent salary hike, providing a substantial boost to these specialists.

This decision is expected to encourage specialist doctors to serve in government healthcare institutions and help ensure the availability of quality healthcare services in remote areas of the state.

Under the leadership of Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the state government has been consistently taking concrete steps to strengthen the healthcare sector so that people can access better treatment and modern medical facilities close to their homes, reducing the need to travel outside the



state for healthcare. In line with this vision, the government had earlier increased the monthly stipend of postgraduate medical students studying in government medical colleges. The stipend for first-year PG students was increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000, for second-year

PG students from Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 60,000 and for third-year PG students from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 65,000. The medical students pursuing post graduation play a crucial role in patient care alongside their academic training. Recognizing their responsibilities, the government enhanced their stipends to motivate them to provide better healthcare services. Similarly, keeping in view the important role of Senior Residents and other specialist doctors in the medical colleges, the government also increased their monthly stipends by 50 percent to 170 percent. The monthly stipend of Senior Residents and Tutor Specialists was increased from Rs. 60,000-Rs. 65,000

to Rs. 1,00,000. The monthly stipend of Super Specialists and Senior Residents (Super Specialists) was increased from Rs. 60,000-Rs. 65,000 to Rs. 1,30,000.

The Chief Minister stated that healthcare and education were among the state government's highest priorities. Over the past three and a half years, the government has taken several important decisions to bring about comprehensive reforms in these sectors. He said that the increase in the salaries of Contract and Job Trainee Medical Officers (Specialists) would further strengthen healthcare services and help provide better medical facilities to the people of the state.

Scrapping of Art 370 marked a new era of Equality, Integration and Development in J&K

The abrogation of Article 370 was a landmark decision in the history of independent India, strengthening the principles of one Constitution, one law and equal rights for all citizens. It marked a new beginning towards inclusive development, social justice and complete integration of Jammu & Kashmir with the national mainstream. I express my sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and the Government of India for their visionary leadership and commitment towards ensuring equality, empowerment and opportunities for every section of society. For decades, several communities and sections of society in Jammu & Kashmir faced limitations in accessing their full rights and benefits. Communities such as West



Pakistan Refugees, Valmiki Samaj, Gorkha community and other deprived sections had long-standing aspirations for equal opportunities and constitutional safeguards. The abrogation of Article 370 ensured that the full benefits of the Constitution of India and various welfare measures reached all citizens, opening new avenues for education, employment, social justice and socio-economic empowerment. Hailing from Jammu & Kashmir, I have

closely witnessed the aspirations of its people for peace, dignity, prosperity and development. The historic decision has opened new possibilities for accelerated growth, improved governance, better infrastructure and inclusive empowerment. The rich cultural heritage, diversity and resilience of Jammu & Kashmir have always been a matter of pride for the entire nation. Today, the Union Territory is moving forward with renewed confidence on the path of peace, progress and development. On this significant occasion, I reaffirm my commitment to the unity, integrity and progress of our nation and extend my best wishes to the people of Jammu & Kashmir for a bright and prosperous future.

Governor Kavinder Gupta

'AI is no longer future, it is present': DC urges officials to embrace Artificial Intelligence



AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: Reinforcing the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in governance, a workshop on the effective use of AI-based tools was organized by the District Statistics Department at Bachat Bhawan on Tuesday. Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rupinder Kaur, SDM (Sadar) Rajkumar, and officials from the Deputy Commissioner's Office and various departments participated in the interactive session.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar emphasized that AI has evolved from an emerging technology into an essential workplace tool. He urged government officials and employees to become proficient in AI-powered applications, stating that their effective and responsible use can significantly enhance efficiency, improve the quality of work, reduce processing time, and ensure faster, citizen-centric service delivery. He added that the integration of AI into administrative functioning would promote greater transparency, productivity, and result-oriented governance.

Sukhu govt hindering development by stalling projects: Pawan Kajal

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: Himachal BJP Vice President and MLA Pawan Kajal has leveled serious allegations against the state Congress government. He stated that the government is obstructing development by stalling projects submitted to NABARD under the priority schemes of opposition MLAs. Kajal claimed that for the first time in Himachal's history, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for schemes prioritized by opposition MLAs are being held up. He pointed out that NABARD has withheld funding for DPRs worth approximately Rs. 65 crore—covering roads, drinking water, and other infrastructure—in the Kangra assembly constituency for three and a half years. Despite a remaining balance of around Rs. 65 lakh in the constituency's NABARD allocation, these DPRs are not being approved, causing difficulties in providing amenities to the public. Kajal also accused the state government of deceiving the youth regarding promises of permanent government jobs and misleading women with pledges of Rs. 1,500 per month and 300 units of free electricity. He further alleged that ration card holders are not receiving sugar and pulses at government depots, while the wheat flour and rice being distributed are of substandard quality. Kajal criticized the Public Works Department (PWD) for failing to repair the road from Samela Tunnel to the Kangra bypass, despite the NHAI allocating Rs. 11.5 crore for the project's expansion.



BJP launches statewide agitation against Himachal govt, stages gherao in Shimla

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, AUG 5

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday launched a statewide agitation against the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, alleging political vendetta, corruption, misuse of the police and administration, and deterioration in law and order, while announcing monthly protests across all Assembly constituencies and mandals. The protest, led by Leader of Opposition and former chief minister Jairam Thakur and presided over by BJP state president Rajeev Bindal, witnessed the participation of thousands of party workers, elected representatives and supporters from across the



state. Following a public meeting, BJP workers marched towards the Chief Minister's official residence, Oakover where they staged a sit-in and raised slogans against the state government over its alleged anti-people policies, corruption and political vendetta. Addressing the gathering, Thakur accused the Congress

government of attempting to delay Panchayat and Urban Local Body elections out of fear of electoral defeat. He claimed the BJP had fought a legal battle to ensure the elections were held and said the results reflected public discontent with the ruling party. He alleged that the government was registering "false criminal cases"

against BJP leaders and workers by misusing the administration. According to Thakur, cases had been filed against several BJP leaders, including state president Rajeev Bindal, MLAs Sudhir Sharma and Ashish Sharma, Hoshiar Singh and Rajendra Rana, besides targeting elected local body representatives. The Leader of Opposition also alleged that journalists and citizens were facing action, claiming that freedom of expression was under threat in the state.

Referring to recent criminal incidents, including murders in Shimla and Bilaspur, Thakur alleged that the law and order situation had deteriorated under the Congress government.

Chinese pressure on Nepal: Dalai Lama's representatives will not visit Kathmandu

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: China persists in its attempts to interfere with events organized by Tibetans in other countries. It consistently exerts pressure on nations where the Dalai Lama or his representatives are scheduled to participate in events. This time, China's interference concerns a Tibet conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, which the Dalai Lama's representatives were set to attend. Reports indicate that the Dalai Lama's government-in-exile will not send official representatives to the conference. The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) had originally prepared to send five representatives from its think tank, the Tibet Policy Institute (TPI), to the event. Chinese pressure on the Nepalese government has had a significant impact; consequently, the government-in-exile has decided against sending official representatives to the international conference on Tibet scheduled for Kathmandu. The CTA, headquartered in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh (India), has decided not to participate in the 17th Conference of the International Association for Tibetan Studies, which is taking place in Kathmandu from August 23 to 29.



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, AUG 5

Shimla Deputy Commissioner Anupam Kashyap on Wednesday said up to Rs 2 lakh per drinking water scheme would be released for the repair and restoration of disaster-affected water supply projects through the State Disaster Management Authority. Chairing a district-level review meeting on the Jal Jeevan Mission, Kashyap directed the Jal Shakti Department to submit proposals for damaged schemes within three days along with all mandatory documents. He said funds would be sanctioned only for schemes whose damage had been officially recorded by the Revenue Department, adding that proposals with



complete documentation would be cleared within three days of receipt. Officials informed the meeting that 203 of the 264 drinking water schemes approved under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the district have been completed. Under the Har Ghar Jal Village programme, certificates have been issued to 1,699 of the district's 2,536 villages, while the process is pending in 837 villages. The meeting was also informed that water service assessment

(Jal Seva Aankalan) has been completed in 2,422 villages, achieving 95.5 per cent coverage. Ten of the district's 13 development blocks have recorded 100 per cent completion, while the remaining three blocks are in the final stage of assessment. The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to complete the remaining work within the stipulated timeline and ensure 100 per cent coverage across all villages before submitting the final reports.

Taking lead in disaster preparedness, mass casualty training programme launched at AIIMS Bilaspur

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, AUG 5

Reinforcing its leadership in emergency healthcare, AIIMS Bilaspur has successfully conducted its first Mass Casualty Management (MCM) Training Programme for frontline healthcare professionals. Three -days long programme, was concluded here, marked as major step towards strengthening disaster preparedness and emergency response in the region. It was organised under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, as part of the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM). Inaugurating the programme, Lt. General (Retd.) Dr. Daljit Singh stressed the need for



institution-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and a coordinated emergency response framework to ensure effective management of large-scale disasters and save lives. Healthcare professionals and faculty members from IGMCM Shimla, Dr. RPGMC Tanda, SLBSGMC Mandi, and Dr. KGMCH Hamirpur participated in the intensive training. Expert sessions were led by Dr. Dinesh Verma, Medical Superintendent, AIIMS Bilaspur, along with

Dr. Tarun Sharma, Dr. Amrita Banerjee, Nursing Officer Poonam, and Nursing Officer Ankita, focusing on triage emergency coordination, communication protocols and team-based disaster response. With AIIMS Bilaspur designated as the Master Training Institute for the region, similar programmes will now be rolled out in medical colleges across Punjab and Chandigarh under the guidance of the JPN Apex Trauma Centre, AIIMS New Delhi.

Himachal Pradesh Fire Services partners with IIIT Una to strengthen fire safety awareness

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, AUG 5

Bringing government-led safety awareness directly to young learners, the Himachal Pradesh Fire Services Department collaborated with the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una to organize a comprehensive Fire Safety Awareness Programme and Mock Drill on campus. The initiative aimed to equip students, faculty members, officers, and staff with practical knowledge of fire prevention, emergency response, and safe evacuation procedures, reinforcing the importance of preparedness in educational institutions. The programme began with an interactive awareness session, during which Fire Services officials explained the common causes of fire accidents and shared



preventive measures for homes, laboratories, hostels, classrooms, and workplaces. Participants were also introduced to different types of fire extinguishers and trained in their proper use during emergencies. The practical mock drill formed the highlight of the programme. Fire Services personnel demonstrated firefighting techniques, rescue operations, and systematic building evacuation procedures, while students and staff actively

participated in hands-on training on the safe operation of fire extinguishers. The exercise enabled participants to experience emergency response protocols in a realistic setting and enhanced their confidence in handling such situations. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Manish Gaur, Director, IIIT Una, appreciated the Himachal Pradesh Fire Services Department for partnering with the institute to conduct the awareness programme.

Awareness camp marks World Breastfeeding Week in Una

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, AUG 5

The Health Department on Wednesday organised a district-level awareness camp at the Regional Hospital in Una as part of World Breastfeeding Week, highlighting the importance of breastfeeding for infant health and nutrition. Chief Medical Officer Dr Sanjeev Kumar Verma said breastfeeding provides the best nutrition for newborns and urged mothers to initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth. He stressed that colostrum, the first thick yellow milk, acts as a baby's first natural vaccine and helps protect against infections. He advised exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, followed by complementary



feeding while continuing breastfeeding up to two years, saying the practice strengthens immunity, supports healthy growth and helps reduce infant mortality. Medical Superintendent Dr Sanjay Mankotia said breast milk is easily digestible and provides balanced nutrition while protecting infants from infections. He also highlighted health benefits for mothers, including a lower risk of breast and uterine cancers, reduced

post-delivery bleeding and support in family planning. As part of the programme, nursing students from Himcaps Nursing College, Badhera, presented a street play to spread awareness and dispel myths related to breastfeeding. The participating students were felicitated by the Health Department. District Programme Officer Dr Richa Kalia, Dr Ankit Chaudhary and other health officials were present at the event.

Governor launches plantation drive at Shurala village



DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: Governor Kavinder Gupta today inaugurated a plantation drive in Shurala village of Malvana Panchayat of Shimla district, organized jointly by the Himachal Pradesh State Red Cross Society and the Forest Department. On the occasion, the Governor congratulated the State Red Cross Society, Forest Department officials and local villagers for organizing this public welfare and environmental conservation initiative. He said that plantation is not merely a ceremonial activity but a commitment to ensuring a safe and sustainable future for coming generations. He stated that in Indian culture, nature is considered as mother. The Vedas and Upanishads emphasize the protection of trees, rivers, mountains and the entire ecosystem. He stressed that planting saplings alone is not enough; their regular care and protection are equally important.

NEWS BRIEF

26 Konark Academy students selected for Haryana SGFI state championships



KARAMBIR LADWA: Twenty-six students of The Konark Academy, Ladwa, have been selected to represent their schools in the Haryana School Games Federation of India (SGFI) state-level championships across multiple disciplines. The selected students will compete in cricket, swimming, shooting, weightlifting, chess, yoga, baseball and softball. Academy Director S.S. Sharma congratulated the students, saying the achievement reflected their dedication, hard work and sporting spirit. He said the institution aims to nurture talented athletes capable of excelling at the national and international levels. The selected players were felicitated in the presence of the academy staff and fellow students.

Fancy dress competition held at Kidzee School Ladwa



KARAMBIR LADWA: A fancy dress competition was held at Kidzee School in Ladwa on Wednesday. School children participated enthusiastically in the competition. The aim of the competition was to develop children's creativity, self-confidence, stage presentation and expression skills. The children captivated everyone by donning attractive costumes of freedom fighters, doctors, teachers, farmers, soldiers, environmental protectors, fairies, princes and princesses and various inspirational characters. The children also gave beautiful introductions of their characters, which were greatly appreciated by the parents and teachers present. School Principal Virmi Tanuja said that fancy dress competitions were not just a means of entertainment, but also an effective platform for children's imagination.

Importance of continuous Rudrabhishek and earthen worship explained

YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI PEHOWA: Rudrabhishek, continuous Rudrabhishek and earthen worship are continuing at Sangameshwar Mahadev Temple during month of Shravan.Under guidance of Mahant Ravindra Puri, Secretary of Shri Panchayat Akhara Mahanirvani and National President of All India Akhara Parishad and Mahant Vishwanath Giri,



temple priest Kamalkant Gautam and Brahmins are preparing earthen

Shivalingams from clay every day. Puja begins at 9 am next day, lasting for two and a half hours.Temple administration has advised devotees to ensure that Bel leaves offered to Mahadev are not broken.They should wash and clean leaves before offering them. They explained that tradition of earthen worship has been prevalent since Lord Rama's invasion of Lanka.

Opposition demands PM to come to House, address issues concerning nation

DINESH AGARWAL
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi on Wednesday said the Opposition is demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi come to Parliament and address issues concerning the nation."The Opposition is demanding that the Prime Minister come to the House and address the issues concerning the nation. It is regrettable that both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister are absent from the House, and their accountability on important national issues is also missing," MP Gogoi told reporters here.Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha was adjourned till 2 PM on Wednesday amid continued disruptions in the House.Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge reiterated the opposition's demand that Prime



Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah make statements in Parliament."We demand that Prime Minister Modi Ji and Home Minister Amit Shah come to the House. They should give their statement; we are ready to discuss. The solution will emerge only through discussion," Kharge said.

"It has been quite a few days since the House convened. They should come; by not coming to the House, they are insulting Parliament," he added.Earlier, Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain said that the PM and Union Home Minister Shah must answer on the use of "force and firing of pellets at students" during the Jantar Mantar protests."The Home Minister, Amit Shah, should come to Parliament and make a statement regarding the use of force and the firing of pellets at students at Jantar Mantar. He should make a statement on chanda chori, the theft of offerings made to Lord Ram. He should make a statement on the issue of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, because he himself, along with the Prime Minister, had promised the people of Jammu and Kashmir that statehood would be restored," Hussain said.The Opposition

MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and others, marched from the Gandhi statue at Prerna Sthal to Makar Dwar in Parliament in protest against Union Home Minister Amit Shah over 'police action' against CJP protestors on 20th July, the issue of alleged Ayodhya Ram Mandir donations embezzlement and other issues.Meanwhile, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra demanded strict accountability from the central government over the alleged police action against the student protestors, saying that those holding public office must take full responsibility for issuing orders to use force against young citizens.Speaking to reporters, Vadra declared that India is a democratic country; "not someone's royal court," demanding to know who authorised the use of lathi charges and pellet guns.

Political parties should play active role in making voter list accurate and error-free: SDM



MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, AUG 5

A meeting was held at subdivision office on Wednesday under chairmanship of Electoral Registration Officer and SDM Dr Raman Gupta with representatives of political parties, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and Additional Assistant Electoral Registration Officers regarding Special Intensive Revision (SIR) campaign. In meeting, SDM Dr Raman Gupta stated that as directed by Election Commission of India, draft voter list has been duly published at all polling stations in subdivision under Special Intensive Revision (SIR-2026) program. He

urged all political parties to thoroughly review draft voter list provided by administration and ensure verification of actual voters so that voter list can be made accurate and error-free and no eligible person is left out of voter list. During meeting, Electoral Registration Officer Dr Raman Gupta provided information regarding digitization of voter data, voter mapping and data mismatches or other technical discrepancies in voter records. He stated that there are a total of 2,21,522 voters in Indri Assembly constituency of which data digitization for 1,95,547 voters has been completed and errors have been found in data mapping of 41,611 voters.

Saint Ravidas's messages are inspiring society to foster harmony: Renu Bala Gupta

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, AUG 5

Sacred Kalash Vandan Yatra which began from Seer Govardhanpur, birthplace of Saint Guru Ravidas Maharaj in Kashi, arrived in Karnal on Wednesday to commemorate 650th birth anniversary of Saint Guru Ravidas Maharaj. A large number of devotees including Mayor Renu Bala Gupta welcomed Yatra and paid their respects at feet of Saint Ravidas Maharaj at event held at Shri Krishna Temple. Mayor said that life of Saint Guru Ravidas Maharaj is a source of inspiration for humanity, equality, social harmony and selfless service.His pure, calm and sacred words, "Prabhu Ji Tum Chandan Hum Pani, Jaki Ang-Ang Baas Samani," convey



message of love, devotion and harmony to society. Mayor said that Saint Ravidas, through his thoughts and actions, proved that a person's identity is not determined by caste or birth, but by their actions, character and spirit of service. His teachings still inspire society to move forward unitedly. She said that Kalash Vandan Yatra is sending strong message of social unity, national spirit and creation of harmonious

society. MLA Jagmohan Anand said that Saint Ravidas Maharaj showed society path of equality and brotherhood. Only by adopting his ideals can positive change be brought about in society. Asandh MLA Yogendra Rana said that Saint Ravidas Ji's teachings are inspirational for every section of society. His ideology conveys message of following path of service, harmony and mutual cooperation.

Grand Science exhibition organised at New Happy Public School, Yamunanagar

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, AUG 5

New Happy Public School, Yamunanagar organized a grand Science Exhibition with the objective of fostering scientific curiosity, innovation, creativity, and a research-oriented mindset among students. The exhibition aimed to develop scientific temperament and encourage students to think innovatively while aligning with the Government of India's vision of Holistic Development. Skill Development (Kaushal Vikas), and experiential learning. Students enthusiastically participated in the exhibition and showcased a wide range of innovative science and technology-based models. Demonstrating exceptional creativity and



technical understanding, the students presented projects such as an Ultrasonic Radar System capable of detecting and tracking unidentified aircraft and drones, Green Energy Models, Solar and Wind Energy Projects, Water Filtration and Purification Systems, Drone and Aerial Models, Earthquake Detection Systems, Hologram Projectors, Human

Respiratory System Models, Smart City Models, Automatic Irrigation Systems, Smart Traffic Management Systems, Rainwater Harvesting Models, Robotics Projects, Electric Vehicle Concepts, Volcano Models, DNA Structure Models, Waste Management Systems, and several other innovative working models based on real-life scientific

applications. During the exhibition, students confidently explained the working principles of their models, their practical applications, and their significance in solving real-world problems. The exhibition reflected the students' scientific thinking, analytical skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Teachers, parents, and visitors highly appreciated the students for their outstanding presentations, innovative ideas, and excellent communication skills. The Principal of the school, Dr. Bindu Sharma, appreciated the efforts of the students and said, "Science is not merely a subject confined to textbooks; it is a way of thinking, exploring, experimenting, and finding solutions to real-life challenges.

Guru Nanak Khalsa College NCC cadets achieve 100% success in B Certificate exam

CHAMANLAL
KARNAL, AUG 5

The cadets of the NCC Army Wing Unit of Guru Nanak Khalsa (P.G.) College, Karnal, who achieved outstanding success in the NCC B Certificate Examination, were felicitated by the college management. The management expressed its happiness over the remarkable achievement of the successful cadets and congratulated them, wishing them a bright and successful future. A total of nine cadets from the college appeared for the NCC B Certificate Examination, and all nine successfully passed. The most significant achievement was that every cadet secured an A Grade, enabling the NCC unit of the college to achieve a proud



record of 100% success in the examination. During the felicitation ceremony, Sardar Kanwarjit Singh (Prince), President of the College Governing Body, honoured the successful cadets and stated that the NCC plays a vital role in developing discipline, leadership qualities, patriotism, and a spirit of service among students. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to NCC Officer Lieutenant Dr. Devi

Bhushan and all the cadets on this remarkable achievement, adding that their success was the result of excellent training, discipline, and dedicated hard work. The Principal, Dr. Chuhan Singh, said that all the cadets passing with A Grade was a matter of great pride for the college. Appreciating the efforts of the NCC unit, he remarked that such achievements serve as a source of inspiration for other students.

Shivaji Press Club plants trees in Chhachhrauli as part of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign

RK KASHYAP
CHHACHHRAULI, AUG 5

Shivaji Press Club (Registered) planted trees in Rajiv Gandhi Sports Stadium in Chhachhrauli amid the drizzle under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. Chief Guests at the event included Mukesh Garg, Chairman of Haryana Electricity Regulatory Corporation, Jaspal Singh Gill, SDM Chhachhrauli, Virendra Chaudhary, President of the Panchayat Samiti Pratap Nagar, social worker Tilak Raj Dhiman, BDPO Kartik Chauhan, Forest Range Officer Baljeet Singh, and members of the Shivaji Press Club. Chhachhrauli Sarpanch Rita Saini, Chhachhrauli Sports Club President and Sarpanch Sanjeev Saini "Bittu," and Sports Club coach Ramanjit Singh also



planted trees and spread message of environmental protection. Chief Guest Mukesh Garg praised efforts of Shivaji Press Club, saying that contributing to social work alongside journalism is an exemplary initiative that should inspire everyone. He also praised club's recent blood donation camp. SDM Jaspal Singh Gill said that all social organizations should come forward to organize such events, just as the

Shivaji Press Club, Yamunanagar, has consistently played leading role in social causes.Shivaji Press Club chief Ravindra Chauhan stated that following success of blood donation camp, this is second major event under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign. Following Chhachhrauli, club's next tree plantation event will be held in Bilaspur where Bilaspur SDM Kuldeep Singh will be special guest.

Guru Nanak Girls College organises plantation drive under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: Guru Nanak Girls College, Yamunanagar, organized a plantation drive under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As per the directions of the Education Office, Panchkula, the Forest Department, Yamunanagar provided 200 saplings to the college, including Jamun, Guava, Mulberry, Arjun, and Moringa. On this occasion, College Director Dr. Varinder Gandhi emphasized the importance of plantation and environmental conservation and encouraged everyone to take responsibility for the proper care of the saplings. Principal Dr. Sukhwinder Kaur highlighted that protecting the environment is a collective responsibility. She motivated the students to actively participate in plantation activities and contribute towards creating a greener and healthier environment. The college family pledged to continue its efforts towards environmental conservation and the protection of trees. Mrs Deepika Sharma, NSS Unit coordinator Mrs Ruhi Grewal and Dr Ravinder Kaur, Dr. Mandeep Kaur and Ms Anshul were present during the event.

HP Pensioners' Joint Front warns of agitation over pending dues after August 15



AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: The Himachal Pradesh Pensioners' Joint Front has intensified its demand for the release of pending pensionary benefits, warning the state government of a decisive course of action if long-standing issues remain unresolved beyond August 15. The warning came during the Front's state-level quarterly meeting held at Kol Dam Nursing College, Nehar Hamoda, under the chairmanship of State President Atmaram Sharma. The meeting began with the singing of Vande Mataram and a two-minute silence in memory of deceased pensioners. Reviewing the July 21 discussions with the Chief Minister, the Joint Front expressed concern over the delay in the release of 15% Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears, pension arrears, and medical reimbursement claims. Addressing the gathering, Atmaram Sharma urged the government to clear all pending dues before August 15, stating that the organisation would formulate its next strategy if no concrete action is taken.

BSF soldiers pay tribute to martyr Rocky on martyrdom day, mother urges government to build memorial

PREETI SAINI
SADHAURA, AUG 5

A heartfelt tribute was paid to the brave son of the nation, Martyr Rocky, who was martyred in 2015 in Ramgarh Majra village of Bilaspur block in Yamunanagar district on Wednesday. Soldiers from the Border Security Force (BSF) 59th Battalion specially visited village to pay their respects by laying flowers at his memorial. Many dignitaries, including villagers, were also present during ceremony.Martyr Rocky's parents became emotional during tribute ceremony. Her mother's eyes welled with tears at memory of her son. She said that 10 years have passed since her son's martyrdom, but



Haryana government has yet to build a memorial in his name. She appealed to government to construct a grand memorial in his memory as soon as possible, so that future generations can draw inspiration from his sacrifice. Martyr's mother expressed gratitude to BSF soldiers and said that it is a matter of pride for entire family that soldiers come every year to pay tribute to her son. She said, "I heartily

thank all soldiers who have come today to pay tribute to my son." In a message to mothers of country, she said that sacrificing one's life for protection of nation is greatest honor. She proudly said that her son was martyred while serving country at age of just 23, making supreme sacrifice to save lives of about 40 of his fellow soldiers. She said, "I am proud of my son's martyrdom.

Spiritual Knowledge festival held at Shivala Ramkundi, Ladwa

KARAMBIR
LADWA, AUG 5

At the Spiritual Knowledge Festival held at Shivala Ramkundi in Ladwa, Rajyogini BK Urmila Didi, who came from Mount Abu, enthralled the gathering with her powerful and inspiring thoughts on the topic of home becoming a temple. She said that a house was not made of bricks and stones, but of the sanskars, moral values, love, respect and pure feelings of the people living in it. If every person treats every soul with love, respect and goodwill, considering them as children of God and their own spiritual brothers and sisters, then happiness, peace and joy are automatically established in the family. She said that to make the



house a temple, first of all they have to change themselves. Repeatedly check your mind whether there is any jealousy, hatred, anger, ego or malice in me. Only when we eliminate these negative sanskars and adopt a spiritual vision, our family can truly become like heaven. The program was inaugurated by former president of Shri Agarwal Sabha Durgesh Goyal and

Anjali Goyal by lighting the lamp. BK Jyoti Didi, director of Ladwa Brahmakumaris Sukhdham, honored the chief guest and guests by presenting them sash, badge, divine memento and divine prasad. On this occasion, a large number of brothers and sisters including former MLA Ramesh Gupta, Mahendra Singh Saini, Shiv Gupta, Anil Mata participated.

CM lays foundation stone of first floor of Shri Krishna Kripa Dham at Vrindavan

YUGMARG BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on late Tuesday evening offered prayers at the world-renowned Shri Banke Bihari Temple in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh. He was accompanied by his wife Smt. Suman Saini, son Aniket and daughter Van-shika. The Chief Minister offered a floral garland to Thakur Shri Banke Bihari Ji and prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness and the well-being of the people of Haryana.

The Chief Minister said it was his great fortune to visit the sacred land of Vrindavan and seek the blessings of Shri Banke Bihari Lal, Shri Radha Vallabh Lal Ji, and other revered shrines. He said every particle of Vrindavan is sacred as it is the land where Lord Shri Krishna performed his divine leelas. He also noted the spiritual bond between Vrindavan and Haryana, saying that Lord Shri Krishna journeyed from this sacred land with his family to the holy city of Kurukshetra.

Upon his arrival, the Chief Minister was welcomed by the temple authorities and devotees. Offering prayers, he prayed for the holistic



development of Haryana, prosperity of farmers, a bright future for the youth and continued progress of the nation. Thereafter, the Chief Minister, accompanied by his family, visited Shri Radha Vallabh Lal Ji Temple and Shri Krishna Kripa Dham, where they also offered prayers.

The Chief Minister said the holy land of Vrindavan is a revered centre of faith for lakhs of devotees across the world. He said offering prayers at the revered Shri Banke Bihari Ji Temple fills devotees with spiritual peace and positive energy.

Describing the spiritual significance of Vrindavan, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the sacred dust of Vrindavan is as precious as sandalwood for devotees. Vrindavan is not merely a place; it is the divine land where love attained its ultimate union with the Almighty, he said.

The Chief Minister said it was on this sacred land that Lord Shri Krishna performed his divine childhood leelas, stole butter, subdued the serpent Kaliya, and lifted Govardhan Hill to protect the people of Braj, leaving behind timeless messages of faith,

courage and compassion.

He said visiting this sacred land was a matter of immense privilege for him, adding that every devotee who comes to Vrindavan experiences the divine presence of the Almighty. Expressing gratitude for the opportunity to visit the holy town, the Chief Minister thanked Geeta Manishi Swami Shri Gyananand Ji Maharaj for his blessings and guidance.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of the first floor of the proposed Satsang and Residential Complex at Shri Krishna Kripa Dham in Vrindavan. Congratulating the devotees on the occasion, he said the expansion of the complex would provide improved facilities and greater convenience to the large number of devotees visiting the Dham.

Praying to Lord Shri Krishna and Radha Rani, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini wished for peace, prosperity and a bright future for the people of Haryana. He prayed that the State continues to progress on the path of development, every family is blessed with happiness and prosperity, and the spirit of brotherhood and social harmony grows stronger.

Sandhya Bajaj praises Haryana government's governance after meeting CM Saini

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, AUG. 5 —

Former member of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and senior BJP leader Sandhya Bajaj met Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini in Chandigarh on Tuesday. According to a party statement, the two discussed Haryana's development initiatives, public welfare schemes and the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections.

Speaking after the meeting, Bajaj described Saini as a visionary and people-centric leader, saying Haryana was setting new benchmarks in governance, development and public welfare under his leadership. She said the government's work in areas such as welfare schemes, farmers' interests, employment generation, women's empowerment and infrastructure development had strengthened public confidence.

She said the Chief Minister was committed to ensuring that government schemes reached beneficiaries without discrimination and credited his leadership with strengthening both governance and the party organisation.

Referring to the forthcoming Punjab Assembly elections, Bajaj expressed



confidence that the BJP would improve its prospects under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nayab Singh Saini. She said Saini's outreach programmes and interaction with people in Punjab were helping communicate the party's policies and programmes.

Bajaj also said Punjab requires strong leadership to address challenges related to development, employment, industry, investment and law

and order, adding that the BJP was working to present itself as an alternative.

She further said Saini's accessibility, simplicity and regular public interaction had contributed to his popularity, and highlighted the Haryana government's initiatives in road infrastructure, education, healthcare, industry, sports, agriculture and digital services. The statements were made by Bajaj following her meeting with the Chief Minister.

Mayor flags off kanwar yatra in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, AUG. 5

Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta on Wednesday flagged off the annual Kanwar Yatra from Mata Temple on Hansi Road, extending her greetings and best wishes to devotees embarking on the pilgrimage. The event witnessed devotional chants of "Har Har Mahadev" and "Bol Bam" reverberating through the temple premises.

Addressing the gathering, the Mayor said the Kanwar Yatra symbolises faith, discipline, selfless service and the rich traditions of Sanatan culture. She said the unwavering devotion of Kanwaris reflects India's enduring spiritual heritage and promotes social harmony, unity and collective consciousness.

She described the dedication, restraint and spirit of service displayed by devotees during the pilgrimage as an inspiration for society.

Praying to Lord Shiva, Gupta wished for peace,

service and spirituality.

The Mayor appealed to pilgrims to observe discipline, maintain cleanliness, follow traffic regulations and contribute to environmental protection through-



prosperity, good health and happiness for the people of Karnal. She also expressed hope that the pilgrimage would fulfil the wishes of devotees and strengthen the values of love, brotherhood,

out the journey.

Former BJP mandal president Jaspal Verma, Satpal, Vinod Pal and other local dignitaries and residents were present on the occasion.

Career counselling programme launched for government school students in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, AUG. 5 —

The School Education Department on Wednesday launched the 'Mera Bhavishya - Mera Nirnay' career counselling programme at Government Girls Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary School to guide students in making informed career choices.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Anand Kumar Sharma inaugurated the programme as the chief guest, while Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Rahul Raiya and CMGGA Shruti Mitra attended as guests of honour.

The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also released the 'Mera Bhavishya - Mera Nirnay' career counselling booklet.

Interacting with students



of Classes IX to XII, Dr Sharma answered their career-related queries and encouraged them to remain focused on their goals.

He said every student should have a clear vision for the future and, quoting former President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, remarked that true dreams are those that do not let one sleep. He urged students to pursue their aspirations with dedication and per-

severance. Dr Sharma also emphasised the importance of participating in sports, cultural activities and other co-curricular programmes alongside academics for overall personality development. He advised students to embrace emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), and stressed that self-confidence and consistent hard work are essential for achieving success.

Sacred Kalash Yatra taken out to promote social harmony, says BJP district chief



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: A Vandan Kalash Yatra, being carried out to mark the 650th birth anniversary of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas, reached Krishna Temple in Sector 14, Karnal, on Wednesday, where it was accorded a warm welcome by devotees and BJP leaders.

The procession, which originated in Varanasi, was flagged off from Krishna Temple under the leadership of BJP Karnal district president Praveen Lathar. The sacred kalash will now be taken to temples across the district under the supervision of BJP mandal presidents.

Addressing the gathering, Lathar said the yatra aims to spread the message of social harmony, equality and human dignity propagated by Guru Ravidas. He said the saint's teachings continue to inspire society to overcome discrimination and strengthen brotherhood.

Speakers at the event said the Kalash Yatra would help carry Guru Ravidas' ideals to every section of society and reinforce social unity during the year-long commemorative celebrations marking his 650th birth anniversary. They also said that on August 4, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and BJP state president Dr Archana Gupta would hand over sacred soil associated with the celebrations to representatives of the party's 27 organisational districts and social organisations. The soil will be used during programmes commemorating Guru Ravidas' 650th birth anniversary across the state. Among those present were Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana, Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand, Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta, BJP state secretary Meena Chauhan, Chairperson Nirmala Bairagi, BJP mandal presidents, councillors, district office-bearers and party workers.

Lives at risk again due to lack of bridge; tractor-trolley trapped in strong current.

PRITI SAINI
SADHAURA: Villagers are forced to risk their lives every year while commuting along the main route connecting the Pammuwala and Kandaivala villages in the Sadhaura area, as there is no bridge over the seasonal river. On Wednesday evening, following heavy rains in the hilly regions, the river's flow surged suddenly, causing a tractor-trolley crossing the river to be caught in the strong current. According to eyewitnesses, the trolley was carrying a broken-down tractor. As the vehicle reached the middle of the river, the water flow intensified abruptly, putting the driver's life in grave danger. Villagers present at the scene acted promptly and wisely, using ropes to pull the driver to safety. Later, once the water level receded, the tractor-trolley was also retrieved from the river after a strenuous effort involving a Hydra machine and a JCB. Villagers stated that the tractor-trolley belonged to Bajpuli village, while the driver was a young man from Kandaivala village. Timely alertness on the part of the locals averted a major tragedy; otherwise, there could have been a serious loss of life. Villagers Arif and Yasin explained that there has been a long-standing demand for the construction of a bridge over the seasonal river between Pammuwala and Kandaivala, yet the authorities have failed to take any concrete action so far. Every monsoon, villagers are compelled to risk their lives to cross the river.

Taraori entrepreneur revives traditional spice-making with handcrafted products

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
TARAORI, AUG. 5 : At a time when food processing is increasingly dominated by industrial production, Aditi Garg, a young entrepreneur from Tarawadi in Karnal district, is reviving traditional Indian spice-making techniques through her venture HPK Foods.

The daughter of social workers Naresh Garg and Tina Garg, Aditi produces a range of spices using the traditional mortar-and-pestle (okhli-musli) method instead of machine processing. She says the initiative aims to preserve India's culinary heritage while offering consumers naturally processed spices. According to Aditi, the authentic flavour and aroma of Indian spices are closely linked to traditional preparation methods. She believes hand-pounded spices retain their natural fragrance and quality better than machine-processed alternatives, prompting her to adopt conventional techniques despite the availability of modern equipment. Her products recently attracted attention at a two-day trade fair in Gurugram, where visitors showed interest in traditionally prepared spices. Many attendees appreciated the quality of the products and noted that preparing spices at home using conventional methods has become increasingly uncommon in modern households. Among the products offered by HPK Foods is Lakadong turmeric, a premium variety grown in Meghalaya, which Aditi says is also processed using traditional methods. Her product range includes red chilli powder, Kashmiri chilli, garam masala, cumin, carom seeds (ajwain), mooringa and other spices, with an emphasis on purity and quality. Aditi said modern processing methods have improved convenience but often compromise the traditional characteristics of spices. She believes a return to indigenous practices can contribute to healthier food habits while helping preserve India's culinary traditions.



JAIBEER SINGH
BARARA, AUGUST 5

The 'Kalash Vandan Yatra' (Sacred Pitcher Procession), dedicated to the 650th Prakash Parv (birth anniversary) of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj, arrived in the Mulana Assembly constituency on Wednesday, drawing a large crowd at Saha Chowk. The area echoed with chants hailing Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj. Satprakash Binjalpur, the district co-convenor of the 'Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Samrasta Sankalp Abhiyan' and the convenor for the Mulana Assembly constituency, stated that the government is celebrating the 650th Prakash Parv of Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj with great grandeur. As part of this initiative, soil from Guru Ravidas Ji's birthplace, Kashi (Banaras), has been collected in sacred pitchers and is being sent to temples across the



country.

In Haryana, these pitchers arrived in Gurugram as part of the 'Kalash Vandan Yatra,' from where Chief Minister Nayab Saini reverently flagged them off to every district. On Wednesday, the procession reached Saha Chowk in the Mulana Assembly con-

stituency, where it was welcomed with a shower of flower petals and enthusiastic chants. People from all sections of society gathered to pay their respects to Guru Ravidas Ji. A large number of Sarpanchs from the Mulana Assembly constituency also welcomed the procession. Subsequently,

Dera Sacha Sauda's efforts benefiting humanity: Shashi Dureja

NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR, AUGUST 5

Shashi Dureja, former Block Samiti Chairman of Jagadhri and a senior BJP leader, stated that humanity is benefiting from the humanitarian works of Dera Sacha Sauda. On Wednesday, Dureja was interacting with volunteers in Shiv Colony, Damla village, where the Sadh-Sangat was constructing a house for a needy family from Dhondh village (Radaur block) under Dera Sacha Sauda's 'Ashiyana' campaign. He remarked that the 'Ashiyana' campaign is becoming a source of shelter for the homeless, as the Sadh-Sangat builds and provides homes for people. He praised the Dera followers and the organization for undertaking hundreds of humanitarian initiatives that benefit society. Meanwhile, he noted that the BJP government is also working for the welfare of the masses through public-interest initiatives.

He lauded the house-construction effort

but also highlighted the great acts of benevolence performed by Dera Sacha Sauda followers through blood donation during their lifetime, as well as eye and body donations after death. He explained that eye donations give the blind the gift of sight, while body donations provide medical researchers with cadavers; research conducted on these bodies enables future doctors to work more effectively on treating diseases. Homes for the Needy Built Under the 'Ashiyana' Campaign.



activities; under the 'Ashiyana' campaign, devotees build homes for the needy in accordance with the Dera's principles. A house is currently being constructed under this campaign for a needy family that earns its livelihood through manual labor, with the Sadh-sangat providing voluntary service to assist in the effort.

NSUI constitutes new unit at Khalsa College, Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Tuesday announced the formation of its new college unit at Khalsa College, Railway Road, Karnal, stating that the team would work to safeguard students' interests and address campus issues.

The appointments were made with the approval and guidance of Haryana NSUI president Avinash Yadav. The newly appointed office-bearers include Simran Singh (Captain) as president, Mastan Singh as vice-president, Harman Virk as general secretary, Vikram Jogi as secretary, Yuvraj Sandhu as joint secretary and Nirvair Sandhu as chairman. Congratulating the new team, NSUI district president Navmeet Randhawa said the organisation has consistently worked for students' rights and that the new office-bearers would represent students' concerns, strive for a better academic environment and work towards resolving campus-related issues. He said every organisational post carries both honour and responsibility. Former Youth Congress district president Pankaj Gaba said NSUI serves as a platform for young people to develop leadership and public service skills. He added that the organisation remains open to all students irrespective of their ideological background and would continue to work for student welfare without discrimination. Following their appointment, the newly elected office-bearers visited the office of the District Congress Committee (Urban), where they met Parag Gaba, president of the Karnal City Congress, who extended his best wishes.



Jobs are being awarded on merit, says Haryana Cabinet Minister Arvind Sharma

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
BAPOLI (PANIPAT), AUG. 5 —

Haryana Cabinet Minister Dr Arvind Sharma on Wednesday said government jobs in the state are now being awarded on the basis of merit and eligibility rather than recommendations or corruption, enabling talented youth from villages to secure employment through competitive examinations.

Speaking to reporters during a visit to Bapoli, the minister said the transparent recruitment system introduced by the state government had strengthened young people's confidence in the selection process.

Dr Sharma was in Bapoli to attend the 70th-day prayer ceremony of Devi Ram Sharma, father of former Bapoli Market Committee chairman Dr Dharmvir Sharma. He paid floral tributes to the deceased and expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

He later visited the residence of former

BJP Bapoli mandal president and sarpanch's husband Shiv Kumar Rawal to offer condolences on the death of his mother.

During the interaction with the media, Dr Sharma said Haryana was progressing under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, adding that transparent governance had restored public trust in recruitment processes.

He said that earlier many young people were disillusioned with government recruitment, but merit-based selections now ensure that deserving candidates receive equal opportu-

nities. The minister added that the state government was accelerating development in sectors including education, healthcare, roads, irrigation, electricity and rural infrastructure, with the objective of ensuring that welfare schemes reach every section of society and contribute to a self-reliant and prosperous Haryana.

EDITORIAL

RBI pause gets economists' backing

Economists broadly welcomed the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent and retain a neutral stance, saying easing inflation risks, improving capital inflows and adequate liquidity provide room for the central bank to remain on pause while closely monitoring global uncertainties.The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) also raised its FY27 growth forecast to 6.7 per cent and lowered its inflation projection to 5.0 per cent, citing resilient domestic demand and easing supply-side pressures.Reacting to the policy, CRISIL Chief Economist D K Joshi said the outcome was largely in line with market expectations.

"We were expecting a neutral stance. We were expecting the policy rate to remain unchanged. We did not expect growth and inflation forecasts to change significantly... the policy was very much aligned with what the market was expecting," he told news agency. On inflation risks, Joshi said food inflation would become a concern only if a "very intense El Nino" leads to prolonged dry spells, adding that the current reservoir position and rainfall remain comfortable. He also said improving capital inflows should help finance a wider current account deficit this year, making "the rupee... more stable this year." Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist at CareEdge Ratings, said the RBI's neutral stance gives it flexibility to respond to evolving macroeconomic conditions without committing to a specific policy direction."The environment is so fluid that it would be better for the central bank to leave the future decisions more dependent on the data and how the global macro scenario unfolds," she said, adding that food inflation is expected to peak in the third quarter before moderating in the final quarter of FY27.Sinha also said India is likely to maintain a comfortable current account deficit of around 1 per cent of GDP this fiscal year, while stronger capital inflows are expected to support the balance of payments. She added that liquidity is likely to remain abundant, and the RBI may eventually need to take steps "to reduce liquidity in the system" rather than inject more funds.Piramal Group Chief Economist Debopam Chaudhuri described the policy as "boring is beautiful", saying maintaining the status quo was the appropriate decision. He said falling crude oil prices and easing weather-related risks could keep inflation below the RBI's third-quarter projection, giving the central bank room to maintain its pause through the rest of the calendar year. Chaudhuri also said the RBI is likely to remain proactive in providing short-term liquidity if required, while adding that he does not see the need for open market operations (OMO) at this stage.

US student visas to Indian, Chinese nationals see sharp decline in 2025

The number of US F-1 student visas issued to Indian and Chinese nationals witnessed a significant decline in 2025 compared with previous years, according to a report by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), which said the reduction could have implications for American students, the labour market and national security.According to the CIS study, students from India and the People's Republic of China (PRC) accounted for more than half of all international students enrolled at US post-secondary institutions during the 2024-25 academic year.

The report compared F-1 visa issuances during the May-August period from 2017 to 2025, while excluding 2020 from the analysis due to the significant decline in visa issuance caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Citing data from the Institute of International Education's (IIE) annual census, the report said India had 363,019 students, and China had 265,919 students in the US during the academic year, together representing 53 per cent of the total 1,177,766 foreign students.The study said that F-1 student visa issuances to nationals of both countries declined sharply during the May-August 2025 period, which typically sees the highest number of student visas issued ahead of the academic year.According to CIS data, the US issued 22,149 F-1 visas to Indian nationals between May and August 2025, a decline of 60 per cent from the average number issued during the 2017-19 and 2021-24 periods, when the figure stood at 55,717. The number also marked a 62 per cent decrease from 2024, when 58,694 visas were issued.



For Chinese nationals, the number of F-1 visas issued during the same period fell to 40,034 in 2025, down 46 per cent from the 2017-19 and 2021-24 average of 73,853, and 34 per cent lower than the 61,075 visas issued in 2024, the report said.The CIS report noted that it selected the May-August period for comparison, as most F-1 visas are issued during these months in preparation for the upcoming academic year. It added that in 2024, 77 per cent of all F-1 visas issued to Indian nationals and 76 per cent issued to Chinese nationals were granted during this period.The report highlighted the role of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) programme, under which foreign students who complete

their degrees can work in the US.According to IIE data cited by CIS, 294,253 foreign students out of more than one million international students in the US during 2024-25 had completed their degrees and were working under OPT.

The report said Indian and Chinese nationals accounted for nearly 70 per cent of these OPT participants, with India representing 143,740 participants and China accounting for 61,981.Citing data from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), CIS said that of the 165,524 foreign students authorised to participate in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) OPT in 2024, 68 per cent were Indian or Chinese nationals. Indian

citizens accounted for 79,331 participants, while Chinese citizens accounted for 33,807.The report argued that reductions in the number of foreign students from India and China could reduce the OPT pipeline and affect the availability of foreign workers entering the US labour market.

The CIS report also raised concerns regarding national security, particularly in relation to Chinese students studying in sensitive fields such as STEM.The report alleged that the Chinese government has been pursuing military and technological advancement and said some Chinese students and researchers could face pressure to assist state objectives.It cited remarks by former US officials

who have warned about risks related to technology transfer, espionage and intellectual property theft.The report quoted former Trump administration Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Edward Ramotowski as saying in 2018 that "foreign students, often with no nefarious intent in their plan of study in the United States, are later co-opted to work for their government."It also cited former CIA officer Joe Augustyn, who said, "We know without a doubt that anytime a graduate student from China comes to the US, they are briefed when they go, and briefed when they come back.

"However, the study acknowledged that not all Chinese students come to the US with malicious intent but argued that reducing the number of students from China in sensitive fields could help lower risks related to technology transfer.The report also examined the relationship between OPT and the H-1B visa programme, arguing that OPT has expanded the pool of foreign workers beyond congressionally established H-1B limits.It noted that the H-1B programme has an annual cap of 65,000 visas, with an additional 20,000 exemptions for foreign graduates with advanced US degrees, while OPT has no numerical limit.CIS said that by 2024, the number of foreign nationals working under OPT and STEM OPT had reached 505,590, which it said was comparable to the scale of the H-1B programme.The report argued that reducing reliance on foreign graduates through OPT could benefit American students and workers by creating more opportunities in competitive sectors.

Gold may correct 6-8% before rallying to USD 5,500+

Gold may correct by up to 8 per cent in the near term before resuming its rally towards USD 5,500 over the next 12-15 months, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. (MOFSL) said in its H1 2026 Precious Metals Outlook, advising investors to

4,800 (Rs 4,56,564.24), followed by USD 5,500+ (Rs 5,23,146.53) over a 12-15 month horizon." On the domestic front, assuming USD/INR at 95.5, the brokerage house identifies accumulation levels between Rs 1,33,000-Rs 1,30,000, with medium-term targets of

investment case remains intact, but the coming year calls for patience over impulse," the brokerage house said flagging two major factors -- the direction of US inflation and the Fed's rate decisions under its new leadership. Until real interest rates

begin to fall meaningfully, gold could remain range-bound or face a further 6-8% correction in the near term. Investors may therefore consider staggered accumulation, buying in tranches on declines rather than attempting to time the market bottom."For those with a 12 to 15 month horizon, current weakness should be viewed as an entry opportunity rather than a reason to exit, given gold's structural support from central bank

buying, fiscal deterioration in developed economies, and its enduring role as a currency debasement hedge," the report said. At the same time, the brokerage house recommended Silver investors to stay mindful of its added volatility, "given its dual role as both a precious and industrial metal tied to electrification demand."

Rs 1,68,000 followed by Rs 1,93,000." Gold started 2026 strongly on tariff uncertainty, robust ETF inflows, central bank buying and expectations of US Fed rate cuts. However, the narrative shifted in Q2 as tariffs and the US-Iran conflict fuelled inflation concerns, prompting markets to price in higher-for-longer rates, lifting real Treasury yields and the US dollar and weakening gold's safe-haven appeal.*Gold's long-term



adopt a staggered accumulation strategy and remain patient.MOFSL report highlighted a shift in the factors driving gold prices, noting that geopolitical conflicts no longer automatically translate into gains for the precious metal. It has recommended a staggered accumulation strategy for long-term investors, noting "gold could witness a correction of 6-8% from current levels before targeting USD

US to sell advanced military hardware to Bangladesh, to edge out China

The United States on Tuesday announced that it would hold its next naval exercise CARAT in Bangladesh later this year in November.

The crucial naval exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) which involves the US Navy and Southeast Asian navies besides Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will be held in the Bay of Bengal area off the coast of Bangladesh and Myanmar, said sources in Dhaka.

The move announced by United States Pacific Fleet chief Admiral Stephen T. Koehler after a courtesy call on Bangladesh's Premier Tarique Rahman, comes close on the heels of the US Army's Pacific Command and the Bangladesh Army's joint jungle warfare exercise "Tiger Lightning 2026", a bilateral training from July 19 to July 31, 2026, at the Jalalabad Cantonment in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Soldiers from Bangladesh Army's Para Commando Brigade and from the US Army's Pacific command and the Oregon Army National Guard were involved in that fortnight long exercise, very near the Assam border.

Tuesday's meeting

between Admiral Koehler and Premier Rahman also reviewed progress on the

nations, and will be thr first step before Washington is able to sell advanced defense



proposed General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) that is proposed to be signed between Bangladesh and the United States.

The signing of GSOMIA is expected to set a legal framework to securely share and protect classified military intelligence between both

equipment to the US including jet aircraft.

The US is believed to have offered F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jets and AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to Bangladesh, as well as Lockheed-built TPY-4 ground-based air defense radars and NASAMS air defense missiles. Bangladesh is looking into

UAVs like the MQ-9 Reaper. Till now Bangladesh has depended on China for 70-80 per cent of its military hardware.

The US is also negotiating the signing of another military pact, ACSA, a logistical support pact that would enable American warships and fighter aircraft to use Bangladeshi ports and airfields for maintenance and refueling, "facilitating better joint disaster response and maritime monitoring in the Bay of Bengal."

The Bangladesh side reiterated that it "attaches great importance to its relationship with the United States and expressed interest in expanding bilateral cooperation into broader and more contemporary areas", officials in Dhaka said.

Earlier last week, Bangladesh had been offered a place in the Pax Silica economic security architecture designed to reshape the global supply chains underpinning artificial intelligence, semiconductors and critical minerals, away from China.

US Special Envoy for South and Central Asia Sergio Gor had during his recent visit to Dhaka, proposed that

Bangladesh join the US-led Pax Silica initiative at a meeting with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman last week.

Significantly, Gor had also met Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi in Dhaka a day earlier. Since India is already a full-fledged member of Pax Silica, a pact which seeks to establish a strategic economic supply chain avoiding China, top sources in Dhaka said it is "more than likely that the issue was discussed with the Indians before the offer was made to Dhaka" in a bid to wean it away from Beijing's influence about which both Delhi and Washington are concerned.

It is well known that Pax Silica is not a simple conventional free-trade agreement, rather it is an economic-security framework in which participating countries, USA, India, Japan, UK, Australia, and South Korea, are consciously building a new supply chain for trade and investment in the world of critical minerals and AI where China will not play a role.

Jayanta Roy Chowdhury
UNI

Can the Kanwar Yatra Become a Journey of Learning?



diminish the sanctity of the Kanwar Yatra, but to enrich it. Alongside carrying the sacred Ganga water, pilgrims could carry small editions of revered religious texts and educational material. At designated halts, they could read passages, listen to short talks by scholars, and engage in discussions on philosophy, ethics, environmental conservation, civic responsibility, and the relevance of ancient wisdom in modern life.

Such an initiative could deepen faith by strengthening understanding.

Religious traditions across civilizations have always valued learning. The Upanishads encourage inquiry. The Bhagavad Gita is structured as a dialogue. Indian philosophical schools flourished through debate and reflection rather than unquestioning acceptance. Reviving this intellectual tradition during a pilgrimage would be consistent with India's rich civilizational heritage.

An educational component

may also help reduce superstition. Rituals are often performed without a clear understanding of their meaning. Reading authentic scriptures and hearing informed explanations can encourage participants to distinguish between timeless spiritual teachings and practices that evolved through local customs or folklore. Knowledge does not weaken faith; it often makes faith more thoughtful and resilient.

The proposal also aligns with the constitutional aspiration to develop scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry. Scientific temper does not require abandoning religious belief. Rather, it promotes evidence-based thinking, curiosity, and rational discussion while respecting individual freedom of conscience. Educational sessions during the Yatra could include topics such as environmental protection, public health, water conservation, disaster preparedness, financial literacy, and the ecological significance of

preserving the Ganga.

Such an approach may particularly resonate with Generation Z and Generation Alpha. Younger Indians increasingly seek meaning through dialogue, learning, and critical thinking. A pilgrimage that combines spirituality with intellectual engagement could inspire greater participation from youth who wish to connect with tradition without giving up rational inquiry.

The discussion also has an economic dimension. The Kanwar Yatra takes place during a period that often overlaps with important agricultural activities in many parts of northern India. For farming households, every working hand can matter during seasonal operations. Any prolonged absence of productive labour may affect agricultural work and, in some cases, local economic activity. While many families successfully balance religious observance with their livelihoods, encouraging shorter, better-

planned, or more educational forms of participation could help individuals combine spiritual fulfillment with their responsibilities towards agriculture, employment, education, and family life.

Indeed, an educational pilgrimage could become a platform for spreading practical knowledge relevant to rural India. Experts and volunteers could share information on sustainable farming, efficient water use, soil conservation, crop diversification, digital payments, government welfare schemes, entrepreneurship, road safety, health, and sanitation. Millions of participants returning to their villages with such knowledge could become carriers not only of faith but also of useful ideas that contribute to agricultural productivity, environmental stewardship, and rural prosperity.

The environmental benefits could also be substantial. Millions of pilgrims provide a unique opportunity to spread awareness about river conservation, waste

management, plastic reduction, and sustainable practices. Pilgrims could return home not only as devotees but also as ambassadors for protecting India's rivers and natural heritage.

However, the proposal also raises legitimate concerns. For countless devotees, carrying Ganga water is not merely symbolic; it is the very essence of the pilgrimage. Suggesting that it be replaced would understandably hurt religious sentiments. Freedom of religion includes the freedom to observe traditional rituals, and any reform must respect that constitutional principle.

There are practical challenges as well. Organising educational sessions for millions of participants, selecting suitable reading material, ensuring scholarly neutrality, and preventing ideological bias would require careful planning and broad consensus.

Perhaps the answer lies not in replacing tradition but in enriching it.

The Kanwar Yatra need not become less religious to become more educational. Pilgrims can continue carrying the sacred Ganga water while also participating voluntarily in reading circles, scriptural discussions, environmental awareness programmes, and talks by respected scholars. Modern technology—including podcasts, QR codes, and multilingual digital resources—can make learning accessible without disrupting the spiritual experience.

India has never viewed knowledge and spirituality as rivals. Its greatest sages combined devotion with inquiry, meditation with debate, and faith with wisdom. A pilgrimage that reflects this balance would honour both tradition and progress.

A nation progresses not only through economic growth but also through enlightened citizens. If one of the world's largest annual pilgrimages can simultaneously nurture devotion, knowledge, scientific temper, environmental

responsibility, agricultural awareness, and civic values, its contribution to society would extend well beyond the temple. The Kanwar Yatra would then become not only a journey of faith but also a journey of national learning—one that strengthens both the spirit and the Republic.

If pursued voluntarily and respectfully, such an evolution could preserve India's spiritual heritage while contributing to a more informed, productive, and forward-looking society.

From: Prof. P. S. Panwar,
Adv. & Counsellor for IPRs,
Ch. 253, Karnal & Principal
(Retd.),
College of Agriculture,
CCSHAU at Kaul, Executive
Member (Invited)
Kisan Chamber of
Commerce

Exclusive Breastfeeding for Six Months Key to Healthy Growth - Dr Sunil Kumar Agrawal

MOHAI: Mother's milk is the ideal food for a newborn: safe, clean, and rich in antibodies that protect against common childhood illnesses. It provides optimal nutrition and strengthens the immune system through essential proteins, fats, vitamins, and carbohydrates that shield infants from infection and disease. On the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week, Dr Sunil Kumar Agrawal, Neonatologist, Fortis Hospital Mohai Fortis Hospital Mohai, said that breastfeeding provides optimal nutrition and strengthens a baby's immune system from the very start of life. The priority now is to build on what is already proven to work: skilled breastfeeding counselling, protected maternity support, and consistent guidance from birth onward. WHO and UNICEF recommend that children initiate breastfeeding within the first hour of birth and be exclusively breastfed for the first six months with no other foods or liquids, including water. Research consistently shows that breastfed children perform better on intelligence tests, are less likely to become overweight or obese, and are less prone to diabetes later in life.



CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, 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.389 of Category-HIG, Sector 44-A, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of (i) SH. SATINDER GARG S/O SH. SURINDER KUMAR, (ii) SMT. RAVNEET KAUR W/O SH. SATINDER GARG, (iii) SH. PARVEEN GARG S/O SH. SURINDER GARG & (iv) SMT. JYOTI GARG W/O SH. PARVEEN GARG from the name of allottee/transferee(s) (i) SH. ABHINAV KALRA S/O SH. JOGESH KUMAR KALRA & (ii) SH. ABHINEET KALRA S/O SH. JOGESH KUMAR KALRA. Now, (i) SH. SATINDER GARG S/O SH. SURINDER KUMAR, (ii) SMT. RAVNEET KAUR W/O SH. SATINDER GARG, (iii) SH. PARVEEN GARG S/O SH. SURINDER GARG & (iv) SMT. JYOTI GARG W/O SH. PARVEEN GARG vide Sale Deed executed and registered in office of Sub Registrar Chandigarh dated 19.06.2026. (i) SH. SATINDER GARG S/O SH. SURINDER KUMAR, (ii) SMT. RAVNEET KAUR W/O SH. SATINDER GARG, (iii) SH. PARVEEN GARG S/O SH. SURINDER GARG & (iv) SMT. JYOTI GARG W/O SH. PARVEEN GARG have requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in their 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



CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, 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.2004, Category-HIG-II, Sector 47-C, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SMT. MONIKA W/O SH. MUKESH KUMAR from the name of allottee/transferee(s) MS. SIMARPREET D/O SH. BALBIR SINGH BHATTI. It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned the DU No.2004, Category-HIG-II, Sector 47-C, Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee(s) MS. SIMARPREET D/O SH. BALBIR SINGH BHATTI. Now, MS. SIMARPREET D/O SH. BALBIR SINGH BHATTI has sold the above said dwelling unit to SMT. MONIKA W/O SH. MUKESH KUMAR vide Sale Deed executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh dated 10.06.2026. SMT. MONIKA W/O SH. MUKESH KUMAR has requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in her 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



CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, 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.2782-C of Category-Two Bed Room, Sector 49, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of (i) SH. MOHIT KUMAR S/O SH. PREM PRAKASH & (ii) SMT. NEHA SONTHWAL W/O SH. MOHIT KUMAR from the name of allottee/transferee(s) (i) SMT. NIKKI GUPTA W/O SH. PRANAV GUPTA & (ii) SH. PRANAV GUPTA S/O SH. PREM CHAND GUPTA. Now, (i) SMT. NIKKI GUPTA W/O SH. PRANAV GUPTA & (ii) SH. PRANAV GUPTA S/O SH. PREM CHAND GUPTA have sold the above said dwelling unit to (i) SH. MOHIT KUMAR S/O SH. PREM PRAKASH & (ii) SMT. NEHA SONTHWAL W/O SH. MOHIT KUMAR vide Sale Deed executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh dated 17.06.2026. (i) SH. MOHIT KUMAR S/O SH. PREM PRAKASH & (ii) SMT. NEHA SONTHWAL W/O SH. MOHIT KUMAR have requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in their 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



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.5085 of Category-III, MHC, Manimajra, Chandigarh in the name of SH. SANDEEP RAJPUT S/O LATE SH. MOHINDER SINGH RAJPUT from the name of allottee/transferee SMT. GEETA RAJPUT W/O SH. MOHINDER SINGH RAJPUT (M.S. RAJPUT) on the basis of Registered WILL.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that SH. SANDEEP RAJPUT S/O LATE SH. MOHINDER SINGH RAJPUT after the death of allottee/transferee SMT. GEETA RAJPUT W/O SH. MOHINDER SINGH RAJPUT (M.S. RAJPUT), has applied to Chandigarh Housing Board for transfer the No. 5085 of Category-III, MHC, Manimajra, Chandigarh in his favour, as SMT. GEETA RAJPUT W/O SH. MOHINDER SINGH RAJPUT (M.S. RAJPUT) expired on dated 31.03.2023 at Panchkula (Hry) and left behind a WILL which was Registered with Sub Registrar, UT Chandigarh on 01.11.2017, 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



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 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.	Category	Sector
1	(i) SMT. KIRAN W/O SH. JASBIR SINGH (JASVIR SINGH) & (ii) SH. GURPINDER SINGH S/O SH. JASBIR SINGH (JASBIR SINGH)	SH. JASBIR SINGH S/O LATE SH. SHIV DEV SINGH	3121-1	LIG	41-D, 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



CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, 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. 2849-A of TWO BEDROOM Category in Sector 49, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of (i) SH. JAGJIT SINGH S/O SH. TARA SINGH (i). SMT. SUKHWINDER KAUR W/O SH. JAGJIT SINGH from the name of allottee/transferee(s) SH. DHARAM PAL SINGH S/O SH. SEWA SINGH. It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned the DU 2849-A of TWO BEDROOM Category in Sector 49, Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee(s) SH. DHARAM PAL SINGH S/O SH. SEWA SINGH. Now, SH. DHARAM PAL SINGH S/O SH. SEWA SINGH has sold the above said dwelling unit to (i) SH. JAGJIT SINGH S/O SH. TARA SINGH (i). SMT. SUKHWINDER KAUR W/O SH. JAGJIT SINGH vide Sale Deed executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh dated 17.07.2026. (i) SH. JAGJIT SINGH S/O SH. TARA SINGH (i). SMT. SUKHWINDER KAUR W/O SH. JAGJIT SINGH have requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in their 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before Sh.Pavitr Singh,PCS, Asstt. Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh
Sub-Transfer of Ownership in respect of Residential Site No. 570, Sector 20-A Chandigarh (RP 11848) to the extent of 65.00% share on the basis of Un-Registered Will of Late Sh. Rahul Kumar
It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office, Sh. Rahul Kumar Expired on 30/03/2025 and he/she/they has/have also intimated the following legal heirs of the deceased estate/estate:-
Sl.No. Name of legal heir Relation with deceased
1. Shivam Anora Son
2. Sneha Anora Daughter
3. Sonika Anora Wife
4. Yashika Anora Daughter
Now, Sonika Anora has/have applied for the Transfer of Ownership in respect of Residential Site No. 570, Sector 20-A, Chandigarh, to the extent of 65.00% share held by Late Sh. Rahul Kumar in his/her/their favour, on the basis of Un-Registered Will dated 20/02/2025. If anybody has any information about any other legal heirs of the deceased other than mentioned above, the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh, immediately.
If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicants, he/she/they may furnish the same in writing (supported with affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/Judge in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiary and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.

Pavitr Singh, PCS,
Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising
powers of Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी०एल० – 33004/११

REGD.NO.D.L.-33004/99



भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-20072026-274622

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असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II – Section 3 – Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3714]	नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, जुलाई 14, 2026/आषाढ 23, 1948
No. 3714]	NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026/ASHADHA 23, 1948

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

[Northern Railway (Construction Organization)]

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, 13th July, 2026

S.O. 3877(E).- In exercise of the power conferred by Section 20-F (6) of The Railways (Amendment) Act-2008, the Central Government hereby authorizes the officer mentioned in column (2) of the table below to perform the functions of the Arbitrator in respect of the Railway Project as mentioned in column (4) of the table, for execution, maintenance, management and operation in the state mentioned in column (3) of the said Table, with effect from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette.

Sl.No.	Arbitrator	State	Name of Railway Project
1	2	3	4
1	Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana	Punjab	Dhandari Kalan-DOL-remodeling to increase handling capacity and provision of shunting neck of Northern Railway.

[F. No. 190-W/Land/CDG-II/DDL]

2699/26

SHAILESH KUMAR MISHRA, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction-I

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी०एल० – 33004/११

REGD.NO.D.L.-33004/99



भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-20072026-274622

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असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II – Section 3 – Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3714]	नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, जुलाई 14, 2026/आषाढ 23, 1948
No. 3714]	NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026/ASHADHA 23, 1948

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

[Northern Railway (Construction Organization)]

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, 13th July, 2026

S.O. 3876(E).- in exercise of the power conferred by clause 7-A of section 2 of The Railways (Amendment) Act-2008, the Central Government hereby authorizes the officer mentioned in column (2) of the table below to perform the functions of the Competent Authority in respect of the Railway Project as mentioned in column (4) of the table, for execution, maintenance, management and operation in the state mentioned in column (3) of the said Table, with effect from the date of publications of this notification in the official Gazette.

Sl.No.	Competent Authority	State	Name of Railway Project
1	2	3	4
1	Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ludhiana (West)	Punjab	Dhandari Kalan-DOL- remodeling to increase handling capacity and provision of shunting neck of Northern Railway.

[F. No. 190-W/Land/CDG-II/DDL]

2685/26

SHAILESH KUMAR MISHRA, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction-I

Paras Health Panchkula Performs Life-Changing Cervical Spine Surgery of 62 Year Old Women

PANCHKULA: Doctors at Paras Health Panchkula have successfully performed a complex two-level anterior cervical spine surgery on a 62-year-old woman suffering from severe neck pain caused by cervical disc degeneration and nerve compression. The procedure relieved pressure on the affected nerves, significantly reducing her symptoms and helping her recover from a condition that had begun affecting her daily life. The patient had been experiencing persistent neck pain along with neurological symptoms that progressively interfered with her routine activities. A detailed clinical evaluation, followed by an MRI scan, revealed advanced degeneration of the cervical discs at the C4-C5 and C5-C6 levels, with the damaged discs compressing the nerves in her neck. After discussing the diagnosis, treatment options, benefits and associated risks with the patient and her family, the neurosurgery team recommended surgery to remove the source of nerve compression and stabilise the cervical spine. Following comprehensive pre-operative planning, the neurosurgery team performed a two-level anterior cervical decompression and fusion. During the procedure, the damaged discs and bony overgrowth causing the nerve compression were removed through an anterior approach, after which standalone cages filled with bone graft were placed between the vertebrae to restore spinal stability and promote bone fusion.



HIMACHAL PRADESH

JSV DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Kullu (HP) invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through Online Process:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time of completion
1	Restoration of rain damages of various Water Supply Scheme under Shat Section in Tehsil Bhunatar Distt. Kullu (SH - Recovery and re-construction of water supply schemes Sharni Tapru bai, Saranban , Ratocha, Jia, Jallugran and Chhuvast) Under PDNA	1,02,61,918	1,77,619	2 Months
2	Restoration of rain damages of various Water Supply Scheme under Manikaran Section in Tehsil Bhunatar Distt. Kullu (SH - Recovery and re-construction of water supply schemes Malana, Jani Malaura, Phagta Bhegta, Hatchu-age and Chamour) Under PDNA	1,14,14,670	1,88,147	2 Months
3	Restoration of rain damages of various Water Supply Scheme under Lugvalley Section in Tehsil & Distt. Kullu (SH - Recovery and re-construction of water supply schemes Duglag, Peej, Mashana, Fallan and L/O habitation in GP Choprasa) Under PDNA	63,75,722	1,20,636	2 Months
4	Restoration of rain damages of WSS Kasol in GP Kasol in Tehsil Bhunatar Distt. Kullu (SH - Recovery, re-construction and strengthening of WSS Kasol) Under PDNA	28,76,615	57,600	2 Months
5	Restoration of rain damages of various Water Supply Scheme under Kharahal Section in Tehsil Bhunatar Distt. Kullu (SH - Recovery and re-construction of water supply schemes Bandal Halleri, Chansari Seogi Kinja, and Lari Manari Devdhar) Under PDNA	69,23,047	1,28,846	2 Months
6	Restoration of rain damages of various Water Supply Scheme under Lugvalley Section in Tehsil & Distt. Kullu (SH - Recovery and re-construction of water supply schemes Bhunteer, Madgan, Chhuria Bhaltha, Mathala, Busi and Samwaling Tain) Under PDNA	61,40,789	1,17,112	2 Months
7	Restoration of rain damages of various Water Supply Scheme under Manikaran Section in Tehsil Bhunatar Distt. Kullu (SH - Recovery and re-construction of water supply schemes Manikaran, Kasol, Choski, Shilla and Kayani/Lapas) Under PDNA	78,99,210	1,43,488	2 Months
Last date of submission of tender:-		14.08.2026 upto 3.00 PM.		

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website <https://bptenders.gov.in> or from office of JSV Division, Kullu upto date specified above.

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JANSAMPARK

Executive Engineer
JSV Division Kullu

DPR-HP-2454/2026-2027

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी०एल० – 33004/११

REGD.NO.D.L.-33004/99



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सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-20072026-274623

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असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II – Section 3 – Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3715]	नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, जुलाई 14, 2026/आषाढ 23, 1948
No. 3715]	NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026/ASHADHA 23, 1948

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

[Northern Railway (Construction Organization)]

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, 13th July, 2026

S.O. 3878(E).- In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20A of the Railways Act, 1989 (24 of 89) (hereinafter referred as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, brief description of which is given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for execution of Special Railway Project, notification no. 2527(E) dated 06 June 2025, namely, "Dhandari Kalan-DOL-Remodelling to increase handling capacity and provision of Shunting neck of Northern Railway", in Ludhiana district in the State of Punjab, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land

Any person interested in the said land may, within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition of such land for the aforesaid purpose under subsection 20 D of the said Act.

SN	Name of Villages	Area in Hectares (Ha)
1	Gaispur	0.2580
2	Sherpur Kalan	0.6247
Total Area		0.8827

Every Such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Ludhiana West, District Ludhiana, Punjab (Competent Authority Land Acquisition) in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof, and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or through a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of section 20D of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land Covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structure falling within the District Ludhiana for Special Railway Project, namely, "Dhandari Kalan-DOL-Remodelling to increase handling capacity and provision of Shunting neck of Northern Railway" in the District of Ludhiana in the Punjab State.

Name of District: Ludhiana

Name of Tehsil/Sub-Tehsil: Ludhiana South & Ludhiana East

SN	District	Tehsil/Sub-Tehsil	Village	Khasra No.	Nature of Land	Type of Land	Area to be Acquired	
							Marla	Hectare
1	Ludhiana	Ludhiana South	Gaispur	97/2	Punjab Govt.	Gair Mumkin	102	0.2580
Total							102	0.2580

SN	District	Tehsil/Sub-Tehsil	Village	Khasra No.	Nature of Land	Type of Land	Area to be Acquired	
							Marla	Hectare
1	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	59/04	Private	Gair Mumkin	22	0.0556
2	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	59/06	Private	Gair Mumkin	37	0.0936
3	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	59/07	Private	Gair Mumkin	16	0.0405
4	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	59/15	Private	Gair Mumkin	1	0.0025
5	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	60/10	Private	Gair Mumkin	4	0.0101
6	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	60/11	Private	Gair Mumkin	35	0.0885
7	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	60/12	Private	Gair Mumkin	19	0.0481
8	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	60/17	Private	Gair Mumkin	2	0.0051
9	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	60/18	Private	Gair Mumkin	36	0.0910
10	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	60/19	Private	Gair Mumkin	19	0.0481
11	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	60/23	Private	Gair Mumkin	2	0.0051
12	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	60/24	Private	Gair Mumkin	36	0.0910
13	Ludhiana	Ludhiana East	Sherpur Kalan	60/25	Private	Gair Mumkin	18	0.0455
Total Area							247	0.6247

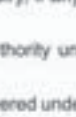
[F. No. 190-W/Land/CDG-II/DDL]

2700/26

SHAILESH KUMAR MISHRA, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction-I

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी०एल० – 33004/११

REGD.NO.D.L.-33004/99



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सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-20072026-274622

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असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II – Section 3 – Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3714]	नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, जुलाई 14, 2026/आषाढ 23, 1948
No. 3714]	NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026/ASHADHA 23, 1948

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

[Northern Railway (Construction Organization)]

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, 13th July, 2026

S.O. 3876(E).- in exercise of the power conferred by clause 7-A of section 2 of The Railways (Amendment) Act-2008, the Central Government hereby authorizes the officer mentioned in column (2) of the table below to perform the functions of the Competent Authority in respect of the Railway Project as mentioned in column (4) of the table, for execution, maintenance, management and operation in the state mentioned in column (3) of the said Table, with effect from the date of publications of this notification in the official Gazette.

Sl.No.	Competent Authority	State	Name of Railway Project
1	2	3	4
1	Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ludhiana (West)	Punjab	Dhandari Kalan-DOL- remodeling to increase handling capacity and provision of shunting neck of Northern Railway.

[F. No. 190-W/Land/CDG-II/DDL]

2685/26

SHAILESH KUMAR MISHRA, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction-I

Bharti Singh Opens Up About Gola Receiving Love from Fans and Paparazzi

CHANDIGARH : The upcoming episode of Sony Entertainment Television's India's Best Dancer Season 5, celebrating the spirit of 'India Wala Dance', is set to bring Comedy Junction, promising entertainment, drama and masti with Raghav Juyal, Bharti Singh and Harssh Limbachiyaa. Amid the fun and laughter, following choreographer Tushar and



contestant Prince's soulful performance depicting Harssh and Bharti's children, Gola and Kajju, Geeta Kapur gets candid with Harssh Limbachiyaa about watching the performance from the perspective of a father and husband. When Geeta asks Harssh how he felt watching the act as a father and husband, he shares how special it feels to see people showering love on Gola and Kajju. He said, "Bahut achha laga. Hamare toh bachche hi hain, humko toh pyaare lagte hain, lekin jab log Gola, Kajju ko pyaar karte hain na, toh humko aur achha lagta hai. Kahin na kahin aisa lagta hai ki hamara pyaar unko dete hain aur humse zyada unko pyaar karne lage hain. Bahut hi achha lagta hai." Bharti then opens up about the joy parents feel when their children receive appreciation and love from others. She shared, "Bada achha lagta hai. Jaaved sir bhi papa hai, Karisma ma'am bhi mummy hai. Pyaar, jab aapke bachche ki tareef hoti hai na, maa-baap kisi aur hi zone mein jaate hain. Kabhi main bahar jaati hoon toh media wale hote hain na, toh mere se baat kar rahe hote hain. Suddenly udhar se Gola aata hai, toh media wale bolte hain, 'Arey, arey, Gola aaya, Gola aaya,' karke. Toh mujhe aur khushi hoti hai ki hamare bachche ko kitna pyaar kar rahe hain. Shayad humne bhi bahar walon ke saath itna pyaar kiya, sabke blessings ki wajah se aaj humein itne achhe bachche mile."

Repeated IVF Failure Is More Than an Embryo Problem, Say Chandigarh Fertility Specialists

CHANDIGARH: Fertility Specialists at Nova IVF Fertility, Chandigarh, are seeing at least 15% of couples seeking fertility treatment have experienced one or more failed IVF attempts. In many cases, repeating the same treatment without identifying the underlying cause only adds to the emotional, physical and financial burden on couples.Dr. Peri Parkhiya, Fertility Specialist, Nova IVF Fertility, Chandigarh, added, "Repeated IVF failure can be emotionally and financially exhausting. Every cycle teaches something new that can help to achieve success. With proper tests and the right protocol, we can achieve a healthy pregnancy in previous failure cases."Fertility specialists are seeing patients coming in with failed IVF cycles. While failed IVF is often blamed on poor embryo quality, specialists at Nova IVF Fertility, Chandigarh, say success of IVF can depend on multiple factors, but key factors are embryo and the uterus in itself. While poor embryo quality, chromosomal abnormalities and sperm DNA damage are common causes, the uterus may also play a role. Hidden uterine abnormalities, genital tuberculosis, or damaged fallopian tubes can prevent successful implantation. Personalised investigations, including sperm DNA testing, genetic screening (PGT-A) and tests of uterus, can help identify the underlying cause and guide more targeted treatment. Experts encourage couples who have experienced repeated IVF failures to seek a comprehensive fertility evaluation rather than losing hope or delaying further consultation. With advances in embryo assessment, uterine evaluation and personalised treatment planning, many couples who previously faced unsuccessful IVF cycles can still achieve a healthy pregnancy.

World Gold Council launches Swarnim Udaan 2047: Unlocking the Full Potential of Gold Towards Viksit Bharat 2047

CHANDIGARH : The World Gold Council today released a landmark vision document for Indian gold industry titled "Swarnim Udaan 2047: Unlocking the Full Potential of Gold Towards Viksit Bharat 2047,." The report, developed with Monitor Deloitte as knowledge partner, sets out a long-term roadmap to reposition gold as a strategic economic lever for India's economic growth and global competitiveness. As India advances toward its US\$30 trillion economy vision by 2047, the report positions gold as a strategic national asset that can strengthen financial resilience, exports, innovation, responsible domestic value creation and advanced manufacturing. It calls for coordinated policy and institutional action to unlock greater value across the ecosystem.Speaking on the Swarnim Udaan 2047 report, David Tait, CEO, World Gold Council, said, "India is already central to the global gold ecosystem, and its role is set to become even more significant as global supply chains evolve, financial markets deepen, and strategic technologies advance. Gold's importance goes well beyond investment and jewellery; it is increasingly critical to industrial innovation, financial resilience and economic security. Swarnim Udaan 2047 sets out a clear pathway for India to modernise and strengthen its gold market— enhancing resource security, supporting financial deepening, enabling advanced manufacturing, and contributing to long-term, sustainable economic growth."Sachin Jain, Regional CEO, India, World Gold Council said, "Gold has always been deeply embedded in India's cultural and economic fabric. The opportunity now is to unlock its full potential as a strategic national asset aligned with India's economic priorities.

Building Trust in Tech: Ai+ Smartphone Commits Rs. 100 Crore to Enhance Security Through Community Participation

JALANDHAR: In a groundbreaking move for the Indian smartphone landscape, Ai+ Smartphone has launched Project Trust+, a bold initiative dedicated to creating the country's safest smartphone ecosystem through long-term community engagement. The company is pledging Rs. 20 crore annually for the next five years, totaling Rs. 100 crore, to invite the tech and developer community to enhance security and foster trust within its devices.Through the initiative, the company is inviting independent researchers to actively test its systems, challenge its security architecture and highlight vulnerabilities that can be addressed before they impact consumers. Project Trust+ is driven by the belief that security is an ongoing journey rather than a final destination. As digital landscapes become more interconnected, Ai+ emphasizes that building secure smartphones requires collaboration, transparency, and active participation from the community. This initiative aims to go beyond traditional bug bounty programs, fostering an open environment where developers, security researchers, and ethical hackers can collectively contribute to the safety and resilience of Ai+ products.Commenting on the announcement, Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, said "Most companies tell users their devices are secure. We want to prove it. The reality is that no smartphone, no platform, and no technology ecosystem can claim security as a finished destination. It evolves every day. Project Trust+ reflects our belief that trust should be built transparently and collaboratively. We are opening our doors to India's technology community because we believe the safest products are built not in isolation.

J&K records major development gains since 2019

CHANDIGARH: Six years after the constitutional reorganisation of Jammu & Kashmir, the region has witnessed significant progress in infrastructure, tourism, governance and economic development, with improved connectivity, higher investment and expanded public services reshaping everyday life across the Union Territory.

Arshad Naqvi, Professor and renowned activist said the impact of the reforms should be assessed through measurable outcomes that directly benefit citizens. He said landmark infrastructure projects, record tourist arrivals, improved governance and expanded economic opportunities have collectively strengthened the region's growth trajectory over the past six years.Naqvi said the completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, anchored by the iconic Chenab Rail Bridge, has connected the Kashmir Valley with the national railway network, significantly improving mobility for people and businesses. Ongoing highway and tunnel projects, modernised airports, smart city initiatives and near-universal household electrification have further enhanced connectivity and quality of life across urban and rural areas.

Highlighting the tourism sector, he said Jammu & Kashmir attracted nearly

1.78 crore tourists in 2025, reaffirming its position as one of India's leading travel destinations. Besides established tourist hubs such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg, emerging destinations including Gurez, Keran, Doodhpathri and Lolab Valley have witnessed increasing footfall, creating employment opportunities in hospitality, transport, handicrafts and allied sectors. Naqvi said investment across tourism, horticulture, manufacturing, food processing and services has generated fresh business opportunities, while expansion of educational institutions, healthcare facilities and digital governance has improved access to quality services. Wider implementation of central welfare schemes has strengthened delivery of healthcare, housing, financial inclusion and social security benefits, particularly in rural areas. He added that greater participation of Panchayati Raj institutions has strengthened grassroots governance, enabling faster implementation of development programmes and better identification of local priorities. Development is reflected in better roads, stronger institutions, employment opportunities and greater confidence among young people about their future," Naqvi said. "The progress achieved during the past six years demonstrates how sustained invest-

ment in connectivity, tourism, public infrastructure and governance reforms can create long-term opportunities and improve the quality of life for people across Jammu & Kashmir.

Across the Line of Control, residents continue to face serious developmental challenges despite the region's abundant natural resources. Local communities frequently report unreliable electricity supply, high power tariffs, inadequate road infrastructure and the absence of railway connectivity. Although hydropower projects generate substantial electricity, many people say they receive limited local benefits. Tourism remains underdeveloped due to poor infrastructure and limited promotion, affecting livelihoods. Unemployment, rising prices of essential commodities, and dependence on remittances remain persistent concerns. Public protests demanding affordable electricity, employment opportunities, better public services and greater local economic benefits reflect widespread dissatisfaction with governance and development. The anniversary therefore offers an opportunity not for abstract debate but for recognition of measurable progress. These outcomes form effective counter to narratives that overlook the lived experience of development.

Lifestyle

'It's so disheartening': Sonakshi Sinha reacts to Jharkhand students' protest over exam irregularities



Actress Sonakshi Sinha has expressed concern over the ongoing student protest in Jharkhand against alleged irregularities in the 14th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) Combined Civil Services Examination and the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level (JSSC CGL) Examination.The 'Dabangg' actor shared a video on her Instagram Stories highlighting the reasons behind the protest at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in Ranchi.Sharing the video, Sonakshi

wrote, "It's so disheartening to see students of our country go through this. When will it stop?"

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday said the state government has "eyes and ears" and is sensitive to students' concerns amid the ongoing protests.Speaking to reporters, Soren assured that the government would address the students' grievances and said justice would be delivered after the investigation into the alleged irregularities reaches its conclusion.The Chief Minister said the government is awaiting the findings of the investigation being con-



ducted into the matter and that the outcome would be communicated to students and people of the state.

The indefinite hunger strike was started on Sunday by student leader Devendra Nath Mahato, who has been demanding action over alleged irregularities in the recruitment examinations.

The protesters demand the cancellation of the Preliminary Test (PT) for the 14th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) Combined Civil Services Examination and a review of examinations conducted through TDPL agencies.

Vismaya Mohanlal to make acting debut with 'Thudakkam', trailer out

Mohanlal's daughter Vismaya Mohanlal is set to make her acting debut with the film 'Thudakkam'. The makers have released the trailer of the movie on Tuesday. The trailer offers a glimpse into an intense family thriller, which is directed by Jude Anthony Joseph. The film is produced by Antony Perumbavoor under the banner of Aashirvad Cinemas.The one-and-a-half-minute trailer opens with the introduction of Vismaya's character Meenu in a picturesque hill village.Living a peaceful and happy life with her father, portrayed by Sai Kumar, Meenu's world reflects the warmth and simplicity showcased in the film's recently released song, set against Kerala's breathtaking landscapes.The trailer soon takes a tense turn as mysterious intruders invade their home, throwing Meenu and her father into a frightening ordeal. While keeping the central mystery under wraps, the trailer offers enough suspense to spark curiosity about the events that unfold. Aashirvad Cinemas shared the trailer on their Instagram handle.



Apart from Vismaya, the film also stars Dinesh Prabhakar, Jaffer Idukki, Kottayam Ramesh, Jibin Gopinath, Sivadas Kannur, Jeys Jose, Jayakurup, Ashwini Vijayan and T. G. Ravi in key roles.The screenplay has been penned by Lineesh Nellikal, Akhil Krishna and

Jude Anthony Joseph. Jakes Bejoy has composed the music, while Akhil George and Jomon T. John handle the cinematography. Dr Emil Vincent and Dr Aneesh Anthony serve as the executive producers.The film will release in theatres on August 7.

'Baywatch' set to arrive on Prime Video in India, France, Italy, Spain and more

Global hit franchise 'Baywatch' is now set to head to Canada, India, and Europe, among other territories, following a new multi-territory deal between international distributor Fremantle and Prime Video, reported Variety. As part of this, the pact also includes the original series' complete back catalogue, including spin-off 'Baywatch Hawaii'. Following the expansion, viewers in Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Benelux, Switzerland, Austria, Turkey, Canada, Latin America and India will be able to access the new and rebooted 12-episode season of the drama in 2027 along with the past seasons. Produced by Fremantle and Fox Entertainment, the show is set to debut in the US in January 2027. In the UK, it will land in Sky, considering the Comcast-owned broadcaster recently snapped up the rights to the show. 'Baywatch' will follow a new cast of lifeguards in the iconic red swimsuits as they patrol the world's most famous stretch of sand, navigating ocean dramas and even personal ones. Stephen Amell leads the series alongside Jessica Belkin as Charlie Vale and Shay Mitchell as Trina, stated Variety.Joining them are Thaddeus LaGrone as Brad, Noah Beck as Luke, Brooks Nader as Selen, David Chokachi as Cody Madison, and Livvy Dunne as Grace. On the other hand, original cast



members Eriq La Salle, Michael Bergin, and Kelly Packard are guest stars. "We're thrilled to be partnering with Prime Video to bring the new 'Baywatch' to audiences across multiple territories, while also giving fans the opportunity to revisit the original series they know and love. Few shows have made as big a splash or had such lasting cultural impact as 'Baywatch,' and this landmark deal marks a significant moment for one of the indus-

try's most eagerly anticipated launches. The excitement surrounding the show has been incredible, and we can't wait for audiences to see what's in store. This is just the beginning of what we believe will be an exciting new chapter for 'Baywatch,'" said Michela Di Mondo, Fremantle's EVP for international distribution, as quoted by Variety.While Fremantle is repping on international sales, Fox Entertainment Global holds domestic distribution rights.

Dolly Singh to host the awards night of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne



Actor and digital creator Dolly Singh will take centre stage at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2026, where she has been selected to host the festival's prestigious awards night. Singh will also attend the festival as an official guest and panelist. According to the information released by IFFM, along with hosting the awards night to be held on August 13, she will also share her views in a special panel discussion on the topic 'Role of Women in Different Forms of Storytelling in Cinema'. The 32-year-old actress said, "It's an honour to be a part of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne in so many different ways. Hosting the awards night was a very special experience, but what makes me even happier is that I've been invited to the festival as a guest and panelist. I believe that women are changing the way storytelling is done today with fresh thinking and new perspectives." She said his journey hasn't been limited to acting. Through sketches, mini-series, microdramas, and directing and producing his own projects, the actress has learned that the power of a story lies not in its big budget, but in its truth and emotional impact. Singh is excited to celebrate Indian cinema on a global platform and share his thoughts with creative artists. Over the past few years, Singh has expanded beyond being a digital content creator to become an actress, writer, director, and producer. She has also established a strong presence in new storytelling mediums by creating, directing, and presenting original mini-series and micro-dramas.

Makers dismiss speculation over Salman Khan's fee as 'SVC63' gears up for Mumbai schedule

Production on the next key schedule of Salman Khan's film "SVC63" will begin in Mumbai on August 6, with the makers firmly denying speculation surrounding the actor's reported fee. The film is being directed by Vamshi Paidipally. The approximately six-week schedule will feature three major action sequences and several crowd scenes featuring hundreds of junior artistes. This is considered to be one of the film's largest shooting phases. According to sources, this schedule was originally planned to be shot in Hyderabad, but was later moved to Mumbai. The action team has prepared large-scale scenes, which will feature Khan's stunts and crowd activities. There is also talk that actress Nayanthara may join the film's team during this schedule. The filmmakers clarified that recent reports regarding the 60-year-old actor's fees are mere speculation and have no truth to them. They stated that their sole focus is on delivering a great cinematic experience, not reacting to unconfirmed reports.

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