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YUGMARG

◆CHANDIGARH ◆PUNJAB◆HARYANA ◆HIMACHAL PRADESH◆DELHI◆JAMMU & KASHMIR ◆UTTARAKHAND



**DRESS CODE, STUDENT
UNIFORM AND COLOUR
SCHEME FOR CBSE
SCHOOLS FINALISED**

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**CM ASKS
OPPOSITION
PARTIES TO
INTROSPECT
BEFORE
QUESTIONING
GOVT POLICIES**

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**'MISMATCHED' SEASON
4: ROHIT SARAF,
PRAJAKTA KOLI WRAP
FILMING FOR FINAL
SEASON**

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NEWS BRIEFS

**Chandigarh
tenants, landlords
to get UIN as UT
notifies new
tenancy rules**

CHANDIGARH: Every tenancy agreement in Chandigarh will now have to be intimated to the Rent Authority online within two months of its execution, with landlords and tenants set to receive a government-issued Unique Identification Number (UIN) within seven days under the new tenancy rules notified by the UT Administration on Thursday. The Union Territory of Chandigarh Tenancy Rules, 2026, operationalise the Assam Tenancy Act, 2021, as extended to Chandigarh, and seek to bring greater transparency, accountability and speed to the tenancy ecosystem, covering registration of tenancy agreements, rent revision, recovery of possession and dispute resolution, officials said.

**atch effectively
decided after East
Zone's comma
nding first-i**

INGS TOTAL of 708, skipper Ishan Kishan declared at 388/1 in their second essay after 99.2 overs. The declaration brought the final to an end and sparked celebrations among the East Zone players. Mounai Quraishi was at the centre of the final day's action, remaining unbeaten on 116 off 190 balls to register his maiden first-class century. Anukul Roy provided valuable support with a composed 64 as the pair put on 150- for the seventh wicket. East Zone had taken a stranglehold on the final after Kishan's extraordinary 270 and Kumar Kushagra's 101 powered them to 708 in the first innings. Kishan then added 80 in the second innings, finishing the match with 350 runs. Jharkhand's players made a significant contribution.

**Haryana issues
strict snake-
safety protocol
for govt schools**

UNI PANCHKULA: In a significant child-safety intervention, the Haryana Directorate of School Education has issued a detailed advisory for government schools across the State to prevent the entry of snakes into school premises and ensure a safe, scientific and coordinated response in the event of a snake sighting or suspected snakebite. The advisory, issued on September 9, 2026, directs schools to strengthen preventive measures, maintain emergency preparedness and avoid panic or unsafe attempts to handle snakes. The Directorate has underlined that ensuring the safety of students and staff is a primary responsibility of the education system, particularly during and after the monsoon season when the possibility of snakes entering school campuses and buildings may increase.

**Calcutta HC allows
Mamata Banerjee's
Hooghly rally, bans
procession**

KOLKATA: The Calcutta High Court allowed former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee to address a political meeting at Mahesh in Hooghly's Sreerampore on September 11, but barred the organisers from taking out any procession. Justice Saugata Bhattacharya granted conditional permission to the Kalighat Trinamool Congress to hold a meeting at the Jagannath Deb Snanpuri Maidan in Mahesh on Thursday. The court directed that the programme be held between 1 pm and 3 pm, and that the gathering not exceed 2,000 people.

China confirms Xi Jinping's visit to India for 18th BRICS summit

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, SEPT 10

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the 18th BRICS Summit in the national capital from September 12 to 13, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed on Thursday, setting the stage for a closely watched India-China engagement on the sidelines of the major multilateral gathering. According to a statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, President Xi will travel to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the summit. "At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi, President Xi Jinping will attend the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi from September 12 to 13," the statement read.

The confirmation comes after weeks of anticipation over Beijing's representation at the summit and amid signs of renewed diplomatic engagement between New Delhi and Beijing. India is hosting the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit on September 12 and 13 at Bharat Mandapam, with the expanded grouping expected to deliberate on issues ranging from trade and financial cooperation to technology, artificial intelligence, energy security, climate action and reforms of global institutions. Xi's visit is particularly significant, as it would mark his first trip to India since his informal meeting with Prime Minister Modi in Mamallapuram in 2019 for the 2nd India-China Informal Summit. The visit also comes against the backdrop of efforts by the two sides to stabilise bilateral ties following years of tensions along the Line of Actual Control. Any interaction between PM Modi and President Xi during the BRICS gathering is therefore expected to attract considerable diplomatic attention.



Ahead of the Chinese confirmation, India's Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami had made a strong case for using India's BRICS presidency to deepen cooperation between the two Asian powers. In an opinion piece published in Chinese daily Global Times, Doraiswami said that India and China, as two of the world's most populous emerging economies, have a shared interest in maintaining a stable relationship. He described a "stable, predictable, and amicable" India-China relationship as important not only for their combined population of 2.8 billion people but also for global peace, stability and prosperity. "As we look toward the upcoming BRICS summit hosted by India, there is a valuable opportunity to deepen China-India cooperation on issues of mutual concern, from trade and connectivity to climate action, public health and the digital economy."

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PM invites France, World to join India's Next Space Frontier

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for collective global action to keep outer space safe, secure, peaceful and sustainable, while inviting France and other countries to join India as "co-travellers" in its next phase of space exploration. Addressing the first International Space Summit in Paris through video conference, Modi said the growing number of space-faring actors, increasingly crowded orbits, and rapid advances in technology had made international cooperation and responsible conduct more important than ever. "I am happy to be a part of the first International Space Summit," Modi said, thanking French President Emmanuel Macron for the invitation and for taking the "timely initiative" to bring the international space community together.

Two AK-47 rifles, 50 live cartridges recovered in amritsar; three held



YUGMARG BUREAU CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR: In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Commissionerate Police Amritsar has busted an illegal arms supply network with the arrest of three accused persons, and recovered two AK-47 rifles along with three magazines and 50 live cartridges from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Thursday.

Those arrested have been identified as Gurmukh Singh (27), a resident of village Chhattiwind in Amritsar Rural; Parasdeep Singh (26), a resident of Bhai Manj Road in Amritsar; and Gurjant Singh (24), a resident of village Jaur Singh Wala in Tarn Taran.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused were in contact with a foreign-based arms smuggler and were involved in supplying illegal arms to criminal elements in the region.

The DGP said that further investigation is underway to establish backward and forward linkages in this case to identify other persons involved in this module, besides, verifying the foreign-based smuggling connection, and uncover the wider illegal arms supply network. Sharing operational details, Commissioner of Police (CP) Amritsar Harmanbir Singh Gill said that acting on specific intelligence input, police arrested two suspects, identified as Gurmukh Singh and Parasdeep Singh, and recovered two AK-47 rifles along with three magazines and 50 live cartridges from their possession. During further investigation, the arrested accused disclosed that the illegal arms had been procured through Gurjant Singh, said the CP, while adding that based on their disclosure, Gurjant Singh was nominated in the case and subsequently arrested by the police.

SC issues notice to Centre on plea seeking safeguards for minors accessing social media

UNI
NEW DELHI, SEP 10

The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice to the Centre on a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking safeguards, including firewalls, to protect children below 18 years from online exploitation and other risks associated with social media and other digital platforms.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joydeep Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing the plea filed by NGO Just Rights for Children Alliance (JRCA).

While issuing notice, Justice Bagchi orally observed that there should



be safeguards like firewalls to protect children in the digital environment.

The plea raises concerns over minors being allowed to independently create and maintain accounts on digital platforms despite their inability

to enter into contracts under Section 11 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.

The petition says the absence of an effective and uniform mechanism to verify the age and legal authority of users exposes children to risks including online grooming, sexual exploitation, digital trafficking, sextortion, behavioural profiling, misuse of personal data, cyberbullying and exposure to age-inappropriate content. The plea has sought directions to the Centre to inform digital platforms, including social media intermediaries, that any contract entered into by a child below 18 is void ab initio and to suspend steps taken in furtherance of such contracts.

MHA asks Ladakh leaders to respond to questions before Article 371 draft

UNI
SRINAGAR, SEP 10

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) to deliberate and reach consensus on around 8-10 key issues concerning the proposed political architecture of Ladakh before the drafting of a constitutional amendment under Article 371.

Addressing a press conference Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra, who was part of the Sub-Committee meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday, said the discussions had moved forward on the proposal to create a union Territory-level elected body under a special



constitutional framework for Ladakh.

He said the representatives of LAB and KDA had agreed that elections to the proposed UT-level body should be held directly through con-

stituencies rather than indirectly through the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs).

However, several issues relating to the powers and functioning of the

proposed body remain to be settled, he said.

"There are certain questions regarding the relationship between the LAHDCs and the UT-level body, what powers will come under the jurisdiction of the LAHDCs and what powers will come under the UT-level body," Kundra said.

He said a list of around 8-10 questions had been shared with the leaders who attended the meeting and they had been asked to deliberate on them, consult among themselves and with the people and convey their views to the Centre.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs has already started working on it. As I said, we have given them a set of questions."

BSP chief Mayawati sacks nephew Akash Anand from party for second time

UNI LUCKNOW: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) family drama continues to hog the limelight in Uttar Pradesh politics, with party chief Mayawati on Thursday morning sacking her nephew and erstwhile political heir, Akash Anand, from the BSP for the second time.

Ashok Sidharth, father-in-law of Akash, announced his retirement from active politics this morning as per the condition set by Mayawati for the revival of his nephew in the party post. The day started with Ashok Siddharth announcing his retirement from active politics through a letter to Mayawati.

"I am retiring from political and social life right

now. I owe my life to Behenji. Retirement is a small thing. Even if I give my life for you, that would be a matter of pride for me," Ashok Siddharth wrote. He further said, "Whether or not to give Akash Anand responsibility after my retirement is your decision. You gave me the opportunity to rise from the Legislative Council to the Rajya Sabha. I swear I have never done anything against the party, but some people within the party are working against me, and the allegations against me are not true." He also said, "I have not met Akash Anand for a long time and did not give any advice to him. My political opponents are conspiring against me, but one day the truth will be revealed."

It has also sought insertion of a specific provision in the Information Technology Rules, 2021, or framing of appropriate guidelines to ensure that minors do not enter into such agreements without the consent of a parent or lawful guardian, with the identity and authority of the parent or guardian being verified through e-KYC or another legally recognised mechanism.

The petition further seeks directions for advisories requiring parental or guardian involvement wherever minors are permitted to access digital platforms, with safeguards proportionate to the nature and risk of the service, as well as interim directions until the government puts an appropriate mechanism in place.

Rahul Gandhi announces 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign in Indore on Sep 19

NEW DELHI: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday announced his next campaign, 'Chhatron Ki Goonj', which will be held on September 19 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Through a post on X, Gandhi addressed "students, youth and India's Gen Z", saying the entire country is watching them as he alleged that a "broken education system" has extinguished their hopes and pushed their future into darkness. "My dear students, youth, and India's Gen Z. The entire country is watching with you as today a broken education system has extinguished the flame of your hopes and pushed your future into darkness," the Congress MP said.

He said that under the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign, he would meet students in different cities to understand their challenges, adding that listening to their voices, concerns and opinions was necessary to bring changes to the system. "Through 'Chhatron Ki Goonj,' I am meeting you in different cities to understand your challenges. As part of



this campaign, on September 19, I will once again be among you, in Indore. But to change this system, it is essential to hear the voice of every student in the country, their pain, and their opinion," he said. Sharing a link along with his post, Gandhi urged students to reach out to him with their concerns and suggestions. "Your problems. Your suggestions. Together, we will bring hope back," he said. The campaign, launched by Congress leaders in 2026, aims to provide a platform for students to raise concerns related to examination irregularities, paper leaks, rising education costs, recruitment issues and unemployment.

Malwa College students excel in BA sixth-semester results



KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH: Students of Malwa Group of Colleges, Sardulewala, performed well in the BA sixth-semester (May 2026) results declared by Punjabi University, Patiala. Sneha Garg, daughter of Subhash Garg, topped the college with 459 marks (91.80 per cent) and also secured the first position in Sardulgarh subdivision. Dilpreet Kaur, daughter of Sarvinder Singh, stood second with 439 marks (87.80 per cent), while Ramandeep Kaur, daughter of Kuldeep Singh, secured third position with 434 marks (86.80 per cent). Chairman Jatinder Singh Sodhi congratulated the students, parents and faculty, attributing the results to the students' hard work and teachers' dedication. He said the institution remained committed to providing quality education and nurturing students' talent. Managing Director Raj Sodhi said students' achievements reflected the success of an educational institution and added that the college focused on their academic as well as overall development. The college faculty also congratulated the successful students and wished them a bright future.

AIIMS Bathinda highlights importance of early detection through CME on newborn screening



ANANTDEEP KAUR
BATHINDA: The Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology, AIIMS Bathinda, successfully organized the Newborn Screening Awareness Programme & CME 2026 on 5th September 2026, under the theme - From Birth to Breakthroughs. The programme aimed to promote awareness regarding newborn screening, early identification of inherited and metabolic disorders and timely intervention for better outcomes in affected children. The programme was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Ratan Gupta, honourable Executive Director, AIIMS Bathinda. Prof. (Dr.) Seema Kapoor, Prof. of Excellence, Genetics department, MAMC, New Delhi and a pioneer in newborn screening in India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Prof. (Dr.) Inusha Panigrahi, Professor & Unit Head, Genetics, PGIMER Chandigarh, was the Guest of Honour. The programme was further supported by the Co-Patrons – Prof. (Dr.) Lajya Devi Goyal, Prof. (Dr.) Akhilesh Phatak, Prof. (Dr.) Gitanjali Goyal, and Prof. (Dr.) Rajni Gupta. The Scientific programme included expert lectures, panel discussions, scientific abstract and poster presentations, painting competition and sharing of patient experience and success stories.

MLA Sekhon inaugurates Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Center at village Dhillwan Khurd and Bhagthala Kalan



SURINDER PAL
FARIDKOT: Taking another important step towards further strengthening the infrastructure of health facilities in villages, MLA Gurdi Singh Sekhon inaugurated the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Center at village Dhillwan Khurd and Bhagthala Kalan. On this occasion, S. Sekhon said that the Punjab government is giving special priority to providing quality and convenient health facilities to the people of the state. He said that with the strengthening of the health services infrastructure in the villages, people will have access to basic health facilities near their homes and they will not need to go far away for minor health problems. He said that strengthening health facilities at the village level is an important part of the government's pro-people thinking. The Health and Wellness Center will help in providing facilities like health awareness, basic disease screening and timely health advice to the residents along with basic health services.

CS reviews functioning of Chandigarh Admin; directs efficient budget utilisation and timely implementation of schemes

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, SEPT 10

Chief Secretary, Chandigarh Administration, Shri H. Rajesh Prasad, IAS, today chaired a review meeting with the Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments to assess the progress of various ongoing matters and review departmental functioning. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed all Administrative Secretaries to ensure efficient and optimum utilisation of budgetary allocations, with particular emphasis on preventing the lapse of funds at the end of the financial year. He stressed the need for timely planning, execution and monitoring of expenditure so that allocated funds are effectively utilised for their intended purposes. The Chief Secretary also directed that the accounts of corporations, boards and societies under the Chandigarh Administration be properly maintained and regularly monitored. He further emphasised that meetings of



their respective Boards of Directors should be held strictly in accordance with the prescribed norms and that annual reports be prepared and submitted within the stipulated timelines. While reviewing civic amenities in the city, the Chief Secretary directed the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, to repair and restore non-functional street lights at various locations in a time-bound manner. He emphasised the need for prompt action to ensure proper illu-

mination and improved civic services for residents. The Chief Secretary further directed all concerned departments to ensure that the flagship schemes of the Government of India are implemented in letter and spirit. He called for effective monitoring of outcomes and timely resolution of implementation-related issues. He also stressed the effective implementation of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan in Chandigarh through coordi-

nated efforts by all concerned departments and agencies to achieve the objectives of the campaign. The meeting was attended by Shri Mandip Singh Brar, Home Secretary; Shri Diprava Lakra, Finance Secretary; Shri Saurabh Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests; Shri Harpreet Singh Sudan, Special Commissioner, Municipal Corporation; Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, DIG; and other senior officers of the Chandigarh Administration.

Manish Tewari inaugurates CCTV cameras installed in Sector 43 and Sector 48



CHANDIGARH, SEPT 10

Chandigarh MP and former Union Minister Manish Tewari dedicated the newly installed CCTV cameras in Sector 43 and Sector 48 to the public. The cameras have been installed using funds released under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and will play an important role in ensuring the safety of residents and their valuable belongings. Addressing the

gathering on the occasion, MP Manish Tewari said that enhancing security and maintaining surveillance in public places is an important need of the hour. He said these projects are a significant step towards ensuring public safety and making effective use of public funds. Tewari also expressed his gratitude to the local residents and administrative officials for their cooperation and support, stating that the project would not have been possible without the collective efforts of all

stakeholders. Regional Councillor Prem Lata, JJ Singh, President of Gurdwara Sahib Sector 34 Tejwant Singh Gill, President of Sanatan Dharma Mandir Sector 35 Ramesh Dilawari, Seva Singh, P.D. Vashisht, Rajesh Rai, Vikram Chopra, Ashok Parashar, Lokesh Chopra, Jaswinder Singh, H.S. Tung, S.K. Khanna, Bibi Manjit Kaur, FOS-WAC President Baljinder Singh Bittu, Wasim Mir and several other prominent residents were also present on the occasion.

Three held with 150 liquor boxes in Chandigarh



CHANDIGARH, SEPT 10

The District Crime Cell, Sector 24, Chandigarh, has arrested three persons in two separate cases as part of a crackdown on the illegal trade and supply of liquor. The action was carried out on the directions of Ms Kanwardeep Kaur, IPS, W/SSP/UT, Chandigarh, under the close guidance and supervision of P. Abhinandan, DANIPS, DSP/DCC. The team was headed by Inspector Jasbir, No. 373/CHG, In-charge, District Crime Cell. In the first case, two persons were arrested after police recovered 150 boxes of country liquor from a vehicle allegedly being used to smuggle the liquor. According

to police, on September 9, Head Constable Sulender Kumar, No. 1645/CP, along with other officials, intercepted the vehicle bearing registration number CH01TC1287 on the 31/32 dividing road in Sector 31, Chandigarh. The occupants were identified as Manaton Sah and Krishna Kumar, both residents of Shivalik Vihar, Naya Gaon, Punjab. Police said the vehicle was carrying 100 boxes of Dilbar Santra and 50 boxes of Dilbag Sofia. Following the recovery, FIR No. 155 dated September 10, 2026, under Section 61-1-14 of the Excise Act, was registered at Police Station 31, Chandigarh. Both accused were arrested and further investigation is underway.

Chairman Punjab state cooperative agricultural dev bank inaugurates block level sports competitions at Adampur and Bhogpur



PARAMJIT SINGH
JALANDHAR, SEPT 10

Under the 'Sports Watan Punjab Diyan-2026' being organized by the Punjab Government to promote sports culture in the state, Punjab State Cooperative Agricultural Development Bank Chairman Pawan Kumar Tinu today inaugurated block level sports competitions at Adampur and Bhogpur. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Pawan Kumar Tinu said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government is taking massive efforts for the development of sports

and strengthening sports infrastructure. While more than 3000 modern playgrounds are being built across Punjab, financial assistance is also being provided to the players for their preparation for major competitions under the new sports policy. He said that due to the tireless efforts of the state government, a sports atmosphere has been created in Punjab today. He said that the Punjab government has provided a good platform to players of all ages to showcase their sports talent through 'Khedan Watan Punjab Diyaan'.

DC Hoshiarpur imposes districtwide curbs on weapons, processions, hookah bars and unauthorised semen storage

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, SEPT 10

District Magistrate Ashika Jain has issued a series of prohibitory orders for Hoshiarpur district under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, banning the carrying and display of weapons at public gatherings, uncensored processions, illegal hookah bars and the unauthorised storage, transport, use or sale of bovine semen, among other restrictions. The orders will remain in force until November 7, 2026. Weapons ban at public events: No person within the district limits shall carry weapons to public meetings, religious places, wedding ceremonies, marriage palaces or other programmes. Public display of weapons—physically or



through social media—is completely prohibited, as is playing songs that glorify weapons or violence. Violators will face legal action. Responsibility of marriage palace owners: Owners must ensure that no individual uses or displays weapons during events held at their premises. Night vigil in villages: All village sarpanches have been directed to organise "tokri pehra" (night vigil) to prevent looting, snatching,

Cyber crime team cracks Rs 58-lakh digital currency fraud case, main accused held

SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, SEPT 10

The Cyber Crime Police Station, Pathankot, cracked a Rs 58-lakh digital currency fraud case with the arrest of the alleged main accused, Honey Pathania, a Pathankot resident. Police, led by Amit Singh, SHO, Cyber Crime Police Station, Pathankot, carried out the action.

Amit Singh said Pathankot resident Sangram Singh lodged a complaint alleging that digital currency worth around Rs 58 lakh was fraudulently transferred from his account to another account. A case was registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station, Pathankot, on August 7, 2026. During the investigation, the police used technical tools to trace the transactions and arrested Honey Pathania. Preliminary investigation revealed that the digital currency



was withdrawn from the complainant's account and transferred to several other accounts.

It was subsequently converted into Indian currency through different channels and deposited into bank accounts. Amit Singh said the investigation is still under way to identify other persons involved in the fraud and trace the accounts

and financial transactions linked to the case.

He appealed to people not to invest money in fraudulent or tempting investment schemes and not to share their one-time passwords, passwords, PINs or digital currency account details with anyone. In case of online financial fraud, people should immediately report the matter by calling 1930.

Golden opportunity for Chabbewal's youth to showcase their cricket talent :MLA Dr. Ishank Kumar

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, SEPT 10

Under 'Khedan Watan Punjab Diyan-2026', the youth of Chabbewal constituency are set to get an exciting opportunity to showcase their cricketing talent at the block-level competitions. A tennis-ball cricket tournament will be organised at village Patti on September 14 and 15. MLA Dr. Ishank Kumar has appealed to the youth, cricket players and sports enthusiasts of the constituency to participate in the tournament in large numbers. Dr. Ishank Kumar said that sports are not only essential for physical fitness but also play an important role in developing discipline, teamwork, confidence and leadership among youngsters. Initiatives



such as 'Khedan Watan Punjab Diyan' provide talented youngsters with a platform to showcase their abilities and an opportunity to progress from block-level competitions to district and higher levels. He said each participating team must have a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 16 players. Teams can register online at sports.punjab.gov.in. In case of any issue with online registration, on-spot registration can also be done at the play

ground in village Patti by 9:00 AM on September 14. Each team will play a six-over match, while the winning team at the block level will qualify for the district-level competition.

Calling upon the youth to make the most of this opportunity, the MLA said that the tournament is not merely a cricket competition but a platform for youngsters to put their talent, hard work and sporting spirit on the field.

Work should be done actively to connect every eligible player with the playgrounds: Deputy Commissioner



PARAMJIT SINGH
JALANDHAR, SEPT 10

Deputy Commissioner Varjeet Walia, while reviewing the arrangements and registration of the ongoing 'Sports Homeland Punjab-2026' in the district today, instructed the officials to work actively to connect every eligible player with the playgrounds by reaching the village and ward levels with information related to the games. Here at the District Administrative Complex, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rural Development) Divya P. During a meet-

ing with the officials of the Sports Department and various sports associations of the district, the Deputy Commissioner said that under these games, sports competitions are being organized in 9 age groups from under-14 to over 70 years of age. These games include 38 sports and 4 para-sports, while tennis ball cricket has been included as an exhibition game. Mr. Walia asked the officials to reach out to those talented players who have not yet registered by coordinating with the Panchayats, Youth Clubs, Sports Clubs and Sports Associations.

'Mann government has attacked every pillar of democracy': Advocate Dharni

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, SEPT 10

Launching a blistering attack on the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government, former President of the Fatehgarh Sahib Bar Council and Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) national spokesperson Advocate Amardeep Singh Dharni alleged that the government was systematically weakening the four pillars of democracy—the legislature, executive, judiciary and media.

Addressing a meeting here, Dharni alleged that the government had failed to respect democratic institutions and was increasingly uncomfortable with questions from the Opposition, judiciary and media. Taking aim at the functioning of the Punjab



Vidhan Sabha, he alleged that Opposition leaders were frequently denied adequate opportunity to raise public issues.

He questioned the government's political conduct, alleging that motions and decisions on contentious issues had exposed what he termed the government's "policy confusion and political desperation." On the executive,

Dharni launched an equally sharp attack, alleging that corruption, drugs and deteriorating law and order remained major concerns for Punjab.

Referring to the Aam Aadmi Party's earlier promises to eradicate drugs from Punjab, he asked, "Where are those leaders today who had promised to make Punjab drug-free within months?" He further alleged that government employees were being forced to approach courts to secure their legitimate rights, while ordinary citizens often had to knock on the doors of courts even for registration of FIRs.

He claimed that the government's tall claims about protecting women had failed to match the ground reality.

NEWS BRIEF

Warring condemns AAP
govt for forcibly cremating
Gulzar Singh

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Rajia Warring on Thursday condemned the Bhagwant Mann government of forcibly cremating the body of Gulzar Singh, who died by suicide after being insulted by state Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, describing it as "criminally callous" and "arrogantly insensitive".

In a strongly worded statement, Warring said that the state government had humiliated Gulzar Singh's family by getting his last rites performed against their wishes. "Adding insult to injury. Criminally callous, arrogantly insensitive," Warring said, targeting both Cheema and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann over the incident. The Punjab Congress chief alleged that Cheema was responsible for the circumstances that led to Gulzar Singh taking his own life. He also accused Chief Minister Mann of being responsible for the forcible cremation of Gulzar Singh's body, saying the family had been subjected to further humiliation at a time of grief. "First, an AAP minister Harpal Cheema was the cause for Gulzar Singh's suicide. Now the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is responsible for humiliating the family by forcibly getting Gulzar Singh cremated, against the family's wishes," Warring alleged. He said the incident amounted to "adding insult to a Dalit's injury" and warned that the incident would have lasting political and social consequences for the ruling Aam Aadmi Party government.

Krishna Janmashtami
celebrated with devotion
at Deriwal Gaushala



SHARANJIEET PATHANKOT: Sri Krishna Janmashtami Mahotsav was celebrated with religious fervour, devotion and enthusiasm at Deriwal Gaushala. The event was organised under the guidance of Gaushala president Manmahesh Billa and women's wing president Neelam Saini, with the blessings of Thakur Ji. Thakur Ji was beautifully adorned on the occasion, attracting devotees with the divine decoration. Bhajan singer Rekha Khajuria presented devotional songs, creating a spiritual atmosphere. Tani Sharma enthralled the gathering with traditional Braj congratulatory songs, while Aman Sharma presented "Lal Mera Jug-Jug Jiwe" along with other devotional bhajans dedicated to Lord Krishna. Devotees were seen immersed in devotion and dancing to the melodious bhajans. Neelam Saini and Ranjana Mahajan said that although Deriwal Gaushala was situated away from the city, the divine darshan of Yugal Sarkar and the serene religious ambience gave devotees a feeling of being at Vrindavan Dham.

'From Satauj to Parliament'
showcases CM Mann's
struggle and Public Service



AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: The film 'From Satauj to Parliament', based on Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's life, struggles and journey in public service, was screened at Nova Cinema, Best View Plaza, Doraha. Payal MLA Engineer S. Manwinder Singh Giasspura said the film portrays Mann's challenging journey, hard work and connection with the people. He said the film would inspire youngsters to move ahead with determination and dedication. The screening witnessed enthusiastic participation from party workers and the public, who described it as an effective portrayal of the Chief Minister's journey.

Khuddian chairs District-
Level review meeting
under 'Yudh Nashiyan
Virudh' campaign



ANIL VERMA BATHINDA: As part of the 'Yudh Nashiyan Virudh' campaign launched by the Punjab Government to make the state drug-free, Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Mr Gurmeet Singh Khuddian chaired a district-level review meeting at the meeting hall of the Deputy Commissioner's office. During the meeting, office-bearers of the Nasha Mukti Morcha from all the assembly constituencies of Bathinda district—Rampura, Bhucho Mandi, Bathinda (Urban), Bathinda (Rural), Talwandi Sabo and Maur—along with police and civil administration officials, shared their views on the action being taken against drugs.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Shri Khuddian said that under the 'Yudh Nashiyan Virudh' campaign, 3,248 cases have been registered in Bathinda district and 4,593 offenders have been arrested. He said that action is also being taken on the basis of information received regarding drugs through Village Defence Committees and the Safe Punjab helpline in the district.

Aman Arora strengthens Punjab-Sharjah
trade bridge; focus on joint ventures

SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, SEPT 10

Taking Punjab's UAE investment outreach to the next level, Industries & Commerce Minister Mr. Aman Arora held strategic talks with the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) in Sharjah to forge deeper trade, investment and industrial partnerships between Punjab and the UAE.

The discussions centred on strengthening business-to-businesses (B2B) linkages and establishing a structured framework to help enterprises from Punjab and Sharjah identify partners, forge joint ventures, expand exports and build long-term, mutually beneficial commercial ties.

As a key outcome, the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) and Invest Punjab agreed to intensify industry-to-industry engagement. Invest Punjab will facilitate linkages between Sharjah-based manufacturers, exporters and service providers with suitable Punjab enterprises, while also



handholding Punjab companies seeking to explore business and market opportunities in the UAE, said Mr. Aman Arora.

The Industries Minister showcased Punjab's robust industrial base, vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem and strategic location in North India.

He said that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann-led state government has taken decisive reforms to make Punjab one of India's most preferred investment destinations by simplifying regulations, enhancing ease of doing business and providing end-to-end professional facilitation to investors. Mr. Aman Arora said

that Punjab is looking to move beyond conventional investment promotion to foster two-way business partnerships, enabling companies from both regions to collaborate across manufacturing, exports, services, technology and other emerging sectors. He invited the Sharjah business community to visit Punjab, engage with Invest Punjab and explore opportunities across the state's diverse and fast-growing industrial ecosystem. The discussions particularly recognised the strategic opportunity arising from the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the UAE's expanding net-

DC orders strict action against food adulteration ahead of festive season

PATIALA (RAKESH JINDAL): With the festive season approaching, the Patiala district administration has stepped up its efforts to curb food adulteration and ensure the sale of safe and quality food items. Deputy Commissioner Dr Himanshu Aggarwal has directed the Food Safety Department to launch an intensive checking drive and take stringent legal action against those found selling adulterated, substandard or unsafe food products. Chairing a meeting on food safety, Dr Aggarwal said that no compromise would be made with public health and that any attempt to play with the health of consumers would not be tolerated. He directed officials to keep a close watch on sweets, khoya, paneer, milk products, edible oils, ghee and other food items that witness increased demand during the festive season. The Deputy Commissioner also ordered officials to collect samples of suspected food products and ensure their testing at authorised laboratories.



Dr. Baljit Kaur leads Punjab's
SMILE scheme to restore dignity
and hope beyond begging

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, SEPT 10

Reaffirming the Punjab Government's commitment to ensuring a life of dignity for the most vulnerable sections of society, the Department of Social Security, Women and Child Development, under the leadership of Cabinet Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur, is implementing the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate homeless persons and individuals engaged in begging. The initiative is currently being undertaken in Amritsar, Patiala, Ludhiana and Jalandhar, in line with the vision of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to build an inclusive and compassionate Punjab.

Sharing details, Dr Baljit Kaur said that a survey launched in Amritsar in March 2026 has so far identified 422 persons engaged in begging. Of these, 32 individuals have already been successfully rehabilitated—including 8 reunited with their families, 2 linked to old-age pension benefits, 4 provided Aadhaar cards, 1 extended as-



sistance under the Ashirwad Scheme, 4 shifted to old-age homes, and 13 connected with employment or livelihood opportunities. In addition, 54 individuals have received counselling. She further informed that 168 persons have been identified in Patiala, where rehabilitation efforts are progressing swiftly, while surveys in Ludhiana and Jalandhar are scheduled to commence during the second week of September.

The Cabinet Minister said that the objective of the SMILE Scheme extends far beyond eliminating begging. "Our mission is to restore dignity, security and self-reliance to every individual in need by connecting them with social security schemes,

healthcare, counselling, skill development, education, employment and self-employment opportunities, enabling them to become productive members of society," she said. Dr Baljit Kaur explained that under the scheme, identification and surveys are carried out in close coordination with the concerned departments and local administration. Those requiring immediate assistance are shifted to safe locations where they receive counselling, medical care and other essential support. Wherever families are traced, individuals are reunited with them in accordance with established procedures, while those without family support are linked with appropriate rehabilitation services.

Surjit Singh Rakhra launches Rs 25 Lakh
development works in Samana

TAPINDER SINGH
PATIALA, SEPT 10

Former Cabinet Minister and senior AAP leader Surjit Singh Rakhra on Thursday interacted with residents of Ward No. 2 in Samana as part of the "Punjab Da Ikko Naara, Bhagwant Mann Dubara" public outreach campaign.

During the meeting, Rakhra listened to the issues, suggestions and development-related demands of local residents and assured them of taking up their concerns on priority.

He formally initiated development works worth Rs 25 lakh in Ward No. 2. Besides, additional development works estimated at Rs 16 lakh were also approved in view of the demands raised by residents. To encourage youngsters to take up sports and stay away from drugs and other social evils, sports kits



were distributed among local youth on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Rakhra said ensuring that the benefits of government welfare schemes reach every household and resolving public grievances remained among his top priorities.

He said the overall development of Samana was his major objective and assured that there would be no shortage of funds for development works in the city and the constituency. He further said ef-

forts were being made to provide better facilities to people and accelerate development activities across the constituency.

Former Municipal Council president Kapoor Chand Bansal, Senior Vice-President Paras Sharma, Chairman Ashok Modgil, Sandeep Sharma, Gurbhøj Singh, Inderbir Singh Mattu, Gurdial Singh Randhawa, Bobby Mann, AAP workers and a large number of local residents were present on the occasion.

Sandhwan condoles demise of former
Punjab Minister Chuni Lal Bhagat

CHANDIGARH, SEPT 10

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Sardar Kultar Singh Sandhwan has expressed deep grief over the sad demise of veteran politician and former Punjab Minister Chuni Lal Bhagat, he is a father of Punjab Cabinet Minister Mohinder Bhagat.

In his condolence message issued here today, the Speaker said that the demise of Chuni Lal Bhagat has left a huge, irreparable gap in the field of politics.

Terming him a highly talented, dedicated, gentle, decent and capable politician. He said that he was a leader from whom many got to learn a lot, and his lifelong work will continue to inspire us.

The Speaker highly lauded his contributions to the state, stating that the extensive development work executed by Chuni Lal Bhagat in the Jalandhar region will al-



ways be remembered by the public. He added that the coming generations will learn valuable lessons from his public work and clean politics.

Sharing his heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family, Sardar Sandhwan prayed to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength to the family members to bear this irreparable loss.

Gagandeep Sharma, student of Dashmesh Senior
Secondary School Harinau, Selected for PhD at
Stanford University, USA



RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITO, SEPT 10

Gagandeep Sharma, a talented student of Dashmesh Mission Senior Secondary School Harinau, has brought honor to her family, the institution, her village, and the region by being selected for a PhD program at Stanford University, USA, through her hard work, dedication, and academic brilliance. Gagandeep Sharma completed her education from nursery to Class 12 at this very institution; notably, she secured the third position in the Faridkot district in the Punjab

School Education Board's Class 10 examinations. In the 2020-21 academic session, she brought glory to the school by securing the first position across Punjab in the Class 12 (Non-Medical) stream. Her proud achievement has sparked a wave of joy in the village of Harinau. Family members, teachers, and villagers have congratulated Gagandeep Sharma on this magnificent feat and wished her a bright future. Baljit Singh, the Managing Director of the institution, stated that Gagandeep achieved this milestone through hard work.

Cheques worth Rs. 33 lakh distributed
for eight Dharamshalas

BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA, SEPT 10

The cheques worth Rs. 33 lakh approved by Sangrur Lok Sabha MP Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer for the development of various religious and social institutions of Dhanaula city under the MP Local Area Development Scheme were handed over to the representatives of the concerned institutions in the Municipal Council office today by Halka Incharge Harinder Singh Dhaliwal.

On this occasion, a cheque of Rs. 5 lakh for the crematorium located on Dangarh Road was given to social worker Dr. Shankar Kumar Bansal Ambale Wale and Dr. Chiman Lal Dangarh Wale. Apart from this, cheques of Rs. 3.50 lakh were given to Mata Gujri Kaur Sansthan, Rs 5 lakh to Jeevan Singh



Dharamshala, Rs 3 lakh to Brahmin Sabha, Rs. 3.50 lakh to Dhillion Patti SC Dharamshala, Rs 5 lakh to Nanakpura Dharamshala, Rs. 3 lakh to Bhaini Sahib Aggar Dharamshala and Rs. 5 lakh to Bhatlan Road, Harinder Singh Dhaliwal said that the state government is giving priority to development works.

Development works are being done in cities and villages as per the requirement. He said that efforts are being made to complete the works

which have remained incomplete due to lack of funds at the earliest. On a question about the pending amount of kutchha houses, Dhaliwal said that some problems had arisen due to changes in the policy of the central government and the verification process. Now action is being taken to remove these and the due amount will be deposited in the accounts of the eligible beneficiaries. He said that in some cities this amount has already been received by the beneficiaries.

Blood donation camp at DAV Public
School on 45th deathanniversary of
Amar Shaheed Lala Jagat Narayan



SURINDER PAL
KOTKAPURA, SEPT 10

Dedicated to the 45th death anniversary of Amar Shaheed Lala Jagat Narayan, a blood donation camp was organized at DAV Public School Kotkapura in collaboration with PBG Welfare Club, Guru Gobind Singh Medical Hospital team and Baba Milk. This camp was organized under the able leadership of the school principal Dr. Rajvir Singh Kang, in which the school staff, parents, youth and local residents enthusiastically participated and gave the message of service to humanity. During

the camp, a large number of blood donors arrived and donated blood voluntarily. After checking the health of the blood donors by the medical team, blood was collected with full caution and in a proper manner. 51 units of blood were donated during this camp. Principal Dr. Rajvir Singh Kang said that blood donation is a great social service, which can save the life of a needy person. He said that such a service on the occasion of the death anniversary of the immortal martyr Lala Jagat Narayan is a true tribute to his feelings of dedication towards public welfare and humanity.

Dharna at committee headquarters seeking Haryana
committee chief's resignation continues for third day

SARABJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA, SEPT 10

The dharna staged by committee member Sardar Gurtej Singh at the gate of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee headquarters in Kurukshetra, demanding the resignation of committee president Jagdish Singh Jhinjra, continued for the third consecutive day.

After the committee's current office-bearers and members, former members also extended their support to the protest. Those extending support included former general secretary Sardar Sukhwinder Singh Mandabar, former members Sardar Amrao Singh Chhina, Inderjit Singh Vasudeva, Beant Singh Nalvi and Paramjit



Singh Makha, besides Sardar Baldev Singh Habri, Babu Singh Cheeka, Swaran Singh Bunga Tibbi and vice-president Gurbir Singh Talakaur.

The supporting members said that the questions and demands raised by Gurtej Singh were justified. They said the president should provide point-by-point, fact-based and

written replies to all the questions. They added that elected members have every right to seek information regarding the committee's functioning and decisions.

They appealed to president Jagdish Singh Jhinjra to resolve the matter through dialogue or resign from his post.

Technical training imparted to farmers to
increase area under oilseed crops

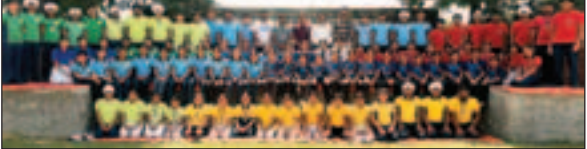


HARPAL SINGH
AMRITSAR, SEPT 10

A farmer training programme under the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds (NMEOS) was organised today at Krishni Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Nag Kalan, under the guidance of Chief Agriculture Officer, Amritsar, Shri Amarjit Singh Dosanjh. The programme aimed at providing farmers with technical knowledge about scientific cultivation of oilseed crops and encouraging them to increase the area under mustard and toria cultivation. Farmers from Jandiala Guru, Attari and Verka blocks

participated enthusiastically in the training programme. During the training, farmers were provided detailed technical information on the scientific cultivation of major rabi oilseed crops, particularly mustard and toria. On the occasion, Dr. Raminder Kaur, Professor, KVK Nag Kalan; Dr. Aastha, Assistant Professor; Dr. Narinderpal Singh, Professor; and Dr. Gurmeet Singh, Assistant Professor, FASC Amritsar, provided farmers with information on the selection of improved varieties, use of quality seed, crop management, balanced and judicious use of fertilizers, pest.

Miri Piri Khalsa Academy students win
53 medals at District-Level Games



KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH, SEP 10

Students of Miri Piri Khalsa Academy, Kahnewala, put up an impressive performance at the district-level sports competitions, winning 53 medals across various disciplines. The students won 20 gold, 25 silver and eight bronze medals. In boxing, they secured five gold, 18 silver and seven bronze medals, while wrestling brought four gold and five silver medals. The students also won three gold medals each in judo and kickboxing. The Under-19

girls' volleyball team and Under-19 boys' modern pentathlon team won two gold medals each. One gold medal was secured in kabaddi. In kho-kho, the Under-19 and Under-14 girls' teams won two silver medals, while the Under-14 boys' team secured a bronze. Chairman Inderjit Singh, Principal Pradeep Soni and coaches Satpal Singh, Sandeep Kumar, Karamveer Singh and Vandana Rani congratulated the players and their parents on the achievement and wished the students success in their future endeavours.

Dress code, student uniform and colour scheme for CBSE schools finalised

Govt committed to provide quality education closer to homes: CM

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, SEPT 10

A meeting of the Education department regarding the finalisation of dress codes for teachers, uniforms for students and the colour scheme for buildings of CBSE schools was held here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

It was decided in the meeting that students of the CBSE schools would have a distinct uniform based on a green colour scheme. The female teachers of these schools will wear a light lilac purple dress while male teachers will wear light blue trousers and shirts. The buildings of these schools will be painted in olive green and sand beige shades. It was



also decided that the dress code for teachers would be neat, formal, modest and professional, with minimal accessories. Teachers will also be required to wear their identity

cards while on duty. The Chief Minister said that the state government was committed to providing quality education in the schools and ensuring that students

have access to quality educational facilities closer to their homes. The state government had released Rs. 80 crore for the development of necessary infrastructure in the CBSE schools and strengthening facilities for students and teachers. He added that an additional Rs. 5 crore would also be released for these schools to further improve the educational environment and ensuring that students receive quality education at their door-steps. MLAs Suresh Kumar, Chander Shekhar and Neeraj Nayyar Member, H.P. Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission Vijay Pal Singh, Secretary, Education Rakesh Kanwar, Director, School Education Ashish Kohli and other senior officers were also present in the meeting.

Nurpur Police seize drug smuggler's assets worth Rs 3.32 crore

UNI
NURPUR : Nurpur Police have secured confirmation for the seizure of assets worth over Rs 3.32 crore allegedly acquired through illegal drug trafficking, officials said on Thursday. Superintendent of Police Nurpur Ilma Afroz told UNI that the "action relates to FIR No. 167/25 registered at Damtal police station on December 29, 2025, under Sections 20 and 29 of the NDPS Act against Balwinder alias Billa, son of Gyan Chand, a resident of Channi village in Indora tehsil of Kangra district." Afroz said that the "police has arrested the accused after recovering 1.852 kg of charas from his possession." She added that "during the investigation, a

financial probe was conducted into the accused's movable and immovable assets. Properties suspected to have been acquired from proceeds of illegal drug trafficking, including a hotel-cum-restaurant, shops, motor vehicles and bank accounts, have been identified and temporarily frozen." "Total value of the assets has been assessed at Rs 3,32,32,352.94. The Nurpur police submitted its financial investigation report to the competent authority in New Delhi", S P Ilma said. Ilma Afroz highlighted that the competent authority, through order No. NDPSA/FO/1098/DEL/2026 dated September 9, confirmed the seizure of assets valued at Rs 3,32,30,941, allegedly acquired through the illegal drug trade.

AEDPs to provide industry exposure and new career opportunities to students: Education Minister

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, SEPT 10

The Higher Education department today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur (BOAT-NR) for implementation of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDPs) in 16 government degree colleges of the state from the academic session 2026-27. The MoU was signed in the presence of Education Minister Rohit Thakur between North Zone Director, BOAT-NR, Vivek Kumar on behalf of BOAT-NR and Principals of 16 colleges. Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Thakur said that this initiative aims to bridge the gap between classroom education and industry requirements by



providing students with practical workplace experience along-with a recognised undergraduate degree. He said that the state government was laying special emphasis on skill-based education and strengthening employment opportunities for the youth. He said that under the AEDPs, students would pursue industry-oriented degree programmes in banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), logistics and retail operations management. The programmes combine academic learning with a mandatory apprenticeship component of at least six months in an industry, with

students being provided a minimum guaranteed stipend of Rs. 10,900 per month. The programme will provide students an opportunity to gain practical workplace experience alongside their academic studies and develop skills relevant to industry requirements. The Minister said that five AEDP courses have been approved for implementation, while the first phase has commenced with three programmes including B. Commerce, banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI); B.Com. retail operations management and B.Com. logistics in 16 government degree colleges.

Anurag Thakur concludes parliamentary committee study visit, reviews key mining and steel PSUs



ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel, chaired by former Union Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament Anurag Singh Thakur, concluded its study visit to Kochi with three important meetings focused on strengthening India's mineral and steel capabilities. On the concluding day, the Committee reviewed the functioning of key public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Mines, including National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL). Anurag Singh Thakur and committee members interacted with senior officials to assess production capacity, operational efficiency, expansion plans and strategic initiatives required to meet India's growing demand for non-ferrous metals, which are critical for industrial manufacturing and the clean energy transition. The Committee then held two detailed sessions with the Ministry of Steel and representatives of KIOCL Ltd., MSTC Ltd. and MECON Ltd. on strengthening national supply chains and infrastructure. Discussions focused on upgrading iron ore handling infrastructure in India, identified as crucial for reducing logistics costs and improving operational efficiency.

Kotla Khurd culvert slab delay angers residents



KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Even though the pillars at Kotla Khurd Culvert were installed two months ago; the slab has not yet been laid. Residents of Kotla Khurd expressed resentment over this situation against the Public Works Department Una. It is also noteworthy that Kotla Khurd area now under the Municipal corporation Una. Residents of Kotla Khurd said that they have been facing very trouble for the last one year due to slow process of Kotla Khurd Culvert construction. Moreover temporary road adjoining this culvert was proved dangerous for the two wheeler riders. About to two or three accidents occurred every month at this temporary road. Parveen Mankotia resident of Takka road Unaretired Assistant Director of Language and Cultural Department Himachal Pradesh also said that Slab at this Kotla Khurd Culvert should be laid as soon as possible.

State-of-the-art smart computer labs to be set up in 25 schools; digital education to get a boost with an investment of Rs 2.50 cr

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, SEPT 10

Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Mahajan stated that a significant initiative has been launched to connect students studying in the remote and rural areas of the aspirational district of Chamba with modern technology and digital education. Based on his recommendation, state-of-the-art smart computer labs will be established in 25 selected government secondary and higher secondary schools across Chamba district. Approximately Rs 2.50 crore will be spent on this project. Mahajan informed that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has signed the agreement to implement this ambitious



project on the ground. Through this project, smart computer classrooms and modern digital educational facilities will be developed in the selected schools, directly benefiting thousands of students. He noted that Chamba is not only an aspirational district but also a geographically challenging region, where many children pursue their education in

remote and inaccessible areas. In this context, extending modern digital facilities to the farthest corners of these villages and mountainous terrains is crucial. Launched with the support of the Central Government, this project will prove to be a milestone in connecting students in government schools with technology-based education.

Harsh Mahajan expressed special gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri for this project. He remarked that the Rs 2.50 crore being provided for the education of Chamba's students at his request is not merely financial aid, but a significant investment in the future of the district's children. Mahajan said, "Providing modern and quality education to the children of Chamba is among my top priorities. We strive to ensure that a child studying in even the most remote mountainous region does not lag behind any other child in the country when it comes to digital education and technology.

Bus service launched for Kareri Area residents after 79 years



SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: Following the launch of a bus service for the Kareri area after 79 years, Rani Devi (Pradhan of Panchayat Khadi Bahi), Hemraj (Up-Pradhan), panchayat members, and other local residents met with Shahpur MLA and Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania at the Congress office in Rait today to express their gratitude. Speaking on the occasion, Kewal Singh Pathania stated that resolving public grievances and providing better transport facilities in the area are his top priorities. He noted that the area's long-standing demand has been fulfilled with the government's support and affirmed that future works concerning the public interest would also be completed on a priority basis. While thanking MLA Kewal Singh Pathania for initiating the bus service, the panchayat representatives and local residents described it as a historic and significant achievement for the region.

Party's top leadership's guidance always gives us new energy: Suresh Kumar

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR, SEPT 10

Bhoranj MLA Suresh Kumar recently met All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal during his visit to New Delhi and discussed ongoing organisational activities in Himachal Pradesh. Suresh Kumar is the sitting Congress MLA from Bhoranj. During the meeting, Suresh Kumar also submitted a detailed report on the party's recently organised Sangathan Srijan Programme in Hooghly district of West Bengal. Discussions covered organisational activities in West Bengal, the participation and enthusiasm of party workers, strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level and future



organisational strategies. Congress had undertaken organisational and outreach activities in West Bengal during the 2026 Assembly election period, including programmes involving its senior leadership. (INC) Suresh Kumar said the guidance of the party's top leadership always provides new energy and inspiration. He said the organisation is working to take Rahul Gandhi's message of "Nafrat ke bazaar mein mohabbat ki dukaan" and the Congress's

stated principles of equality, fraternity and social harmony to people. He said efforts to strengthen and activate the party organisation up to the booth level would continue in accordance with the directions given by Venugopal. Addressing journalists after the meeting, Suresh Kumar criticised the policies of the BJP-led central government, alleging that they had adversely affected common people and that inflation was at a high level.

25 Chamba schools to get smart computer labs on MP Harsh Mahajan's recommendation

SUBHASH MAHAJAN
CHAMBA, SEPT 10

Twenty-five government secondary and senior secondary schools in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district will get smart computer labs under a Rs 2.50-crore project aimed at strengthening digital education in the remote and rural areas, Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Mahajan said. The project will be implemented by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) under a memorandum of understanding signed for the initiative, Mahajan said. The selected schools will be equipped with smart computer classrooms, modern computers, necessary furniture and e-learning facilities, benefiting



thousands of students, he said. Mahajan said Chamba, an aspirational district with difficult geographical terrain, has a large number of students studying in remote and mountainous areas. Providing them access to modern digital learning facilities would help bridge the technology gap and improve their educational opportunities, he said. "Providing modern and quality education to the children of Chamba is among my priorities. Our endeavour

is to ensure that a child studying in a remote area of the hills does not lag behind any other child in the country when it comes to digital education and technology," Mahajan said. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri for supporting the project, describing the Rs 2.50 crore allocation as an investment in the future of Chamba's children.

'Sankalp Expedition-2026' sets sail on Govind Sagar, 70 NCC Cadets begin 330-km challenge

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, SEPT 10

The ambitious 'Sankalp Expedition-2026' was formally launched from Luhnu Ground on Wednesday, marking the beginning of an approximately 330-km sailing expedition across Govind Sagar Lake involving nearly 70 NCC boys and girls cadets and over 30 instructors from four states. Executive Director of AIIMS Bilaspur, Lt Gen Dr Daljit Singh, AVSM, VSM (Retd.), flagged off the boats after receiving a Guard of Honour from the cadets. On the opening day, the contingent covered nearly 32 km and reached Salnu. Addressing the cadets, Lt Gen Dr Daljit Singh said that the NCC is a powerful platform for instilling discipline, courage, leadership and a spirit of service to the nation



among youth. He added that such expeditions not only make young people physically and mentally stronger, but also teach them to face difficult situations with confidence and determination. A major highlight of the expedition was an all-women cadet crew independently operating one of the boats, presenting an inspiring example of Nari Shakti, self-confidence and leadership. Around 200 NCC school cadets from Bilaspur also attended the inaugural

ceremony. Later, a special awareness programme on de-addiction and mental health was organised at the Multipurpose Cultural Centre, where cadets staged a street play highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse. AIIMS experts Lt Col Dr Bhupendra Yadav (Retd.) and child psychologist Shivranjani Singh interacted with cadets on mental well-being, stress management, suicide prevention and ways to stay away from drugs.

Kamlesh Kumari questions Cong over one lakh jobs promise

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR, SEPT 10

BJP Mahila Morcha general secretary and former MLA Kamlesh Kumari on Thursday questioned the Himachal Pradesh government over its election promise of providing one lakh permanent government jobs within a year. Kumari asked Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to explain the status of the employment promise made during the Assembly elections. She alleged that despite a large number of vacant posts in various government departments, unemployed youth in the state were still waiting for recruitment. Kumari said



the Congress had made several promises and announced guarantees during the election campaign, raising expectations among unemployed youth, employees, women and weaker sections. However, she alleged that the government had failed to deliver on its employment commitments. She demanded that the government make public a department-wise statement of vacant posts, the number

of recruitments made so far and the status of pending recruitment processes. "The youth of Himachal want regular recruitment, a transparent selection process and permanent jobs, not speeches," Kumari said. She also demanded that the government issue a recruitment calendar and complete all pending recruitment processes within a stipulated timeframe. Kumari alleged that the Congress was attempting to divert attention from its earlier promises by changing the interpretation of its guarantees and making fresh announcements. She said the BJP would continue to raise the concerns of unemployed youth and press the government to provide a clear account of its employment commitments.

Irrigation network gets major boost in Haroli



KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Irrigation infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh's Haroli Assembly constituency is receiving a major boost, with several projects aimed at providing assured irrigation to agricultural land in the area, officials said. Since December 12, 2022, 17 irrigation tubewells costing around Rs 14 crore have been completed and dedicated to the public, providing irrigation facilities to 482 hectares of agricultural land, officials said. Work on 32 more irrigation tubewells, being executed at a cost of around Rs 31 crore, is underway. On completion, these projects are expected to provide irrigation facilities to around 875 hectares. In addition, around Rs 13 crore is being spent on modernisation and upgradation of the command areas of 17 irrigation schemes, which will provide full irrigation coverage to about 850 hectares. A major component of the expansion is the Beetha Irrigation Scheme Phase-II under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. The project, estimated to cost around Rs 75 crore, is 75 per cent complete and is targeted for completion by June 2027.

NEWS BRIEF

Mobile food labs boost food safety surveillance in Himachal

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA: Food safety surveillance in Himachal Pradesh has received a boost with five Mobile Food Testing Laboratory (MFTL) vans being operated by the Health Safety and Regulation Department to check food quality and create awareness about adulteration, an official said. Jitendra Sanjta, IAS, Joint Commissioner (Food Safety)-cum-Director, Health Safety and Regulation, said the mobile laboratories are currently operating in Shimla, Solan, Kullu, Sirmaur and Bilaspur districts. The vans provide on-the-spot testing facilities to the public, food business operators and other stakeholders as per a scheduled programme, he said. Sanjta said the mobile laboratories conduct tests for various food safety parameters, including edible oil quality through TPC meter and acid value tests, total soluble solids (TSS) and sugar content through refractometers, iodine and starch tests, and pH-based testing of water. He said the initiative had also accelerated field-level sampling and testing.

Bhupendra elected Shimla Zila Parishad chairman



DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA: Bhupendra was on Thursday elected chairman of the Shimla Zila Parishad, while Bharat Singh Kalanita was elected vice-chairman following voting held at the Bachat Bhawan here. The election was conducted under the supervision of Shimla Deputy Commissioner and presiding officer Anupam Kashyap. Bhupendra secured 13 votes against 10 polled by Surendra Retka for the chairman's post. Two votes were declared invalid. For the vice-chairman's post, Bharat Singh Kalanita secured 14 votes, defeating Meenakshi, who received 10 votes. One vote was declared invalid. After the election process, Kashyap administered the oath of office to the newly elected chairman and vice-chairman.

Rahul Gandhi, Kharge's 'Purification ritual' divisive conspiracy, political game: Nitin Nabin

AGENCY DEHRADUN, SEP 10

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Nitin Nabin has termed the Congress party's Haldwani Ramlila Ground Purification ritual controversy as a "divisive conspiracy" by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and politics played by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge. He also alleged that Congress leaders wanted to defame Devbhoomi Uttarakhand. In his scathing attack against the Congress party's allegation of purification ritual at Haldwani's Ramlila ground after party president Mallikarjun Kharge's rally carried out by the right wing workers, BJP National President Nitin Nabin called it a "divisive conspiracy" by Rahul Gandhi and Kharge. He alleged that Kharge attempted to play a political game



in the guise of an allegation as to a purification ritual carried out by right-wing workers patronised by the state government. Addressing party's state Executive Committee meeting in Haldwani, Nabin described Uttarakhand as "party's land of ideological commitment." Claiming the Uttarakhand

Assembly poll outcome as a "forgone conclusion" in BJP's favour, Nabin asked the party state leaders that they must move on for 2029 General elections after a resounding victory in 2027 state elections. Nabin expressed that the saffron victory streak will not stop in Uttarakhand given the workers' capability and public trust on them. "Congress National President is engaged in political games and hatched a conspiracy to divide people on caste lines. Their divisive politics and intention can never demean sacred land of Uttarakhand. For us, lord Shiva resides in every particle of this land. That is the belief we hold," claimed Nabin. BJP national president said, "They attempted to play political games, using the holy land to raise slogans favoring a particular religion disregarding the state's ethos. You wanted to play politics and attempted to

bake your political bread on it. I view this as nothing short of a conspiracy." Questioning the Congress leaders' history, Nabin asked "What does your past say? What did you do to Sitaram Kesri? You have a history of insulting the dalit community members.

When Dr BR Ambedkar was defeated in the elections, Nehru Ji wrote a letter to Edwina Mountbatten, stating he succeeded in defeating BR Ambedkar in the election and it was a major victory for him." Continuing his charges, Nabin said "That has been your intent. You have insulted the leadership of a Dalit family's son, who wrote the Constitution and gave direction to the nation. Congress illtreated Babu Jagjivan Ram and threw him out of the party-that is your history." "Recently in Rajasthan, a dalit Congress leader was publicly beaten up.

Golden community protests in Barara, seeks withdrawal of UGC rollback



JAIBEER RANA BARARA, SEPT 10

Members of the Golden Community took out a peaceful march in Barara on Thursday demanding withdrawal of the UGC Roll Back and submitted a memorandum addressed to the President of India through the tehsildar. The march began from the Grain Market and passed through the main market before reaching the SDM office. A large number of people, including senior citizens and youth, participated despite the scorching heat and raised slogans in support of their demands. As the SDM was not present, the memorandum was received by the tehsildar. The

protesters demanded withdrawal of what they described as a "black law". Community representatives said their protest was not against any individual or caste but was directed solely against the law. They urged the government to reconsider the legislation and take steps for its withdrawal. They warned that if the BJP government failed to withdraw the law, the community would respond democratically through its vote in the coming elections. Representatives of Punjabi, Jat, Rajput, Brahmin and Vaishya communities, besides members of other sections of society, participated in the march and expressed solidarity with the protesters.

Seva Sankalp Abhiyan will be celebrated with various activities from Sept 17 Oct 17

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, SEPT 10

Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said that under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan being run by the government, a grand Rangoli would be organized in Purushottampura Bagh over an area of 2,000 square feet. This rangoli will use grains, fruits, flowers, leaves, and other materials to depict the colors of national service. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will participate in the programs to be held in Kurukshetra on September 17 under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan. A grand rangoli, a blood donation camp, the Aashirwadka Diya initiative, and a drone show will be organized at the world-famous Brahmasarovar. He was giving necessary



directions to officials in a meeting held on Thursday in the video conference hall of the Mini Secretariat. Earlier, Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi gave some necessary directions regarding the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan through video conference. He said that various types of competitions, festivals, and programs would be organized in the district from September 17 to October 17. The district administration has assigned responsibilities to different departments for all preparations related to these programs. He said that under

AI, technology cannot diminish relevance of Hindi: Speakers

RAKESH BHAYANA PANIPAT, SEPT 10

The relevance of Hindi cannot be diminished by the growing use of artificial intelligence and technology, speakers said at an inter-college debate organised at Arya Postgraduate College here as part of Hindi Fortnight. The event was organised by the Hindi Sahitya Parishad of the college's Hindi Department. The Hindi Fortnight is being observed from September 1 to 14. The debate, slogan-writing and poster-making competitions were aimed at promoting Hindi and encouraging students to develop their literary, creative and communication skills. Students from various



faculties participated in the competitions. Principal Prof (Dr) Jagdish Gupta said Hindi was an integral part of India's identity and culture. He said students should remain conscious of the importance of the language in the era of AI and technology. "Hindi is continuously expanding at the global level and technology has opened new avenues for its use," he

said. The topic of the debate was "The future of Hindi is secure in the era of AI and technology", with students presenting arguments both for and against the motion. BJMC second-year student Anjali, speaking in favour, said a large section of India's population continued to use Hindi in daily life and its presence was expanding in AI and technology. MA

second-year student Khushboo said Hindi had also emerged as a language of employment, with its use increasing in digital and literary fields. B.A. second-year student Bhavana, speaking against the motion, said Hindi's future could not be considered secure unless its purity, Devanagari script and cultural context were protected amid growing technological dependence. Otherwise, she said, the language could risk becoming merely a "machine language". The slogan-writing competition focused on promoting Hindi, while students used illustrations and colours in the poster-making competition to depict the expansion and enrichment of the language.

80% of Panipat industrial issues resolved; anti-encroachment drive from Sept 11

RAKESH BHAYANA PANIPAT, SEPT 10

The district administration has resolved nearly 80 per cent of issues raised by industrialists, while an anti-encroachment drive in HSIIDC areas will begin from September 11, officials said. The issues were discussed at a meeting organised by the Haryana Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Panipat Exporters Association at Gymkhana Club. Deputy Commissioner Dr Harish Kumar Vashisht, Municipal Commissioner Dr Pankaj Yadav and officials of various departments attended the meeting. Industrialists raised issues related to roads, power supply, sewerage, sanitation, drainage, fire safety, pollution, MSMEs, GST



refunds, HSVP and HSIIDC. The DC said the administration was giving priority to industrial grievances and had brought officials of various departments on a common platform to ensure their time-bound resolution. He said gaps in the implementation of government schemes would also be addressed. Haryana Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Vinod Dhamija said nearly 80 per cent of the

issues raised at the previous meeting had been resolved by different departments. He said it had been decided to hold such meetings every two to three months to facilitate direct interaction between industrialists and the administration and keep them informed about government schemes, policies and regulations. Dhamija said the issue of encroachments and slums in HSIIDC areas was also raised.

Chhathi festival of Thakurji celebrated at Geeta Gyan Sansthanam with reverence

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, SEPT 10

Inspired by Geeta Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj, the Chhathi festival of Ladle Thakur Ji was celebrated grandly at Geeta Gyan Sansthanam with reverence, enthusiasm, and devotional spirit. The event was organized by the Shri Krishna Kripa Gaushala Committee, Kurukshetra. The program was inaugurated by the chief guest Sanjeev Seekri and special guests prominent social worker Mahavir Madhan, Dr. Anshul Mangla, Praveen Goyal, and Jagdeep Singh by lighting the ceremonial lamp. During the lamp-lighting ceremony the devotees present raised slogans in praise of Lord Krishna, Ladle Thakur Ji, and Mother Cow. On this occasion, renowned bhajan



singer Dr. Mohan Taneja, who came from Hisar, moved the devotees deeply with his sweet, soulful, and devotional performances. By presenting popular Krishna bhajans such as "Bihari Mera Rang Rasiya," "Nand Ke Anand Bhayo, Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki," and "Bar-Bar Jaun Balihaari, Mere Raman Bihari Ji," he filled the entire atmosphere with devotion to Krishna. During the singer's performances, the devotees were seen immersed in devotion,

playing cymbals and clapping their hands. Many devotees kept swaying and singing along to the bhajans, and the entire siteechoed with chants of Radhe-Krishna. On the occasion of the Chhathi festival, the special tradition of naming Ladle Thakur Ji was also carried out with devotion and due ritual observance. During this, three slips were drawn. The devotees whose names were drawn were honored by being given the form of Thakur Ji.

Health Department Barnala performs more cataract operations than target



KARANPREET KARAN BARNALA: Health Department Barnala has successfully performed 121 percent more cataract operations than the target set by the Punjab government under the NPCB program. Expressing happiness on this achievement, Civil Surgeon Barnala Dr. Haripal Singh Sidhu specially honored the government and private eye experts and supporting staff. District Vaccination Officer-cum-Nodal Officer Dr. Harjit Singh said that under the 'National Program Control of Blindness', 66 special screening camps were organized during the year 2025-26 with the support of government and private doctors, staff and social service organizations. In these camps, the eyes of 11,806 people above the age of 50 were examined, during which cataract surgeries were performed on 6,263 people. Senior Medical Officer Barnala Dr. Indu Bansal, Dr. Amoldeep Kaur, Dr. Deepti Gupta (Civil Hospital Barnala) and Dr. Gursimranjit Singh (Sub-Divisional Hospital Tapa) and staff were honored for making people aware of cataract screening and providing excellent services. Apart from this, Ophthalmic Officers Rupinder Singh and Gurmeet Singh, Madam Aradhana Sehgal (Assistant NPCB), officers/employees of the Office of Civil Surgeon Barnala and Block Extension Educators were also honored.

Free dental check-up conducted for 351 students at Modern Education School, Adhoya



JAIBEER RANA BARARA: The Rotary Club Barara organized a free dental check-up camp at Modern Education Senior Secondary School in Adhoya village with the objective of creating awareness among children about oral health and hygiene. A team of expert dentists from M.M. College of Dental Science and Research, Mullana, examined the students during the camp. A total of 351 students of the school underwent dental check-ups. The medical team, led by Dr. Saima Ali, examined the teeth and gums of the children and educated them about the importance of maintaining proper oral hygiene. The doctors advised the students to brush their teeth twice a day, follow the correct brushing technique, get regular dental check-ups and avoid excessive consumption of sugary foods. The children were also demonstrated the proper method of brushing their teeth. During the examination, the doctors checked the students for cavities, dental problems, gum-related issues and other symptoms related to oral health.

RBU hosts international conference on arbitration, technology and global justice

LK BANSAL MOHALI, SEPT 10

Rayat Bahra University School of Law in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Arbitration and Mediation (IIAC), New Delhi, organised a two-day international conference on "Arbitration, Technology & Global Justice" in hybrid mode. Prof. (Dr.) Akhilesh Kumar, Dean, USL said that the conference brought together judges, academicians, legal practitioners, industry leaders and more than 60 authors from India and abroad to deliberate on the growing role of technology in arbitration and whether technology can advance justice without compromising its human



dimension. Justice Rajiv Sharma (Retd.), former Acting Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court, was the chief guest at the inaugural session. He described arbitration as "the future of justice" and cautioned against excessive reliance on technology, observing that while an algorithm could calculate, it could not comprehend fairness. Navin Kumar Singh, CEO, IIAC, New Delhi, called for strengthening India as an

arbitration destination with the slogan "Make in India, Arbitrate in India", while Jawad A.J., Registrar and CEO, IIAC/IAMC Hyderabad, stressed the need for professional and institutional arbitration, warning that a single data leak could undermine confidence in the process. Prof. (Dr.) Enas Qutieshat, Dean, Faculty of Law, Sohar University, Oman, highlighted arbitration as the universal language of global trade.

TIMT welcomes freshers with vibrant fresher's party

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, SEPT 10

The Department of Management of Tilak Raj Chadha Institute of Management & Technology (TIMT), Yamunanagar, organised Fresher's Party-2026 to welcome students of BBA and MBA first year. The event, held at the M.L.N. Auditorium, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members. The programme began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolising knowledge and new beginnings. It was followed by a graceful group dance on Ganesh Vandana presented by Pooja and her group from MBA third semester. A lunch



was also organised for the students as part of the celebrations. The highlight of the event was the ramp walk by BBA and MBA freshers. The newcomers displayed confidence, creativity and personality while walking the ramp. The sessions were interspersed with a series of cultural performances, including a skit by Hardeep and group,

solo dance performances by Mandeep and Anjali and group, a duet by Vanshika and Gauri, a Punjabi group dance by BBA fifth-semester students, and a duet by Nandita and Maninder. Fun games added to the excitement, while the final ramp walk brought together the freshers for a spirited display of talent and enthusiasm.

CM asks opposition parties to introspect before questioning govt policies

YUGMARG BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 10

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, on Thursday, said that the biggest change brought about under Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's leadership has been in the delivery of governance, with welfare benefits now reaching eligible beneficiaries directly instead of people having to make repeated rounds of government offices.

Referring to Congress leaders entering the State Assembly wearing black clothes, the Chief Minister said they may have forgotten the shortcomings of their tenure, but the people of Haryana still remember the difficulties they faced under the previous system. He said that during the Congress regime, people had to make repeated rounds of government offices to avail themselves of welfare schemes, senior citizens faced difficulties in getting pensions, people had to wait for days to obtain LPG cylinders, and youth faced challenges in securing jobs.

He said that over the past 12 years, the double-engine governments at the Centre and in Haryana, under the lead-



ership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, have transformed the delivery mechanism and ensured that government schemes and services reach eligible beneficiaries directly and transparently.

The Chief Minister stated this while responding to questions from media persons during a press conference held at Haryana Niwas on Thursday. Referring to the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party in Haryana and Punjab, he advised opposition parties to intro-

spect before questioning the policies of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi.

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Sh. Krishan Kumar Bedi, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Sh. Arun Gupta, Commissioner and Secretary, Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department, Sh. K. Makrand Pandurang, Director, Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department, Dr Aditya Dahiya, OSD to Chief Minister, Sh. Vivek Kalia, Additional Director, Information, Public Relations, Languages Department, Capt. Manish Kumar Lohan and other senior officers also remained present on this occasion.

The Chief Minister said it seems that Congress leaders in Haryana had worn black clothes following Rahul Gandhi's call and added that Congress leaders, particularly Bhupinder Singh Hooda, should tell the people about the system that prevailed for the poor, youth, women, senior citizens and the common man during their tenure. He said that BJP-led double-engine governments are working to fulfil the commitments made to

the people in a time-bound manner.

The Chief Minister said that governments led by Congress and other opposition parties made several announcements to attract voters but often failed to translate them into benefits on the ground. As elections approached, fresh announcements were made, while earlier commitments remained unfulfilled.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, the system has undergone a significant transformation.

Today, financial assistance under various welfare schemes is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries. He said the government is working to strengthen the poor, empower women, ensure dignity for senior citizens and provide greater opportunities to youth.

The Chief Minister said that in keeping with the promise made to the women of Haryana before the elections, financial assistance of Rs. 2,100 per month is being transferred directly into their bank accounts under the Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana.

FIRs to be lodged against hotel and petrol pump owners repeatedly creating illegal cuts on highway: Shambhu Rath

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA, SEPT 10

Shahabad SDM Shambhu Rath stated that FIRs would be registered against hotel and petrol pump owners who repeatedly create illegal cuts on National Highway-44. No compromise regarding road safety will be tolerated, and strict legal action will be taken against those violating highway regulations. SDM Shambhu Rath, accompanied by other committee members, conducted a field inspection regarding road safety in accordance with the orders of Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena. During the exercise, a detailed inspection of identified 'black spots' on National Highway-44 was carried out alongside officials from relevant departments. Inspector Joginder Dhull, Police Inspector Sher Singh, and other members were present on the occasion. During the inspection, officials observed illegal cuts at several locations on the highway, which were identified as major causes of road accidents. Vehicles enter the highway from the wrong direction through these illegal cuts, posing a risk of serious accidents. Taking cognizance of this, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate issued strict instructions on the spot to National Highway Authority of India



(NHAI) officials to close all black spots and illegal cuts on the highway with immediate effect.

He reiterated that no compromise on road safety would be tolerated. He directed that if any hotel, restaurant, 'dhaba', or petrol pump owner repeatedly opens an illegal cut for personal gain, a case should be registered against them in accordance with the law. Strict legal action will be taken against violators of highway rules. Officials instructed the NHAI to improve arrangements—such as speed breakers, signboards, reflectors, service lanes, and necessary barricading—at black spot locations to curb accidents.

Four held in 4 separate liquor smuggling cases; 715 litr of lahan,30 bottles of illicit liquor seized

RANVIR PARASHAR

KAITHAL: Acting on the orders of SP Manpreet Singh Sudan, the Kaithal district police are conducting an ongoing campaign against those involved in the manufacture and sale of illicit liquor. As part of this initiative, four accused were apprehended in four separate cases, and a total of 715 liters of 'lahan' and 30 bottles of illicitly distilled liquor were recovered from their possession. A police spokesperson stated that in the first case, a team led by Head Constable (HC) Ashish Kumar of the Rajound Police Station acted on a tip-off and apprehended the ac-

cused, Ranbir Singh, at his farm shed located on the road connecting Rajound village to Santokh Majra. During search, 300 liters of lahan were recovered from two plastic drums kept in shed. In second case, a team led by Probationary Sub-Inspector (PSI) Sunil Kumar of the Rajound Police Station acted on a tip-off and raided a poultry farm owned by the accused, Surrender—a resident of Ward No. 1, Rajound—located on the Rajound-Santokh Majra road. Surrender was apprehended, and the search yielded 100 liters of lahan from a plastic drum and 30 bottles of illicit liquor from a plastic can.

Amnee P. Kumar holds meeting with Food & Supplies and Sports Dept officials

YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA, SEPT 10

Amneet P. Kumar Principal Secretary of the Food & Supplies and Sports Departments Haryana, held a meeting with officials from both departments at the Irrigation Department Rest House in Pehowa. Upon her arrival, SDM Rahul Kanwaria welcomed the Principal Secretary by presenting her with a bouquet. Addressing the meeting, Principal Secretary Amneet P. Kumar noted that the Kharif season has commenced. She urged all officers and staff to remain vigilant regarding their duties and to ensure that relevant tasks are completed on time to prevent any issues during the season. The Principal Secretary directed officials to arrange for periodic fumigation of the wheat stock



During the meeting, the Principal Secretary directed Sports Department officials to prioritize the provision of basic amenities to athletes in government-run sports dums and sports nurseries at the district level. She emphasized that prop-

er arrangements for sports kits, cleanliness, drinking water, and other essential facilities must be ensured for players in all stadiums. The Principal Secretary instructed all officers and staff to discharge their duties with utmost honesty, responsibility, and promptness so that the benefits of government schemes and policies could effectively reach the general public and athletes. DFSC Naresh Kumar, who was present at the meeting, stated that government procurement operations would begin on October 1, in accordance with government policy. A requisition for stock requirements for the Kharif season has already been sent to headquarters. Others present on the occasion included DFSC Naresh Kumar, DSO (Sports) Manoj Kumar, Deputy Director (Sports, Ambala Zone) Kavita, Market Committee Secretary Chandra Singh, etc.

Effective public service and organisational strengthening are both essential: Renu Bala

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, SEPT 10

Mayor Renu Bala Gupta participated in a meeting of mayors held at the BJP state office 'Panchkama' in Panchkula, chaired by BJP Organisation Minister Phanindranath Sharma. She shared her views and suggestions on various issues related to public service and urban development.

The meeting discussed the role of mayors of various urban local bodies, strengthening the organisation, maintaining continuous communication with the public and the upcoming action plan.

Renu Bala Gupta said urban local bodies have a direct connection with citizens and that addressing their day-to-day needs and problems is an important responsibility of elected

representatives. She said public representatives should remain accessible to residents, understand their concerns and work towards ensuring their timely resolution.

She added that, alongside development works, adequate



attention should be given to sanitation, environmental protection, civic amenities and public welfare. She said stronger coordination between party workers and elected representatives, along with regular public out-

reach, is an important foundation for strengthening the organisation. The Mayor also shared suggestions regarding the upcoming action plan and said coordinated efforts could further accelerate development in cities. She emphasised that effective

grassroots efforts are necessary to ensure that government welfare schemes and development initiatives reach the last person in society. Chairing the meeting, BJP Organisation Minister Phanindranath Sharma said mayors have an important responsibility towards both organisational activities

and public service in their respective cities. He stressed the need for elected representatives to remain responsive to public expectations and local issues while actively participating in organisational programmes.

Sanitary pad vending machine installed at Sugni Devi School

KARAMBIR

LADWA: A sanitary pad vending machine has been installed at Sugni Devi School by Bharat Vikas Parishad, Ladwa, with a focus on the health and hygiene of female students. The objective of this service project is to ensure easy access to sanitary pads for students when required and to raise awareness regarding menstrual hygiene. Rajiv Arya, President of the Parishad, stated that the health and dignity of daughters is a collective responsibility of society. Along with raising awareness about menstrual hygiene, it is essential to provide the necessary facilities. The Parishad prioritizes service projects related to students' health, hygiene, and values, alongside education. Installing this machine at the school is a meaningful step in this direction. Priyanka Goyal, the Parishad's Women's Activity Coordinator, emphasized the need for open awareness regarding issues related to the health and personal hygiene of adolescent girls. The machine will provide students with easy access to sanitary pads whenever needed, offering them great convenience.



This service project was sponsored by Nidhi Goyal. Parishad office-bearers expressed their gratitude for her support, noting that such efforts undertaken for the public good contribute significantly to women's health and empowerment. School Principal Pooja Chhabra thanked Bharat Vikas Parishad, Ladwa, describing the installation of the machine as a beneficial initiative for the school regarding the students' convenience and health. It will ensure that students can easily obtain sanitary pads when the need arises.

Siddheshwar Brahmarshi Gurudev conferred honorary D.Litt., the highest academic honour

YUGMARG BUREAU

JAIPUR: Om Siddheshwar Brahmarshi Gurudev was conferred the honorary Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) degree for his notable contribution to education and society at the eighth convocation of Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Rajasthan Sanskrit University. Rajasthan Governor and Chancellor of the university Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde presented the prestigious honorary degree to Gurudev at the convocation ceremony.

The honour recognises Gurudev's work in the fields of education, Indian culture, spirituality and human values and was described as a matter of pride by his followers and devotees.

After receiving the honorary D.Litt., Om Siddheshwar Brahmarshi Gurudev said the true purpose of education is not merely to acquire knowledge or employment, but to develop individuals who are wise, sensitive, cultured and committed to



humanity.

He said there is a need for an education system that develops not only a person's intellect but also their character and personality. India's cultural and knowledge traditions have always helped provide direction to life, he said, adding that it is important to connect the younger generation with culture, values and human principles alongside modern education.

Gurudev expressed his gratitude to Governor and Chancellor Haribhau Kisan-

rao Bagde and Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Rajasthan Sanskrit University for conferring the honorary degree. He said the honour was not merely a personal achievement but also a recognition of all those who continuously contribute to education, service, culture and human welfare.

On the occasion, Governor and Chancellor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde said Sanskrit is not merely an ancient language but an important foundation of India's rich

knowledge tradition. He said greater use of Sanskrit would help the language expand its reach further.

Referring to the Indian knowledge tradition, the Governor said ancient Indian sages and scholars had made significant contributions to several fields of knowledge and science. He said India's ancient intellectual heritage was exceptionally rich and that the younger generation should be introduced to this tradition, with greater attention given to studying its scientific and practical dimensions.

The Governor said that although the library of Nalanda University was destroyed by fire, knowledge itself could never be destroyed. He said people preserved knowledge in their minds and traditions and passed it from one generation to another. He added that India's knowledge tradition had influenced several parts of the world.

Ambala administration's assurance leads Viresh Shandilya to suspend symbolic hunger strike

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
AMBALA, SEPT 10

Viresh Shandilya, chief of Vishwa Hindu Takht, suspended his symbolic hunger strike over the incomplete construction and alleged poor condition of the historic Naurang Rai Talab in Ambala after receiving assurances from the district administration.

SDM Darshan Singh, representing the Ambala Deputy Commissioner, reached the protest site and received a memorandum addressed to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini from Shandilya. He subsequently offered juice to Shandilya, following which the symbolic hunger strike was suspended.

The protest follows earlier demands by Shandilya for the restoration and redevelopment of Naurang Rai Talab. On September 7, he had announced that he would undertake a symbolic hunger strike on September 10 if restoration work did not resume.

Shandilya said the administration had assured him that his memorandum would be forwarded to the Chief Minister and that appropriate action would be taken on the demands concerning Naurang Rai Talab. He clarified that the hunger strike had been suspended in view of the assurance but that the



agitation had not ended. He said that if concrete action was not taken, Vishwa Hindu Takht would resume peaceful democratic agitation and could hold a hunger strike outside the Haryana Chief Minister's residence.

Through the memorandum, Shandilya questioned the status of the proposed corridor and bathing ghats, asking why the project remained incomplete despite substantial expenditure on the construction and beautification of the pond. He also sought information on the status and findings of the vigilance inquiry related to the project.

He demanded that a department-wise and work-wise account of the expenditure incurred so far on the construction and beautification of Naurang Rai Talab be made public.

Pagri' ceremony for Sadhu Ram Singla, founder of Shri Ram Rice Group, on September 13

KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: Tarawari, September 10 (Kamal Sharma): The tribute meeting and 'Pagri' ceremony (turban-tying ceremony signifying the succession of family responsibility) for the renowned industrialist and founder of Shri Ram Rice Group, Sadhu Ram Singla, will be held on Sunday, September 13, at Anmol Garden, Rawar Road, Karnal. He passed away on August 28. His demise sent a wave of grief through Tarawari, as well as the rice milling and industrial sectors. Lala Sadhu Ram Singla—an industrialist and patron of the Shri Hanuman Seva Samiti Annapurna Dham Annakshetra—was respected for his humble nature, social engagement, and religious activities. Representatives from rice milling and industrial sectors, socio-religious organisations, dignitaries, and leaders from various political parties expressed deep sorrow over his passing. Everyone remarked that the loss of Sadhu Ram Singla is irreparable for both society and the industrial world. Throughout his life, he prioritized hard work, simplicity, and social causes. Since his passing, a large number of people have been visiting his residence to offer condolences to the bereaved family and pay tribute to the departed soul. Residents of the city shared their memories of him and conveyed their sympathies to the family. The tribute meeting and 'Pagri' ceremony for the late Lala Sadhu Ram Singla will take place on Sunday, September 13, at Anmol Garden, Rawar Road, Karnal.



Hry Youth Congress extends support to sanitation and fire workers' strike

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, SEPT 10

Haryana Youth Congress has extended its support to the ongoing strike by sanitation and fire workers in the state. Mukesh Chaudhary, Vice-Chairman of the Media Department of Youth Congress Haryana, said the Congress government had formulated policies to regularise contractual employees and alleged that the BJP government was exploiting employees.

Chaudhary said the Congress had traditionally focused on public and employee welfare. He alleged that sanitation workers who had been serving as contractual employees for 15 years or more were still awaiting regularisation. He said the employees'

strike in Haryana had continued for more than a month, but alleged that the state government had not shown suffi-

demned what Chaudhary described as police action against women employees.

He urged the government to immediately hold talks with representatives of the protesting employees and work towards resolving their demands. He also called for a concrete policy to regularise contractual employees who have been serving for a long period.

Chaudhary said the Youth Congress stood with the employees in their demand for their rights and justice. He urged the government to abandon confrontation and seek a permanent resolution to the agitation through dialogue.



cient seriousness in addressing their concerns. The Youth Congress also con-

EDITORIAL

RBI plans to expand financial asset tokenisation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to expand the tokenisation of financial assets by bringing more asset classes onto its digital market infrastructure, Executive Director P. Vasudevan said on Wednesday. Speaking at a fireside chat on “Tokenisation of Financial Assets” at the Global Fintech Fest 2026 in Mumbai, Vasudevan said the RBI’s experience with its Unified Markets Interface (UMI) had provided a strong foundation for expanding tokenisation. “Unified Markets Interface has been a good launch pad. We are hopeful to add more asset classes to it, and that will actually make the ecosystem much bigger,” he said. Vasudevan said the RBI had been experimenting with tokenisation infrastructure and had already tested the tokenisation of certificates of deposit. With the successful testing and growing interest from the financial ecosystem, he said, more asset classes could eventually be brought onto the platform. He noted that tokenisation could potentially cover the entire lifecycle of a financial transaction, including issuance, trading and settlement. The RBI official also highlighted the potential of combining tokenised financial assets with the central bank digital currency (CBDC) on a common platform. Such integration could enable the asset and payment components of a transaction to move together, creating a more seamless financial ecosystem. However, Vasudevan cautioned that the expansion of tokenisation would require careful attention to data management, privacy, security and interoperability. If multiple platforms provide similar tokenisation services, he said, ensuring that they can interact with each other would be critical. He also pointed to potential financial stability risks arising from the faster movement of assets and money. In particular, the ability to leverage the same assets multiple times within a short period could create new risks. “Let’s look at this from a fintech perspective but also from a stability perspective,” Vasudevan said, stressing that the benefits of tokenisation must be balanced with appropriate safeguards. He said tokenisation had the potential to significantly transform the management and movement of financial assets, while emphasising the need for a secure, interoperable and stable financial system.

Will the BRICS Summit move towards de-dollarisation?



As the BRICS summit approaches, all eyes, from stock market players across the world to heads of powerful central banks, will be on any moves that may crop up during the meeting of leaders of these emerging economies, which are perceived to threaten the primacy of the US dollar in global trade and financial settlements. De-dollarisation as a process has come into focus despite its slow progress, mainly on account of statements by US President Donald Trump targeting the BRICS group of nations with a threat of being slapped with 100 per cent tariffs if they seek to replace the primacy of the dollar in global trade.

All ministers and officials concerned with managing the money and trade markets of Moscow, New Delhi, or Beijing have repeatedly insisted that none of the BRICS countries are in any way pursuing any form of ideological war against the dollar. However, the practical effect of their policies, to cushion trade from

geopolitical risks, has certainly worked to chip away at the financial architecture that has underpinned the international order since the Second World War.

While de-dollarisation may not be explicitly discussed at the BRICS summit slated for the end of this week, currency swaps and trade architecture are more than likely to figure in country-to-country negotiations on the sidelines of the conference.

The leaders of the original members - India, Russia, China, Brazil, and South Africa - are expected to hold several significant bilateral talks among themselves and with the leaders of a number of other countries which have recently joined BRICS, such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia, UAE, and Ethiopia. Intra-BRICS trade was estimated to have been worth USD 1.17 trillion in 2024 and is believed to be growing at an annual average rate of 13 per cent. In terms of total exports, the share of BRICS stands at 24 per cent of

the world’s.

The various moves by BRICS countries towards settling payments in national currencies, such as the Rupee-Rouble agreement between India and Russia, or China’s attempts to sell and buy in Yuan and not the dollar, which till recently denominated trade, have as yet failed to hasten any significant de-dollarisation of international trade settlements. As of 2026, some 54 per cent of global invoicing and settlement of trade is dollar-denominated, and this has remained so for many years now. In fact, it has gone up from about 50 per cent in the year 2000.

However, while trade invoicing and settlements have held steady, the dollar’s share in foreign exchange reserves has been experiencing a gradual but definitive decline. In the year 2000, some 71 per cent of the total foreign exchange reserves of all countries were held in dollars. By 2026, this has come down to about 57 per cent, a drop of 14 per

cent in a quarter of a century.

“This is obviously a clear sign that central bankers in many countries are weighing in geopolitical risks with holding large stashes of dollars and spreading that risk by buying either other currencies or the ultimate safe haven, that is bullion,” said a member of the Reserve Bank of India’s monetary policy-making team, who did not wish to be named. That vote of no confidence has also now spread to keeping gold bullion by central banks in the US itself.

The Dutch central bank transferred some 86 tonnes of gold valued at over USD 10 billion from North America to London between March and August this year. Before this, in January 2026, France sold 129 tonnes of gold it had held in the US, or about 5 per cent of its reserves. With the money from the sale, France bought bullion in Europe and stored it in the vaults of its own central bank. This mirrors an action taken some 9 years back during President Trump’s first presidency

when Germany’s Bundesbank transferred 300 tonnes of gold to its own vaults in Frankfurt.

On Tuesday, Kremlin’s spokesperson Dmitry Peskov summed up what is happening, by claiming that while the BRICS was not in favour of any de-dollarisation policy, member states, many of whom cannot settle in dollars because of sanctions, “are simply doing what better corresponds with our national interests,” adding that it was “American actions which have been undermining confidence in the dollar”. Peskov pointed out that Russia’s answer to the problem of being increasingly isolated from Western financial markets because of sanctions imposed on it has been to build alternative payment channels. From India’s perspective, the problem is particularly complicated as New Delhi has simultaneously become one of the world’s largest buyers of Russian crude while seeking to preserve access to Western markets, technology and capital.

India and Bangladesh reaffirm commitment to bolster bilateral defence cooperation



Sheikh Hasina in India and her outreach to the media. Dhaka’s growing ties with Pakistan are also an irritant.

According to the Dhaka Tribune, the two officials discussed expanding cooperation between the armed forces, including joint training, professional exchanges and the sharing of military experience.

The two officials also discussed the prospect of greater cooperation in disaster management and maritime security, areas that have gained importance because of the two countries’ geographical proximity and shared regional interests.

Trivedi said India attached importance to its military and strategic relationship with Bangladesh and reiterated New Delhi’s willingness to work with Dhaka on capacity building, professional training and other areas linked to shared security concerns.

The latest meeting formed part of Trivedi’s broader engagement with senior Bangladeshi officials.

Last week, he met Bangladesh’s Local Government Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan at the Secretariat in Dhaka, with their discussions revolving around local government, free trade and efforts to maintain direct links between people in the two countries.

India and Bangladesh have reaffirmed their commitment to bolster bilateral defence cooperation, with both nations also discussing joint military training, professional exchanges, disaster management and maritime security. The issues were discussed at a meeting between Bangladesh Prime Minister’s Defence Adviser Brigadier General (ret’d) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi at the Defence Adviser’s office in Dhaka Cantonment on Wednesday.

The two officials exchanged greetings before discussing ways to deepen professional engagement between their armed forces.

The issues that were put on the table included joint training programmes aimed at improving the professional standards of the armed forces, exchanges of military officers and training experience, disaster management, regional peace and maritime security.

During the meeting, Trivedi also praised the Bangladeshi government’s initiatives in the socio-economic sector. The two sides also stressed the importance of working together to promote regional stability and address common security challenges.

The meeting comes as relations between New Delhi and Dhaka continue to remain strained, with several diplomatic issues still under discussion, including the continuing presence of former prime minister

Union Bank's maiden dollar bond draws 7.8x subscription, listed at GIFT City



Union Bank of India’s maiden US dollar-denominated bond issuance was oversubscribed by around 7.8 times and listed on NSE-IFSC at GIFT City, marking the bank’s return to international debt capital markets after a 12-year gap. The listing was held at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, through a bell-ringing ceremony organised by NSE International Exchange (NSE IX), the bank said in a press release. In a press release the bank said that strong investor response is a sign of confidence in its financial position and growth plans. “The strong response from global investors reflects their confidence in Union Bank of India. They have closely evaluated our balance sheet, asset quality, capital position, governance standards and growth trajectory, and have placed

their trust in the Bank,” Union Bank Managing Director and CEO Asheesh Pandey said. Pandey said the listing was more than a

financing milestone and marked a stronger presence for the bank in global markets. “Today is more than the listing of a bond; it

demonstrates our strong presence in the global market, reaffirms investor confidence in our franchise, and opens a new chapter in

our growth journey,” he said. The bank said the issuance would help diversify its funding base and strengthen its international presence as it increases engagement with global capital markets.

Pandey further added that the bank would focus on supporting sectors including infrastructure, manufacturing, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), renewable energy, logistics and technology-led businesses.

“This issuance is the first of many steps in deepening our engagement with international investors,” he said. The bank also sees scope to expand its activity at GIFT City. Pandey said Union Bank plans to increase its presence there in the coming quarters, describing GIFT City as an important international financial centre.

THE UNFINISHED STORY OF BHAKRA DISPLACEMENT — PART 3

The Unsigned Bhakra Compact: What Raja Anand Chand Negotiated Before Bilaspur Changed Hands



Part 1 of this series examined the sacrifice made by Bilaspur for a project that transformed northern India. Part 2 asked whether the rehabilitation offered after old Bilaspur disappeared beneath Gobind Sagar could truly compensate the uprooted. Part 3 goes back to the years before submergence, when Raja Anand Chand of Kehlor sought safeguards for his State and its people before Bhakra changed their destiny forever.

Long before Bhakra became one

of independent India’s greatest symbols of development, its proposed reservoir had already raised a difficult question for Bilaspur: why should a small hill State surrender fertile land, settlements and ultimately its historic capital so that territories elsewhere could receive electricity and irrigation without securing a corresponding future for those paying the greatest price?

The surviving record shows that this question was not invented after displacement. It was central to negotiations before Bilaspur merged with India.

In its 2011 judgment in State of Himachal Pradesh versus Union of India and Others, the Supreme Court recorded that the Bhakra proposal had been placed before Bilaspur in 1944 and that construction would submerge a substantial part of its territory while greatly benefiting Punjab. The Court recorded Himachal Pradesh’s case that Raja Anand Chand agreed to the proposal subject to terms contained in a draft agreement between Bilaspur and the Province

of Punjab. Those terms included royalty-related provisions, and the Court specifically referred to a draft dated July 7, 1948, noting that Clause 13 provided for allocation of power to Bilaspur.

That judicial reference is crucial. It establishes that there was a draft, that power-sharing figured in it and that Bilaspur’s contribution was never conceived merely as surrendering land without reciprocal benefit. At the same time, the Supreme Court held that the draft was not proved to have been formally executed and therefore could not, by itself, create the legal entitlement later claimed by Himachal Pradesh.

The legal conclusion is important, but it does not erase the historical question: what had actually been negotiated before Bilaspur lost both its political identity and much of its physical territory?

Raja Anand Chand’s own writings provide an unusually valuable first-person account. In his published work on Bilaspur, he wrote that after prolonged negotiations a workable

arrangement had been “more or less finalized” by April 1948. He recorded that Punjab had agreed to meet costs connected with acquisition and rehabilitation and had also offered concessions in the form of royalties on electricity and free construction of roads. His account shows that he did not view Bhakra as an ordinary acquisition transaction. Bilaspur, in his understanding, was contributing the dam site and the homes and lands of its people, and that sacrifice had to be matched by lasting benefits.

This aspect deserves special attention because Anand Chand was not a ceremonial ruler unfamiliar with administration. Educated at Mayo College, Ajmer, he received formal training in administration and later served in the Constituent Assembly, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. His writings reveal detailed engagement with compensation, land-for-land rehabilitation, road connectivity, electricity, irrigation and the wider administrative future of Bilaspur.

His account also introduces the

role of Sardar Swaroop Singh, who was associated with Punjab’s irrigation administration. Anand Chand wrote that East Punjab sent Swaroop Singh to Bilaspur to ratify the draft Bhakra agreement. By then, however, the political situation had changed rapidly, and the matter was left to the successor government. In Anand Chand’s telling, years of negotiation therefore failed to reach formal completion at precisely the moment when sovereignty was passing from the princely State to the Dominion of India.

The timing is striking.

The draft was dated July 7, 1948. Raja Anand Chand signed Bilaspur’s Merger Agreement on August 15, 1948. Administration passed to the Dominion Government in October. The Government of India’s White Paper on Indian States later recorded that Bilaspur was kept as a separate centrally administered unit because the contemplated Bhakra Dam was located there and was considered a project of all-India importance.

Thus Bhakra did not merely

reshape Bilaspur’s landscape. It influenced Bilaspur’s constitutional position in independent India.

Yet the project continued even though the negotiated compact remained unsigned. The reservoir rose. The old town was submerged. Electricity was generated. Irrigation benefits spread across northern India. But the safeguards discussed before the merger lost the certainty that a formally executed agreement might have provided.

That is the historical contradiction at the centre of Part 3.

For decades, Bhakra oustees have also maintained that the broader understanding included free electricity, irrigation facilities, roads, bridges and other measures intended to ease the burden of displacement. Some parts of this larger picture are supported by surviving records; others still require the original draft, correspondence and ministerial minutes. Raja Anand Chand’s own account directly supports the existence of electricity-related royalties and free road construction. The Supreme Court

record independently confirms a power-allocation clause in the July 1948 draft. But whether every oustee household was promised free domestic electricity, or what exact irrigation entitlement was contemplated, must still be established from the original documents.

That distinction is essential if this series is to become a reliable historical record rather than a collection of allegations.

The unanswered question is therefore not whether an unsigned draft can now be treated as a signed treaty. It cannot. The real question is whether India ever fully reconstructed what had been negotiated, what was accepted in principle, what was later implemented, what was abandoned and what substitute protections were provided after Bilaspur’s political authority disappeared.

The tragedy may lie not merely in the absence of signatures. It may lie in the possibility that a carefully negotiated framework for sharing Bhakra’s benefits with the territory

bearing its greatest cost lost its force at the same moment that Bilaspur lost the political position from which it could negotiate for itself.

Bhakra became permanent. Bilaspur’s sacrifice became permanent.

The consequences for its people became permanent.

Only the safeguards appear to have become uncertain.

That is why the July 1948 draft, the related correspondence and all surviving minutes deserve to be placed in the public domain, clause by clause. Bilaspur has been told for decades what Bhakra gave the nation. It is equally entitled to know, with documentary clarity, what was negotiated for Bilaspur before the waters rose.

What did the nation intend to give back to the people whose land made Bhakra possible?

SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sushil Kumar said all departments must work in close coordination to improve the sex ratio in the district and curb female foeticide. He directed officials to maintain effective surveillance over



such activities and ensure strict action as per law wherever violations are detected. The ADC was chairing the monthly

meeting of the Health Department and the district-level committee at the Mini Secretariat on Thursday. He

directed officials to conduct regular as well as surprise inspections of all ultrasound centres, MTP centres and medical stores operating in the district. Any irregularity found during inspections should invite strict action against those responsible as per the applicable rules.

NEWS BRIEF

SDM reviews paddy procurement arrangements in Assandh



JAGBIR UPLANA ASSANDH: SDM Sumit Sihag on Thursday reviewed arrangements for the upcoming paddy procurement season at the new grain market here and directed officials to ensure hassle-free procurement for farmers. During a meeting with market officials and commission agents, Sihag directed the market committee to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance. He said procurement agencies must purchase paddy at the prescribed Minimum Support Price (MSP) and ensure timely payment to farmers. The SDM asked officials to ensure adequate availability of tarpaulins, polythene sheets, gunny bags, crates, grain-cleaning machines, CCTV cameras, lighting, sanitation, drinking water, toilets and parking facilities at the market. He also inspected the gate-pass system and directed officials to display information boards detailing procurement rules and conditions for farmers.

Seva Sankalp Abhiyan to run from Sept 17-Oct 17 in UP

YUGMARG BUREAU LUCKNOW, SEPT 10

State Government and state organizations will jointly celebrate the completion of PM Narendra Modi's 25 years of continuous service. In Uttar Pradesh, 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' will run from September 17 to October 17. Through the campaign, welfare-oriented achievements, policy reforms and changes brought about in the country and state during PM's 25 years of service will be taken to every section of society, while every citizen will be connected with the national resolve of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. On Thursday, CM Yogi Adityanath reviewed campaign preparations in the presence of BJP State President and Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and State General Secretary (Organization) Dharampal. He said the campaign should be conducted with extensive public participation and that achievements in service, good



governance, welfare of the poor, and development should be brought before the people through the stories of actual beneficiaries. Every section of society, including youth, women, farmers and deprived sections, should be made a participant in the resolve of Viksit Bharat. CM instructed all in-charge ministers to visit the districts and their respective assembly constituencies to review the preparations. The meeting noted that a three-tier coordination system has been established at the government, CM's Office, and

district levels. A data bank of development works undertaken by Central Government over 12 years and State Government over 10 years has been prepared. Campaign will connect 4.19 crore families and 15.74 crore beneficiaries, including 3.51 crore rural and 0.68 crore urban families. Under 'Seva Diwas: Aashirwad Ka Diya' on September 17, lamps will be lit at 7 pm along with service activities. Lamps will also be lit at beneficiary families' homes and sites of major development projects. The in-charge minister for program will be

Shared experiences, better coordination crucial for urban development: Mayor



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, SEPT 10

Mayor Renu Bala Gupta stated that with changing times, needs of cities are also rapidly evolving. Continuous dialogue, mutual coordination and exchange of experiences between mayors and local bodies are crucial to making urban development more effective and people-oriented. By learning from each other's experiences, urban development plans can be implemented more effectively. She shared these views during a cordial meeting with Haryana Scheduled Caste Commission Chairperson Banto Kataria and other mayors of Haryana during her visit to

Panchkula. Various issues related to urban bodies as well as social concerns, public service and public interest were discussed in detail. She said that municipal bodies are institutions that work closest to common citizens. Roads, sanitation, drinking water, streetlights, parks and maintenance of public spaces, among other basic amenities are directly linked to the daily lives of common people. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize development with sensitivity, transparency and accountability in functioning of local bodies. She said that there are significant similarities in development efforts and challenges faced in different cities across state.

Over 500 students participate in drug-free movement at Govt Polytechnic, Rajpur



PREETI SAINI SADHAURA: Under guidance of Sanjay Kumar, Additional Director General of Police, Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau and under leadership of Rajendra Kumar Meena, Joint Commissioner of Faridabad and Deputy Inspector General of Police of Bureau, 112th edition of one-day comprehensive awareness program against drug abuse was organized at Government Polytechnic, Rajpur. Program was conducted by Bureau's Awareness Program and Rehabilitation Incharge/Sub-Inspector, Dr Ashok Kumar Verma and was attended by over 550 students and 35 teachers. In a program organized in presence of institute's Vice Principal, Raj Kumar Chauhan, Dev Suman Verma, Sandeep Tanwar and Bhim Singh, Bureau's Awareness Program and Rehabilitation Incharge/Deputy Inspector, Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, while raising awareness among the students against drug addiction, said that today, everyone must fight together against drug addiction to build a healthy and safe family and society. Today, we need to participate in struggle for freedom from drug addiction. He said that drug addiction is worth sacrificing our self-interest because "If drugs were good, a mother would say, 'Eat them, my child.'" Emphasizing the need for students to connect with culture and civilization, he said that everyone's support is needed to make India great.

Aniruddhacharya is bringing positive change in society through his Q&A: Pradeep Gupta



KAMAL SHARMA TARAORI: Pradeep Gupta, CMD of Shri Hans Rice & General Mills, met and received blessings of world-renowned storyteller Aniruddhacharya Ji Maharaj during Shrimad Bhagwat Katha held in Tarawadi. This meeting took place at Shiv Shakti Inter Globe Exports Private Limited. During meeting, he discussed spiritual and social issues with Aniruddhacharya Maharaj. Industrialist Pradeep Gupta said that Shri Aniruddhacharya Ji Maharaj is doing important work in bringing positive change in society through his simple speech and Q&A. People from India and abroad ask him questions related to their lives, family, and society, and Maharaj Ji guides people in the right direction by providing simple, accurate, and practical answers. His thoughts are not only bringing positive changes in people's lifestyles but also raising awareness about sanskars and Sanatan values. He said that the organization of the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha in Taraori is a privilege not only for the entire city but also for the entire state of Haryana. Listening to the Lord's story has created a devotional atmosphere, and thousands of devotees are visiting the Katha pandal daily and receiving spiritual benefits.

Political parties, citizens urged to help make electoral rolls error-free



JAGBIR UPLANA ASSANDH: Electoral Registration Officer and SDM Assandh Sumit Sihag on Thursday urged citizens and political parties to actively participate in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to ensure that the lists are accurate and no eligible voter is left out. Sihag made the remarks at a meeting with representatives of political parties and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) held at the Sub-Divisional Officer's office. He said the draft electoral roll under SIR-2026 had been published at all polling stations and asked political parties to scrutinise the lists and verify genuine voters. The SDM also briefed the participants about voter data digitisation, voter mapping and discrepancies in voter records. He urged political parties to appoint BLAs at polling stations where they had not yet been designated. He said BLAs should coordinate with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to help verify unverified, shifted and ineligible voters. Sihag said claims and objections to the draft electoral roll can be filed till September 30, 2026.

Alumni of college not only hold high-ranking positions but also proving their mettle in film and music industries



CHAMAN LAL KARNAL: A grand promotional event for the Punjabi film 'Mitti De Putt' was held at Guru Nanak Khalsa College. The entire cast of the film was present on the occasion. Sardar Kanwarjit Singh Prince, President of the College Management Committee, welcomed renowned Punjabi artist Dev Kharoud and his team with a bouquet. He remarked that the film would not only offer valuable lessons to students but also convey a positive message to the intelligentsia and society at large. Punjabi artist Dev Kharoud expressed that he felt a sense of belonging upon visiting Khalsa College. He told the students that it is a social film aimed at encouraging the youth and society to stay rooted to their soil; he urged all students to visit the cinema to watch the film after September 18. College Principal Dr. Chuhar Singh welcomed the artists and stated in his address that the film not only provides guidance but also delivers a positive message. He noted that alumni of the college have not only attained high-ranking positions but are also making their mark in the film and music industries. He highlighted that the college has produced distinguished personalities such as storyteller Bhai Pinderpal Singh, singer Mahtab Virk, Satinder Satti (famed for 'Chhora Haryana Ka'), music composer Vibhash Arora, Amitosh Nagpal, and many other artists.

Seva Sankalp Abhiyan preparations reviewed in Shahabad



GOLDY CHUGH SHAHABAD: Shahabad assembly constituency under the supervision of Mandal President Ravi Khara regarding the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, which is being launched by the Bharatiya Janata Party to mark 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public life. BJP District President Ramesh Saini, Chairman of the Haryana State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Subhash Kalsana, and former BJP District President of Kaithal Munish Kathwad attended the program as chief speakers. During the event, District Chairman Subhash Kalsana gave workers and villagers detailed information about the outline of the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan and called for taking the campaign to every village and booth level. Subhash Kalsana said that this campaign would be run across the country from September 17 to October 17 and through its emphasis will be placed on public service, public participation, and direct communication with different sections of society.

Contribute to environmental protection by planting saplings on every auspicious occasion: Ramkumar Kashyap

MAINPAL KASHYAP INDRI, SEPT 10

Amid the challenges of increasing pollution and climate change, Indri MLA and Haryana Government Chief Whip Ram Kumar Kashyap urged the public to plant as many trees as possible to protect the environment. On Thursday, he planted Triveni (Neem, Peepal, and Banyan) trees at the Herbal Park in Indri and the Irrigation Department Rest House. On this occasion, MLA Ram Kumar Kashyap said that environmental imbalance and pollution have become major challenges facing the entire world. In such a situation, tree plantation is the most



effective means of environmental protection. Trees, besides purifying the environment, play a vital role in maintaining human life, biodiversity and the ecosystem. He said that everyone should promote the tradition of planting trees on birthdays, wedding ceremonies and other auspicious occasions. A tree

planted today can provide the foundation for clean air, greenery, and a better environment for future generations. He urged people not only to plant trees but also to regularly care for them. The MLA said that emissions from industrial units, vehicle exhaust and plastic waste were among the major causes of pollution.

MP Meet Hayer holds district-level review meeting under the war against drugs campaign

KARANPREET KARAN BARNALA, SEPT 10

Under the 'War Against Drugs' campaign launched by the Punjab government to make the state drug-free, Lok Sabha member S. Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer led the district-level review meeting at the auditorium of W.S. College Handiia. During the meeting, he gave a message of social solidarity and said that the entire society will have to come together and take decisive action to prevent this fire of drugs from reaching our homes. He made it clear that while the government is tightening the noose on drug trafficking, it is also committed



to the treatment of drug victims. He directed the police administration to tighten complete control over drug traffickers and to work practically on the feedback of the Nasha Mukti Morcha team. Large-scale sports stadiums are being built across the state so that the energy of the youth can be diverted towards sports. Village Defense Committees are actively monitoring the

villages so that no anti-social element can mislead the innocent youth and push them into the mire of drugs. On this occasion, Advocate Gurpreet Singh Cherry, Vice Coordinator of Malwa Zone of the campaign, called for a joint effort and said that let us make this campaign more effective by actively working with the village committees and the police.

302 units collected at blood donation camp



BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA: A massive blood donation camp and felicitation ceremony was organized by Aryabhata Group of Institutes, Barnala, in collaboration with Barnala Welfare Club. During the camp, students, staff members, volunteers, and people from various sections of society participated enthusiastically and donated 302 units of blood. The camp was inaugurated by Chief Guest Abhijay Chopra. Appreciating the efforts of Aryabhata Group and Barnala Welfare Club, he said that blood donation is a noble service to humanity. He encouraged the youth to come forward and donate blood in greater numbers. Swami Ram Tirth Ji also donated blood on the occasion. A professional medical team ensured that the blood donation process was carried out smoothly. The blood donors were honored with certificates and medals.

Eight-day NEP 2020 orientation and sensitization programme

CHAMANLAL KARNAL: UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (UGC-MMTTC), Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with Guru Nanak Khalsa (P.G.) College, Karnal, is organizing an eight-day online NEP 2020



Orientation and Sensitization Programme from September 9 to 18, 2026. The programme aims to acquaint teachers with the key provisions of NEP 2020 and its effective implementation in higher education. The programme commenced with an inaugural and welcome session coordinated by Lt. Dr. Devi Bhushan. Expert sessions covered National Credit Framework (NCRF), Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), curriculum and pedagogical reforms, academic leadership, governance, management, and multidisciplinary education. Faculty members and academicians from 11 universities and 17 colleges across India are participating. The programme provides a platform for meaningful interaction, discussion and exchange of ideas on the challenges and opportunities associated with NEP 2020. The programme is being successfully conducted through the joint efforts of UGC-MMTTC, Central University of Jammu, and Guru Nanak Khalsa (P.G.) College, Karnal.

Shri Vaishya Agrawal Panchayat holds meeting to celebrate Maharaja Agrasen's birth anniversary

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: An important meeting of the governing body of the Shri Vaishya Agrawal Panchayat was held under the chairmanship of the organization's president, Vishal Singla. The meeting was successfully conducted by the organization's general secretary, Navketan Goyal. The meeting unanimously decided that this year, Maharaja Agrasen's birth anniversary would be celebrated with great pomp, dignity and grandeur as a four-day celebration. Providing information about the meeting, institution head Vishal Singla said that the four-day birth anniversary celebration has been designed to spread Maharaja Agrasen's principles of socialism, unity and public welfare to the masses. He stated that during this four-day event, various competitions, grand cultural programs, sacred havans and yagnas, and a large feast will be organized. General Secretary Navketan Goyal stated that, in addition to preparations for the grand celebration of the birth anniversary, other academic and administrative matters related to the organization were also discussed and decisions were passed unanimously. In this important meeting, the organization's vice president Jitendra Goyal, cashier Vishes Garg, joint secretary Abhay Mittal, executive members Sattal, Kulwant Garg, Gaurav Tayal, Jaipal Garg, Gaurav Mittal, Dr. Anish Singla and Rajiv Garg were especially present.



Physiotherapy Day observed at Aadesh Medical College and Hospital, Mohri



GOLDY CHUGH SHAHABAD: Physiotherapy Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Aadesh Medical College and Hospital located in Mohri. The theme of the event was the role of physiotherapy in the prevention, management, and rehabilitation of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Through the program, students, staff, and the general public were made aware of a healthy lifestyle and timely physiotherapy treatment. The program was inaugurated by lighting the ceremonial lamp by Dr. H.S. Gill, Chairman of Aadesh Group, Gurfateh Singh Gill, Director of Aadesh Group, and Dr. Guntas Singh Gill, Director of Aadesh Hospital. On this occasion, senior officials, principals of various institutions, doctors, teachers, and hospital officials were present. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Principal of Aadesh Physiotherapy College, welcomed all the guests and those present. He said that physiotherapy played an important role in the prevention of serious health problems such as heart disease and stroke, in recovery after treatment, and in helping patients return to normal life.

ISCL Season 2 Kicks Off With 32 Teams, 127 Matches, and a Bigger Vision for Indian Softball Cricket

LUDHIANA: The Indian Softball Cricket League (ISCL) opened its second season, unveiling a national competition nearly triple the size of its debut edition: 32 teams and 127 matches spanning the country. The announcement came at a press event in Bengaluru attended by cricketing icons, league officials, and the organization's newest commercial partners. "Two years ago, we were just trying to get people to take softball cricket seriously," said Dr. Gangadhar Raju, Founder and President of ISCL and the Indian Softball Cricket Foundation (ISCF). "Now we have 32 teams and players from towns most people can't find on a map. That's the story of Season 2, it's not about us anymore, it's about how far the players have pushed this."

PNB MetLife announces highest-ever annual bonus of Rs.1,210 crore

CHANDIGARH: PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (PNB MetLife) has declared its highest ever annual bonus of Rs.1,210 crore for participating policies (PAR) in the financial year 2025-26, reinforcing its commitment to helping customers build long-term financial security. The bonus represents a ~16.25% increase over the ~Rs. 1,041 crore bonus announced in FY 2024-25 and reflects the sustained performance of the company's participating fund. The bonus will benefit approximately 5.51 lakh participating policyholders, underscoring the performance of the funds and the potential value of participating policies. Sameer Bhatia, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, PNB MetLife, said that declaring our highest-ever annual bonus of ~Rs. 1,210 crore reflects the strength of our participating funds and our disciplined approach to creating long-term value for policyholders.

Pocketful Expands Across Punjab with New Offices in Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Patiala

CHANDIGARH: Pocketful, a SEBI-registered, next-generation investing and trading platform, has announced its expansion across Punjab with new offices in Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Patiala. Speaking on the development, SarvamGoel, Co-Founder, Pocketful, said, "Punjab's entrepreneurial and ambitious spirit aligns well with the kind of investor community Pocketful is building for—one that is increasingly informed, digitally connected and willing to explore new ways of participating in financial markets."

DFS Secretary Unveils Innovations to Advance Financial Inclusion at GFF 2026

SHIMLA: The Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Shri Sanjay Lohiya, today launched multiple innovations at Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 to advance financial inclusion in the country. The launch includes the introduction of Open-Source (Android) ATM for instant RuPay card and merchant UPI QR issuance, the enablement of 'Credit Line on UPI' for select government-backed credit schemes, and the introduction of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) Three-Party Cash Deposit. The announcement took place in the presence Shri Saurabh Vijay CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).The solution will enable customers to instantly receive personalised RuPay debit, credit and NCMC cards directly from an ATM through a simple self-service journey. The open-source (Android) ATM will also dispense merchant QR codes for UPI-based payment collections which will help merchants to easily deploy QRs and start accepting payments. Additionally, these ATMs will also provide banking services such as cheque deposits, account opening and loan applications.Banks are also exploring the use of these ATMs as Digital Banking Units (DBUs), enabling them to extend banking services to semi-urban and rural areas where traditional branch infrastructure may be limited. Additionally, banks can deploy it at metro stations and transit hubs, at airports including instant access to lounges, and at educational campuses and corporate parks, enabling instant issuance of cards to travellers, students and employees.

The 11th edition of HDFC ERGO Insurance Quizz Junior witnesses participation of ~16900+ students from across 600+ districts of India

AMRITSAR --: HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, India's leading private sector general insurer, is taking forward its commitment to building insurance literacy and financial awareness among young minds through the 11th edition of HDFC ERGO Insurance Quizz Junior, its flagship initiative for students of Classes 8 and 9.The 2026 edition of the quizz has witnessed strong participation from all over India, with ~16900+ students registering from 4850 schools. 400+ students from ~156 schools from the 28 cities of Bihar have registered for the quizz. Speaking about the initiative, Somesh Surana, Joint President - Digital Business Group & Marketing, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, said, "Insurance is ultimately about being prepared for the unexpected, and we believe that understanding this idea should begin early."

Ambuja Cements' After-School Programme Coaches Young Kho-Kho Champions to Victory in Punjab

BATHINDA --: Ambuja Cements, the 9th largest building materials solutions provider globally and part of the diversified Adani Portfolio, through its CSR arm, Ambuja Foundation is celebrating the success of its After-School Programme after students delivered an exceptional performance at the Zonal Level Kho-Kho Tournament. The programme, designed to foster local sporting talent, saw its Under-14 Boys' and Girls' teams both win first place, while the U-17 Boys' team secured third. The strong performance resulted in 18 students being selected for the District Level Tournament. Highlighting the programme's impact, one student's outstanding achievement earned them a place at the prestigious Punjab Sports Residential School. This initiative underscores Ambuja Cements' commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for rural youth to excel in academics and athletics.

Hybe India brings back pop-up parks to four new cities as part of Hybe India audition: final call

CHANDIGARH: Following the strong response to its first round, Hybe India is expanding its Pop-up Park experience to Chennai, Kolkata, Kochi, and Chandigarh extending its reach beyond the audition cities for the HYBE INDIA Audition: Final Call. The initiative brings the audition experience closer to aspiring talent across the country while strengthening HYBE INDIA's engagement with India's growing K-pop and youth communities. A key addition to the upcoming HYBE INDIA Pop-up Parks will be the live on-stage auditions, giving aspiring performers a chance to showcase their talent before HYBE INDIA's talent and casting partners. Participants can audition on-site at the Pop-up Park venue, rather than submitting an application in advance, and experience what it's like to perform on stage. Interested applicants will need to register at the venue and will then receive an audition slot on a first-come, first-served basis.

Governor Gulab Chand Kataria distributed Sports Kit under the aegis of 'Haste Khelte' program organised by Competent Foundation



CHANDIGARH: Competent Foundation led by philanthropist and senior politician Sanjay Tandon organised its annual edition of the 'Haste Khelte' Sports Kit Distribution Programme at Lok Bhavan, Punjab on Thursday wherein His Excellency, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator, UT Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria distributed the kits to the beneficiaries.

The initiative aimed to encourage children from underprivileged sections to take up sports and provide them with the

necessary equipment to pursue their sporting interests. The programme was marked on birthday celebrations of Sanjay Tandon as his Foundation's continued their efforts towards strengthening school education and providing opportunities for the holistic development of children. A total of 32 children with their disabilities were given sports kits of various disciplines on the occasion.

In his welcome address Sanjay Tandon who is also the Chairman of UT Sports Advisory Committee and Founder President of UT Cricket

Association said that the objective of the initiative was to take the spirit of sports to the school level and ensure that financial constraints did not come in the way of children pursuing their talent. He said such initiatives complemented the Govt's efforts under the broader vision of 'Khelo India' by encouraging children to participate in sporting activities from an early age.

Governor appreciated the initiative of the Competent Foundation towards promoting sports among schoolchildren. He emphasised the importance of

providing children with opportunities and resources to identify and develop their sporting talent.

The programme concluded with the presentation of a memento and greetings, followed by a vote of thanks by Programme Coordinator Umang Tandon.

The Competent Foundation, established in 2006 by Late Balamji Das Tandon, former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab and former Governor of Chhattisgarh, has been working in the field of social upliftment and community welfare.

RBI Deputy Governor Introduces Multicurrency Capabilities for Forex Services on Bharat Connect at GFF 2026



SHIMLA: The RBI Deputy Governor, Shri Rohit Jain, today announced the introduction of multicurrency capabilities for forex category on Bharat Connect at Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026. The initiative is being undertaken as a soft launch. Following the successful completion and assessment of the testing phase, the offering is proposed to be extended across more Bharat Connect channels and participating banks. The platform, which is operated by NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), integrates with FX-Retail, operated by Clearcorp Dealing Systems (India) Limited (Clearcorp), wholly owned subsidiary of The Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL) will now support Euro (EUR), British Pound (GBP), Canadian Dollar (CAD), Swiss Franc (CHF) and UAE Dirham (AED). The initiative aims to extend the existing forex proposition beyond the US Dollar and provide customers access to a wider range forex services through a single platform. Mr. Nand Kishore, MD, CCIL, Today's launch marks an important milestone in our commitment to making retail foreign exchange more accessible, convenient, and inclusive for all market participants. The expansion of the FX-Retail platform across multiple currencies will provide customers with greater choice, while its integration with Bharat Connect will significantly enhance the ease of accessing retail forex services through the digital channels of participating institutions. By bringing fair and transparent forex markets directly to customers within an interoperable digital ecosystem, the aim for a simplified user journey and wider market access is now a reality for the foreign exchange markets in India.

Human Rights Activist Jaspal S. Dhillon Relaunches Human Rights and Democracy Forum



Chandigarh, September 10, 2026: Veteran human-rights activist Jaspal S. Dhillon today announced the relaunch of the Human Rights and Democracy Forum (HRDF) as a non-partisan platform to address present-day human-rights concerns, provide free legal assistance, document alleged rights violations and promote constitutional safeguards and institutional accountability across Punjab. Dhillon will lead the Forum as its Chairman.

Addressing a press conference at the Press Club, Sector 27, along with Gursher Singh, Vice-Chairman; Rajwinder Singh, General Secretary; Karamjit Singh, Organising Secretary; Dhillon said the decision to revive HRDF was driven by the growing number of young people and families approaching him with complaints of alleged illegal detention, false criminal cases, custodial violence, excessive use of force and denial of due process.

Dhillon said the renewed public discussion around Punjab's human-rights history, including following the release and subsequent removal of the film Satluj, had also drawn attention to allegations of extrajudicial killings, disappearances and secret cremations during the militancy period.

"People are once again asking questions about what happened during those years, while many young people and families are approaching me today with their own human-rights concerns. This has reinforced my belief that the time has come to restart this work," Dhillon said.

"We will thwart any conspiracy to abolish or restrict the 15 seats reserved for Registered Graduates in the P.U. Senate": Ashok Goyal



MUKESH CHAUHAN ZIRAKPUR: In view of the Punjab University (PU), Chandigarh Senate Elections 2026, senior candidate from the Registered Graduates Constituency and a continuous Senator since 1992, Ashok Goyal, has made it clear that the democratic existence of the Graduate seats in the Senate will not be allowed to be abolished at any cost. During a press conference with journalists, he elaborated on the alleged conspiracies being made against the Senate seats and the representation of the Graduate Constituency. He explained that out of the 49 elected members of the Senate, 34 members come from various faculties, college principals, teachers and the MLA category, representing fewer than 3,400 voters in total. The

remaining 15 seats are from the Registered Graduates Constituency, which is elected by lakhs of graduate voters. He said these 15 seats are the ones that truly represent the common public, parents and students of the university. He said that for decades, certain groups have been demanding that this constituency be abolished or that its scope be restricted only to 'Post-Graduates' or holders of 'Doctorate' degrees, so that the voice of the common people can be kept out of the Senate. Ashok Goyal said that when the number of parliamentary seats is being increased in view of the growing population, it is completely wrong to abolish or restrict Graduate seats instead of increasing their number as the number of graduates continues to rise.

Sanjay Tandon Begins Birthday with Gau Seva, Reaffirms Commitment to Society and Nation



CHANDIGARH: Senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon began his birthday with Gau Seva at a gaushala in Kaimbwala, Chandigarh, accompanied by his wife Priya Tandon and well-wishers. Speaking on the occasion, Tandon said that service to society and the nation gives life purpose and meaning. "I chose to begin my birthday with Gau Seva because the spirit of service makes life meaningful. I pray to the Almighty to give me the strength to dedicate every day of my life to serving society and the nation," he said. Tandon said his birthday was an opportunity to reaffirm his commitment to public service and expressed gratitude for the affection and blessings he received from friends, supporters and well-wishers. Throughout the day, a large number of friends, supporters, colleagues and well-wishers met Tandon at his residence to extend their birthday greetings and blessings. "Your affection, blessings and good wishes are a source of immense strength and inspiration for me. I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart," Tandon said.

NBBL's Banking Connect Launches New Features at Global Fintech Fest 2026

LUDHIANA: NPCI Bharat Bill Pay Limited (NBBL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), announced the introduction of Mandates and Lien Marking, along with Account Verification also known as Third Party Validation (TPV), on Banking Connect. The launch took place at the Global Fintech Fest 2026, expanding the current Banking Connect platform capabilities. Mandates on Banking Connect

Banking Connect supports the mandate lifecycle, including creation, execution of payments, modification of the amount or end date, pause, restart, cancellation, customer notifications and status checks. Future payments can then run automatically within the terms approved by the customer. As a consumer-protection measure, the aggregator notifies the bank 48 hours before a scheduled debit, following which the bank notifies the customer at least 24 hours before the debit.

Lien Marking on Banking Connect Lien Marking will enable funds to be set aside in a customer's account without being immediately debited. The blocked amount remains the customer's money but cannot be used elsewhere. It is debited only when the underlying event occurs, such as allotment of shares or issuance of an insurance policy and is released for the customer's use if the transaction does not materialise.

NephroPlus hosts 'Ashayain 2026' in Patiala, celebrating resilience and inspiring dialysis patients to live life to the fullest

PATIALA: NephroPlus, a leading network of dialysis centres, hosted its flagship patient engagement initiative 'Ashayain 2026' in Patiala, bringing together dialysis patients, caregivers, transplant survivors, nephrologists and healthcare professionals for a day focused on learning, interaction, celebration and inspiration. The event centred on the message of celebrating life beyond dialysis, encouraging patients to continue pursuing their hobbies, exploring new interests and leading fulfilling lives while managing their dialysis journey. The event brought together around 120 attendees, including 50 dialysis patients and five transplant survivors. Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Singh, Group CEO, NephroPlus, said, "Ashayain is an initiative that reflects our belief that dialysis is only one part of a patient's life, and not the entirety of it. Through Ashayain, we want to create opportunities where our guests can learn, interact, showcase their talents and draw inspiration from one another. The stories of our transplant survivors and the participation of patients in activities such as Guest Got Talent remind us of the strength and resilience within the dialysis community. Our endeavour is to support our guests with the right knowledge, care and encouragement so that they can continue to pursue their interests and lead meaningful, fulfilling lives."

Investigation Across 21 Poultry Units in Four States Documents Widespread Animal Welfare, Hygiene and Biosecurity Concerns

CHANDIGARH : Sentient today released the findings of an investigation into 21 layer-hen poultry units across Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, documenting widespread animal welfare, hygiene, waste-management and biosecurity concerns across the facilities investigated. The investigation examined private poultry operations using battery-cage systems, with facilities ranging in estimated capacity from approximately 3,000 to 200,000 hens. The investigation found recurring concerns across multiple locations, suggesting that poor welfare and management practices were not isolated incidents but part of routine operating conditions. Investigators documented severe overcrowding and fighting among hens, with widespread injuries observed across the facilities. Nearly all observed hens reportedly had injuries around the neck, apparently caused by repeated contact with metal cage bars. Wing injuries, broken legs, bleeding, skin conditions and severe physical weakness were also observed. Some hens were reportedly unable to stand. "The consistency of what our investigators documented across 21 facilities is deeply concerning. Practices such as severe overcrowding, routine debeaking, untreated injuries, poor waste management and weak biosecurity should not be accepted as business as usual. The findings point to a systemic gap between the standards that are expected and the conditions animals and workers may actually experience on the ground. Stronger enforcement, regular inspections and meaningful accountability are urgently needed to ensure that poultry production does not come at the cost of animal welfare, hygiene or public health," said Abhishek Pandey, CEO, Sentient. Debeaking was identified as a routine practice across the facilities visited. Caretakers reported that hens underwent the procedure, while investigators documented visible injuries and blood loss associated with debeaking. In one facility, a worker was observed performing the procedure and invited the investigator to participate. The investigation also documented signs of significant distress among the birds. Hens displayed continuous loud vocalisation and pronounced fear responses when people approached. Competition and aggression over limited cage space were observed, with weaker birds reportedly being attacked and, in some cases, killed. Investigators also documented instances of birds being handled roughly by workers, including chicks being thrown and vigorously handled following debeaking.

RBI Deputy Governor Introduces Multicurrency Capabilities for Forex Services on Bharat Connect at GFF 2026

GUVRGRAM:TheRBI Deputy Governor, Shri Rohit Jain,today announced the introduction of multicurrency capabilities for forex category on Bharat Connect at Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026. The initiative is being undertaken as a softlaunch. Following the successful completion and assessment of the testingphase, the offering is proposed to be extended across more Bharat Connect channels and participating banks. The platform, which is operated by NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL),integrates with FX-Retail, operated by Clearcorp Dealing Systems (India) Limited (Clearcorp),wholly owned subsidiary of The Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)will now support Euro (EUR), British Pound (GBP), Canadian Dollar (CAD), Swiss Franc (CHF) and UAE Dirham (AED). The initiative aims to extend the existing forex proposition beyond the US Dollar and provide customers access to a wider range forex services through a single platform. Customers using participating Bharat Connect channelscan access multiple forex services, including foreign currency purchase, overseas remittance, and forex card reload while continuing to benefit from live rates, transparent pricing powered by FX Retail, and a seamless booking experience. Fulfillment continues through the customer's trusted relationship bank, providing reliability and confidence across transactions. Customers can also add multiple relationship banks to their FX Retail profile and choose the bank through which they wish to fulfil their transactions, offering greater flexibility to those who maintain relationships with more than one bank. The offering expands customer choice while leveraging the existing FX-Retail infrastructure and Bharat Connect transaction journey.Forex transactions through Bharat Connect surpassed INR 100 million in value between April and July 2026.

DFS Secretary Unveils Innovations to Advance Financial Inclusion at GFF 2026

HISAR : The Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Shri Sanjay Lohiya,today launched multiple innovations at Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026to advance financial inclusion in the country. The launch includes theintroduction of Open-Source (Android) ATM forinstant Rupaycard and merchant UPI QR issuance, the enablement of 'Credit Line on UPI' for select government-backed credit schemes, and the introduction of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) Three-Party Cash Deposit.The announcement took place in the presence Shri Saurabh Vijay CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Open Source (Android) ATM for RuPay card and Merchant QR issuance The solution will enablecustomers to instantly receive personalised RuPaydebit, credit and NCMC cards directly from an ATM through a simple self-service journey. The open-source(Android) ATM will also dispense merchant QR codes for UPI-based payment collections which will help merchants to easily deploy QRs and start accepting payments. Additionally, these ATMs will also providebanking services such as cheque deposits, account opening and loan applications. GFF guests and attendees were able to experience first-hand the open-source ATMsplaced across the GFF venue.The solution aims to expand the role of ATMs from just

direc for UPI-based payment collections. Banks are also exploring the use of these ATMs as Digital Banking Units (DBUs), enabling them to extend banking services to semi-urban and rural areas where traditional branch infrastructure may be limited. Additionally, banks c ATM, banks can improve customer acquisition and onboarding while eliminating the operational overhead associated with branch visits and physical card distribution. Currently,nine banks, including banks like State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, UCO, Slice Small finance Bank and Airtel Payments Bank are engaging with NPCI and ATM OEMs such as Hitachi Payment Services, Perto India and Vortex Engineeringto assess and explore the solution.

No Ranks, All Champions: Chandigarh hosts historic World Mother-Child Badminton Tournament

CHANDIGARH- In an unprecedented global innovation, the Department of School Education, Chandigarh, is scheduled to make history by hosting the first-ever Mother-Child Badminton Tournament exclusively for Children With Special Needs (CWSN) at GMSSS Sector-23, Chandigarh. While traditional "Parent-Child" badminton tournaments are conducted globally and organizations such as the Special Olympics host international competitions for individuals with intellectual disabilities, this specific format represents a rare and likely global first time. Distinctive Features of the Tournament on a Global Scale: 1. Exclusive Mother-Child Dynamic: Although general inclusive sports meets

exist, a racket-sport tournament dedicated strictly to honor the bond between mothers and children within the special needs community is unprecedented. This event serves as a tribute to mothers who serve as lifelong therapists, educators, and caregivers for a child. 2. Specificity of Badminton: Most sports initiatives for special needs families focus on track-and-field, swimming, or adaptive team sports. A structured badminton tournament requiring hand-eye coordination and synchronized action is both highly innovative and therapeutic for this demographic. 3. "Universal First-Place" Protocol: Most sports events, including inclusive ones, typically rank participants. This tournament eliminates

second and third-place rankings entirely to recognize every mother and child as an equal Champion. This transition from competition to celebration emphasizes resilience and joy, ensuring every pair receives a First Prize. Event Details: Dates 9 to 11th September 2026 Venue: GMSSS, Sector-23, Chandigarh Participants: 21 Mother-Child Pairs (Finalized List) Girls Team (4 Pairs): Priya and Rekha, Himanshi and Rajni, Sonia Rawat and Pushpa Rawat, Yashica and Gurmit Kaur. Boys Team (17 Pairs): Including Ainesh and Manju, Hardik and Amita, Prince and Sandhya, Agamjit Singh and Gurmit Kaur, among others from across Chandigarh.

ISCL Season 2 Kicks Off With 32 Teams, 127 Matches, and a Bigger Vision for Indian Softball Cricket



LUDHIANA: The Indian Softball Cricket League (ISCL) opened its second season, unveiling a national competition nearly triple the size of its debut edition: 32 teams and 127 matches spanning the country. The announcement came at a press event in Bengaluru attended by cricketing icons, league officials, and the organization's newest commercial partners.

"Two years ago, we were just trying to get people to take softball cricket seriously," said Dr. Gangadhar Raju, Founder and President of ISCL and the Indian Softball Cricket Foundation (ISCF). "Now we have 32 teams and players from towns most people can't find on a map. That's the story of Season 2, it's not about us anymore, it's about how far the players have pushed this."

"For us at Sony Sports Network, partnerships are about more than just putting a game on television. ISCL has a unique story because it comes from the grassroots and gives players an opportunity to showcase their talent on a bigger platform. With Season 2 growing significantly, we're excited to be part of this journey and help take the sport to a much wider audience. We hope that our association with ISCL will bring greater visibility to the players, the teams and the game itself, while encouraging more young cricketers across the country to believe that there is a place for them in the sport," said Kaushik Kalluri, AVP-Sony Sports.

IndiGo Adds Dar es Salaam to its Growing Global Network, Strengthens Connectivity to Africa

CHANDIGARH / LU DHIANA: IndiGo, India's preferred airline and one of the fastest growing carriers in the world, announced the launch of daily, direct flights between Mumbai and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, effective 20 November 2026. With this addition, IndiGo becomes the only Indian airline to offer direct connectivity between Mumbai and Dar es Salaam, reinforcing its ambition to connect India with the world. Bookings for the flights are open on IndiGo's official website www.indigoGo.in, mobile app, or through authorised travel partners. India and Tanzania share a longstanding relationship built on trade, commerce and cultural exchange. India is among Tanzania's largest trading partners, with growing engagement across sectors including manufacturing, agriculture, and healthcare, among others. The introduction of daily direct flights is expected to further facilitate trade, investment, tourism, and educational exchanges by enhancing connectivity between India and East Africa. Commenting on the announcement, Aloke Singh, Chief Strategy Officer, IndiGo, said, "The launch of direct daily flights between Mumbai and Dar es Salaam underscores our commitment to building stronger connections between India and fast-growing global markets. Tanzania is an important economic partner for India and a gateway to East Africa, with growing demand for travel driven by trade, investment, tourism and cultural ties. By enhancing direct connectivity, we aim to facilitate greater mobility, deepen economic engagement and bring people and businesses closer. The launch of this route is a significant step in our mission to connect India with the world through an unparalleled domestic and increasingly global network."

Amazon Ads study reveals how AI is helping India's SMBs reach new audiences and drive growth

CHANDIGARH : Amazon Ads today unveiled findings from a new study examining how AI is transforming advertising for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India. The research conducted found that AI is helping businesses overcome traditional barriers of cost, complexity and limited resources, making sophisticated advertising more accessible than ever before. Nearly nine in ten (87%) SMBs say AI-powered advertising tools have enabled them to access advertising channels, audiences or formats that previously felt out of reach, including high-impact video formats such as streaming TV. Beyond expanding access, AI is also helping businesses grow, with 75% saying AI-enabled advertising has supported business growth. 68% say it has unlocked greater creativity in their advertising by virtue of simplified tools. "We are seeing Indian SMBs approach advertising with a confidence we have not seen before. The share of Amazon advertisers using AI-powered tools in India has grown by 77% year over year with SMBs generating 62% more ad creatives with those tools in Q1 2026 over last year.

ICI CI Prudential Life Insurance registers a 101.04% YoY growth in term plan business in Punjab in Q1-FY2027

CHANDIGARH: The Company has registered a strong 101.04% year-on-year growth in Q1-FY2027 for the term plan (retail protection) business in Punjab. The Company covered 6,07,180 lives in the State as on March 31, 2026. The Company is also receiving strong demand in its savings business that includes linked, non-linked and annuity business in the State of Punjab. The Company's Assets under Management (AUM) stood at Rs. 6,725 crore as on March 31, 2026 in the State. Importantly, the Company reported a sum assured of Rs. 56,370 crore as on March 31, 2026 in the State and in the last 7 years, the Company has paid total benefits worth Rs. 2,347 crore to its customers in the State of Punjab. The Board of Directors recently approved a proposal to rename the Company as 'ICI CI Life Insurance Limited', subject to relevant approvals. As on March 31, 2026, the Company has 21 branches and 6,516 advisors along with 3,367 partner branches and 4,226 specified person in Punjab. Mr. Manish Kumar, Chief Investment Officer, ICI CI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited, said, "Punjab continues to be a strategically important market for our Company and we are witnessing strong momentum across both urban and emerging centres in the State. Over the past few quarters, we have seen a clear shift in customer behaviour, with individuals increasingly prioritising financial protection, long-term savings and retirement planning as part of their overall financial goals. Our continued investments in distribution, digital capabilities, diversified products and customer engagement are helping us deepen our presence in the region. Our Company's strategy is to make it effortless for customers to plan and take control of their future. All our efforts are focused in this direction."



Aniruddhacharya Maharaj visited Lord Shiva Rice Mill to observe the functioning there

KAMAL SHARMA
TARAOIR- World-renowned storyteller Aniruddhacharya Ji Maharaj visited Lord Shiva Rice Mill on Thursday. He closely observed the functioning of the rice mill with great interest and took information about the entire process from paddy to the preparation of rice. During this visit, he also understood the working style of Tarawadi's rice industry, modern machinery, and the details related to rice exports. Upon reaching the rice mill, Managing Director Naresh Sharma, Director Rahul Sharma, and Director Yash Bhardwaj of Lord Shiva Rice Mill gave Shri Aniruddhacharya Ji Maharaj a grand welcome with garlands in the presence of dignitaries and industrialists. He was also felicitated with a shower of flowers. During the inspection of the mill, Aniruddhacharya Ji

Maharaj obtained detailed information about the machines and technology used in rice processing. He also learned about the various processes paddy undergoes after reaching the mill, how it is cleaned, sorted and processed, and how the finished rice is packed and sent to markets in India and abroad. During this time, the mill's Managing Director Naresh Sharma briefed Maharaj Ji about the complete functioning of the rice mill as well as information related to rice exports.

Guru Nanak Khalsa College hosted promotion of Punjabi film “Mitti De Put”



CHAMAN LAL
KARNAL- Guru Nanak Khalsa College hosted a vigorous promotion of the Punjabi film "Mitti De Put." The entire film's cast was present. Sardar Karwarjit Singh Prince, President of the College Management Committee, welcomed renowned Punjabi artist Dev Kharod and his team with bouquets. He stated that this film will not only provide valuable lessons for students but also send a positive message to the intelligentsia and society. Punjabi artist Dev Kharod expressed his sense of belonging at Khalsa College. He advised the students that this is a social film aimed at instilling in youth and society the message of staying connected to the soil. Therefore, after September 18 all students should definitely go to the cinema to watch the film. College Principal Dr. Chuhad Singh welcomed all the artists and, in his address, said that this film not only guides us but also provides a positive message. He added that those who received education from the college have not only attained high positions but are also making their mark in the film and music worlds. He said that among the great personalities from the college are storyteller Bhai Pinderpal Singh, singer Mahtab Virk, Chhokra Haryana Ka fame Salinder Sati, musician Vibhas Arora, Amilosh Nagpal and many other artists. On this occasion, the heroine of the film Sharandeep Kaur, actor Vikramjeet Virk, actor Deepak Kamboj, actor Aman Sudhar, actor Vikramjeet Khaira, Pradeep Cheema, singer Tanvi and other artists also shared their views. During this time the college auditorium was packed with students. The stage was conducted by Dr. Bir Singh and Dr. Krishna Arora, Dr. Devi Bhushan, Dr. Jatinderpal, Dr. Deepak and Dr. Simrat provided special support.

BJP Government Should Offer Respect and Permanent Jobs to Corona Warriors, Not Lathi-Charges: Pratap Sheri



JAGBIR UPLANA (ASSANDH): Congress leader Sher Pratap Sheri has accused the state government of apathy and obstinacy regarding the demands of sanitation workers—who are currently struggling to secure permanent employment status. He stated that instead of suppressing their voices, the government should accept their legitimate demands and grant them the status of permanent employees. Sheri remarked that the very sanitation workers honored as 'Corona Warriors' by the government during the difficult times of the pandemic are now facing lathi-charges and punitive action for raising their voices for their rights. He alleged that attempts are being made to stifle their agitation by forcibly shoving them into buses. He termed it an injustice that, instead of regularizing the employees demanding permanent jobs, the government is suspending them and stripping them of even their temporary employment. The Congress leader stated that sanitation workers are the backbone of the community's sanitation system. They leave their homes in the morning just as most people are preparing to send their children to school. By clearing garbage and waste from streets, roads, and residential areas, they provide a clean environment and play a crucial role in protecting people from diseases spread by flies and mosquitoes. Despite this, they are forced to struggle for job stability and future security. Sheri noted that sanitation workers also dream of a better future for their children. Granting them permanent employee status would not only ensure job security but also allow them to avail themselves of the various schemes and benefits available to government employees.

**AXIS BANK LTD.**

Retail Asset Centre: **AXIS Bank Ltd. SCB-5, First Floor, Chhoti Baradari, Patiala 147901.**

Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025, Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE REGARDING POSSESSION OF PROPERTY UIS 13(4) OF SARIFAESI ACT 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Axis Bank Ltd for an amount and interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor Address	1). Date of Demand Notice 2). NPA DATE 3). Date of Possession 4). Amount Outstanding as per 13-2 Notice
1.	Rajinder Singh S/o Labh Singh	1). 06-Jan-2025 2). 30-June-2024 3). 09-Sept-2026 4). Rs. 7,49,541/- (Rs. Seven lacs forty nine thousand five hundred forty one Only)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:- All that part and parcel of the Residential Property Property measuring 254.5 Sq. Yards bearing Khewat/Khatali No. 60/70, 620/916 comprised under Kharsa No. 21/15/2/1/1(0-9), 15/1(4-0), 22/11/1(2/3-11) situated at Dashmesh Colony, Village Logharh, Tehsil Derasbassi, Distt. S.A.S.Nagar, Mohali.

Dated: 11-09-2026,**Sd/-, Authorized Officer,**
Place: Punjab**Axis Bank Ltd.**

**HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED**

3rd Floor, Bldg No: 306, Millennium Business Park, Opp Ramada Hotel, TTC Industrial Area, Sector - 2, Mahape, Navi Mumbai - 400705, Tel No: +91 22 49116300

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

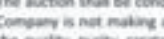
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79592427	Simran Do Velparkash	13-03-2026	22206	Ludhiana-Sunder Nagar
69430343	Raj Kumar	12-06-2025	18884	Ropar

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Place : Haryana and Punjab**Authorized Officer**
Date : 12-09-2026**(HDB Financial Services Ltd)**

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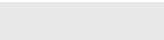
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Akshay Kumar’s birthday post appears to reveal title of his next film with Anees Bazmee



Akshay Kumar appears to have revealed the title of his upcoming film with director Anees Bazmee while responding to birthday wishes on Wednesday. The actor repeatedly used the phrase “Maujah Hi Maujah” in his replies to co-stars Raashii Khanna and Vidya Balan, as well as Bazmee, indicating the title of their upcoming collaboration.Akshay Kumar is celebrating his birthday on Wednesday, and the actor may have marked the occasion by dropping the hint of the title of his next project with Anees Bazmee. Raashii Khanna and Vidya Balan, who are Akshay’s co-stars in the Anees Bazmee-directorial, wished him on Instagram.Akshay reposted their message on his Instagram Stories and wrote, “Thank you so much, ladies! Clearly, we don’t care where we are as long as there’s some Maujah Hi Maujah!” He also shared a birthday message for Akshay on Instagram, recalling their professional association and praising the actor’s dedication, discipline and passion for cinema.He wrote, “Happy Birthday, Akshay Ji From the first time we worked together to all the memories we’ve created over the years, it has always been a pleasure watching your dedication, discipline and passion for cinema. You bring an incredible energy to every film and every character, and that commitment is something I have always admired about you. Lots of love and best wishes always.”Akshay reposted the message and replied, “Thank you, Anees ji. Working on your sets, there’s only one feeling that comes to mind... Maujah Hi Maujah! So excited for everything that’s still to come.”

"It's going to be a completely different journey": Jaideep Ahlawat on comparison with Akshaye Khanna in 'Drishyam 3'



Actor Jaideep Ahlawat opened up about his character in the upcoming film 'Drishyam 3' saying that his role has no connection with Akshaye Khanna's exit or character in the film's predecessor. The alleged sudden exit of Akshaye Khanna from 'Drishyam 3' garnered headlines last year, prompting legal troubles for the actor. Following this, the makers of the movie announced Jaideep Ahlawat as the new character in the film. It led to several speculations among the fans that the actor has come on board as the replacement of Akshaye Khanna. However, Jaideep Ahlawat has now cleared the air around such rumours, saying that his character in the film has no connection with Akshaye Khanna's role in the upcoming movie. While addressing the media at the trailer launch of 'Drishyam 3', Jaideep Ahlawat said, "When I heard the story, it was not like I was coming at Akshaye sir's place or anything. That character's journey ends, and a new character has been introduced. So, there was no advantage in taking me under the pressure of that character." He continued, "And about the comparison, it's going to be a completely different journey. The introduction campaign is going to be new. A new relationship is going to be created with Meera, the Deshmukh family or Salgaonkar family. So, it's going to be a very individualistic approach of that single character. So, I don't think there was any pressure or anything (for his casting)."

Meanwhile, the trailer of 'Drishyam: The Conclusion' was finally released on Wednesday, bringing Ajay Devgn back as the iconic Vijay Salgaonkar, who now faces a determined new adversary played by Jaideep Ahlawat.The trailer, unveiled in Goa on Wednesday, picks up from where 'Drishyam 2' left off, while taking the story in a new direction with a fresh plot and an entirely new screenplay. The film is directed by Abhishek Pathak and is scheduled to release theatrically on October 2. The Salgaonkar family has always stood together, and Vijay has repeatedly managed to stay ahead.

However, the latest chapter introduces a formidable new challenge in the form of Jaideep Ahlawat, who plays SP Crime Branch, Rajveer Singh Tomar.Tomar takes charge of the seemingly impossible case and is determined to uncover the truth that Vijay has managed to conceal for years. However, Vijay is determined to save his family.As the investigation intensifies, old secrets resurface, and unanswered questions begin closing in on the Salgaonkar family.

Modern Dairies promoters convert Rs. 43 crore warrants into equity shares

CHANDIGARH - Modern Dairies Limited, Chandigarh has successfully completed the conversion of 86,00,000 Warrants into equivalent number of Equity Shares which were allotted to six allottees belonging to Promoters & Promoter's Group. The warrant conversion follows the preferential allotment of 86,00,000 warrants issued on March 13, 2025. Each warrant was convertible into one equity share of Rs. 10 each at a premium of Rs. 40 each. The price comprised a warrant subscription price of Rs.12.50 (25%) paid upfront and a warrant conversion exercise price of Rs.37.50 (75%) payable at the time of conversion. All warrant holders have exercised their right in full. The Final Tranche of allotment approved by the Allotment Committee of Directors on September 10, 2026. The newly issued shares are set to rank pari-passu with existing equity, ensuring equal treatment for all the shareholders.

The conversion has significantly expanded the Paid-up Equity Share Capital from Rs.23,31,98,610 to Rs.31,91,98,610, further strengthening the company's financial position and capital base. This has resulted into better operational performance and it is expected to improve in future as well. Further, premium of Rs. 40 per share amounting to Rs. 34,40,00,000 will be transferred to the Reserve & Surplus account of the Company. Following the warrants conversion, the Promoters and Promoter Group now holds 1,92,59,879 shares, representing 60.34% of the enhanced Paid-up Equity Capital.

‘Mismatched’ season 4: Rohit Saraf, Prajakta Koli wrap filming for final season

Rohit Saraf and Prajakta Koli have wrapped filming for the fourth and final season of Netflix's popular coming-of-age series 'Mismatched', marking the completion of Dimple and Rishi's journey.Koli announced the wrap on Instagram, writing, “see you soon.”

The upcoming season will bring the series' central characters back for the concluding chapter of their story, with familiar faces returning alongside new moments and surprises.Produced by RSVP Movies, Mismatched follows Dimple and Rishi as they navigate love, friendship and growing up. The fourth season will bring their journey to a close.For Koli, who plays Dimple, returning for the final season has been an emotional experience.In a statement issued as part of a release, she said, “Coming back to the Mismatched set for one final season feels incredibly emotional. Dimple has been such a huge part of my journey, and getting to tell the last chapter of her story on Netflix is something I'll always be grateful for. I can't wait for our paglus on Netflix to experience what we've been cooking.”Saraf, who returns as Rishi, also reflected on the

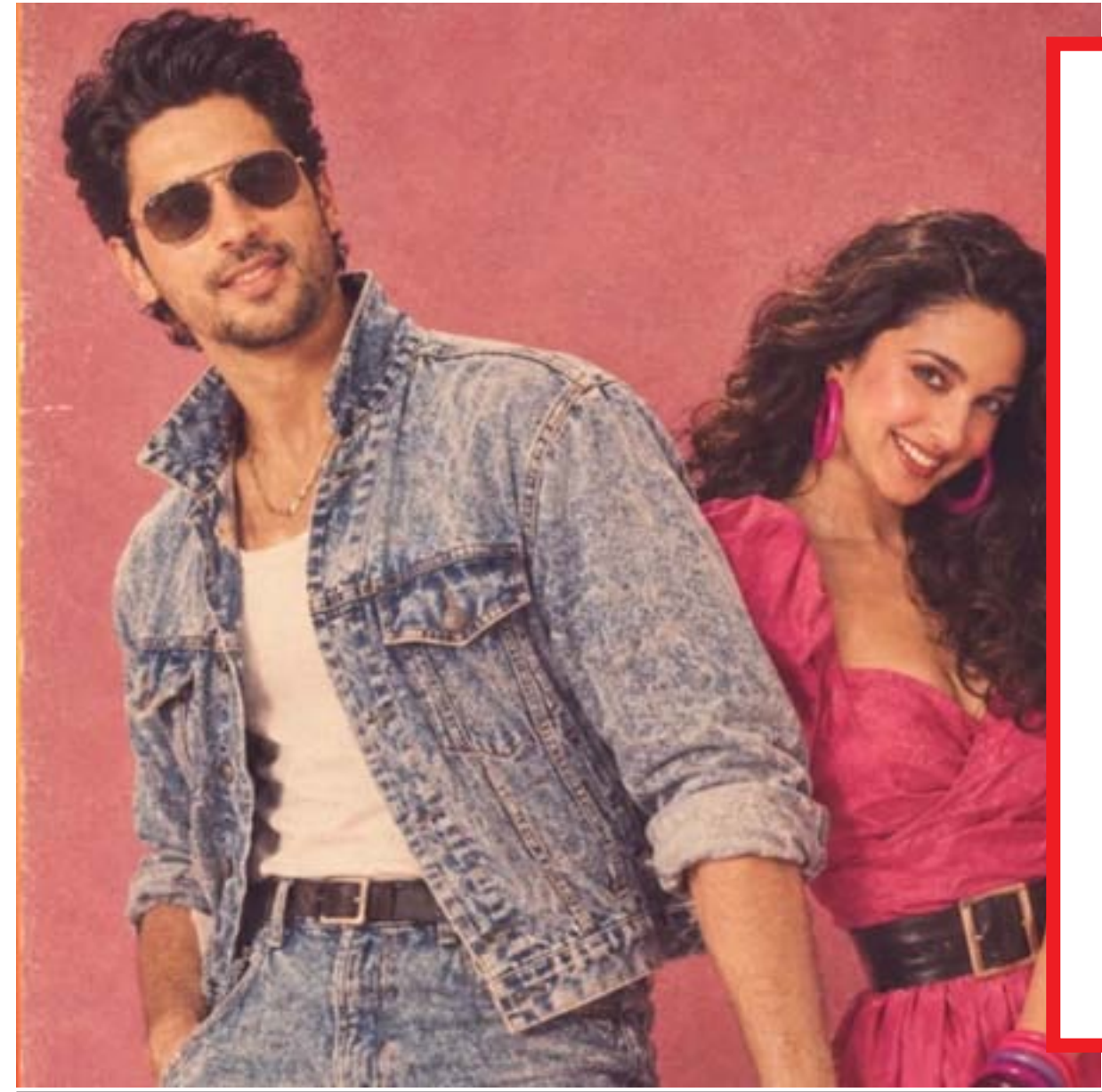
show's significance to him.“Mismatched has given me some of my favourite memories, and returning for this final season on Netflix feels really special. Being back with this team, slipping into Rishi's world again, and

creating new memories together already feels magical,” he said.With filming now complete, the fourth season is set to serve as the final chapter of the story that has built a loyal fan following over the years.

Suriya plays role of a cop in next movie 'Scene'; slated to hit theatres on Nov 6



Actor Suriya's next movie has finally got a title. After the blockbuster success of 'Vishwanath and Sons', the actor has joined hands with director Jithu Madhavan for the film titled 'Scene.'The makers have released the title teaser of the movie, showcasing Suriya as a cop in the action thriller. The movie also stars Nazriya Nazim, Naslen, Anandraj, Lal, Raj Priyan and others in prominent roles. As per the title teaser video, Suriya plays the role of an unconventional cop who appears to be smoking and catching criminals. The movie is jointly produced by Jyotika and Suriya under the banner of Zhagaram Studios & 2D Entertainment. Zhagaram Studios shared the title teaser on their Instagram handle on Wednesday. The film is slated to release in theatres on November 6. The upcoming movie of Suriya is preceded by the actor's blockbuster hit 'Vishwanath and Sons' and was directed by Venky Atluri. The music of the film was composed by GV Prakash Kumar. Suriya is currently on a hit streak at the box office with films including 'Karuppu', and 'Vishwanath and Sons'. Apart from 'Scene', the actor also has another project with director TJ Gnanavel, backed by Hombale Films, along with several other films currently in development.



Kiara Advani, Sidharth Malhotra join viral '80s AI trend

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra have joined the viral '80s AI retro picture trend on Instagram, with Kiara sharing a digitally reimagined portrait of the couple as a classic 1980s Bollywood pairing on September 9.Kiara captioned the post, "Back to the 80's", as the AI-generated image gave both actors a complete vintage makeover. portrait, Sidharth sports a quintessential retro hero look, wearing a denim shirt over a white T-shirt and dark aviator sunglasses.Kiara, meanwhile, channels classic Bollywood glamour in a vibrant pink puff-sleeved short dress, styled with a black waist belt, oversized hoop earrings and matching bangles.

Kiara also paired her Instagram story featuring the nostalgic image with 'Samjiho Na', the romantic track from Sidharth's upcoming film 'The Vvaan: Force of the Forrest'.The portrait quickly went viral, with fans praising the couple's chemistry and drawing comparisons between their retro appearance and iconic vintage on-screen pairings.The viral 80s AI trend, is a social media craze where users use artificial intelligence to reimagine their modern selfies as retro portraits from the 1980s.Instead of just using a standard vintage filter, people upload their photos to AI tools like ChatGPT or Google Gemini alongside detailed prompts.The AI generates a new image that preserves their exact facial features while being completely overhauled with voluminous hairstyles, period-accurate fashion, film grain, and old-school studio lighting. The trend has completely taken over platforms like Instagram and X, with everyone from influencers to Indian politicians jumping on the nostalgia wave.On the professional front, Kiara Advani was last seen in 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups', co-starring Yash in the lead.Meanwhile, Sidharth is awaiting the release of 'The Vvaan: Force of the Forrest', co-starring Tamannaah Bhatia, which is scheduled to release on September 25.

DFS Secretary unveils innovations to advance financial inclusion at GFF 2026

AMRITSAR: The Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Shri Sanjay Lohiya,today launched multiple innovations at Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026to advance financial inclusion in the country. The launch includes theintroduction of Open-Source (Android) ATM forinstant Rupaycard and Merchant UPI QR issuance, the enablement of "Credit Line on UPI" for select government-backed credit schemes, and the introduction of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) Three-Party Cash Deposit.The announcement took place in the presence Shri Saurabh Vijay CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

Open Source (Android) ATM forRuPay card and Merchant QR issuance

The solution will enablecustomers to instantly receive personalised RuPaydebit, credit and NCMC cards directly from an ATM through a simple self-service journey. The open-source(Android) ATM will also dispense merchant QR codes for UPI-based payment collections which will help merchants to easily deploy QRs and start accepting payments. Additionally, these ATMs will also providebanking services such as cheque deposits, account opening and loan applications.

GFF guests and attendees were able to experience first-hand the open-source ATMspaced across the GFF venue.The solution aims to expand the role of ATMs from just cash withdrawal and deposit machines to intelligent customer service and banking access points.Customers can receive their cards directly from the machine without waiting for courier delivery or making a branch visit,while merchants can obtain QR codes instantly for UPI-based payment collections.

Banks are also exploring the use of these ATMs as Digital Banking Units (DBUs), enabling them to extend banking services to semi-urban and rural areas where traditional branch infrastructure may be limited. Additionally, banks can deploy it at metro stations and transit hubs,at airports including instant access to lounges,and at educational campuses and corporate parks, enabling instant issuance of cards to travellers, students and employees. By enabling instant card issuance at the ATM, banks can improve customer acquisition and onboarding while eliminating the operational overhead associated with branch visits and physical card distribution.

Currently,nine banks, including banks like State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, UCO, Slice Small finance Bank and Airtel Payments Bank are engaging with NPCI and ATM OEMs such as Hitachi Payment Services, Perto India and Vortex Engineeringto assess and explore the solution.

"Credit Line on UPI" for Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and PM MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)

Credit Line on UPI was enabled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September 2023, allowing pre-sanctioned bank credit lines to be linked as a funding account on UPI.The initiative enables eligible beneficiaries of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and PM MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) to use their sanctioned credit limits for merchant payments through UPI, bringing digital access to formal credit for farmers and small businesses.

These flagship credit schemes were established to strengthen financial inclusion among priority segments, by providing access to working capital and overdraft facilities. Collectively, they represent a significant credit ecosystem, with over 7.7 crore operative KCC accounts carrying sanctioned limits exceeding ₹10 lakh crore and more than 57 crore PMMY loans amounting to over ₹40 lakh crore.

Nani's 'Paradise' shooting wrapped!

If sources in the industry are to be believed, the unit of director Srikanth Odela's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'The Paradise', featuring Telugu star Nani in the lead, has now wrapped up the film's shooting. Sources in the know say that the unit of the film has wrapped up the entire production part and add that post-production work was also in full swing.

For the unaware, the film, which has been produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the banner of SLV Cinemas, is slated for release on September 24. The film is to have its premieres on September 23 this year.

Meanwhile, the makers added to the excitement of fans on Thursday by releasing a new picture of Nani from the film. The film has been garnering attention, not just for the actor's striking appearance, but also for the fact that the image in question was a screenshot from director Srikanth Odela's mobile phone.

In the newly released poster, Nani sports a rugged period look, with long braided hair, a thick beard and a rough, dark costume. He is seen holding a heavy gun even as he sports an intense stare.

It may be recalled that 'The Paradise' was originally set for a grand release on March 26, 2026. However, its makers chose to postpone the film's release, first to August 21 and then to September 24. A teaser that the makers had released some time ago has only added to the excitement of fans. The teaser released begins with a voiceover asking, "Henceforth, to whom does this place belong?" Nani is seen announcing his arrival in quite a dramatic manner, performing an acrobatic stunt. Sporting two plaits and drenched in blood, he walks slowly sipping what appears to be a beverage.



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