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Modi, UAE prez stress on deepening collaboration between both countries

NEW DELHI, JULY 31



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as they laid emphasis on further developing and deepening the collaboration between two countries for the shared benefit of the peoples of both countries, a statement said on Thursday.

Both leaders spoke over the phone and reaffirmed their mutual commitment to further strengthening the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and the UAE. They positively assessed the remarkable progress made across various sectors of bilateral cooperation and laid emphasis on further developing and deepening collaboration for the shared benefit of the peoples of both countries.

The statement said Sheikh Mohamed warmly congratulated Modi on becoming the second longest-serving prime minister in a continuous tenure in India, and wished him continued success in his service to the nation. PTI

Modi lauds Shah's 'phenomenal' speech

Lauding Home Minister Amit Shah's reply to the debate on Operation Sindoor in the Rajya Sabha as phenomenal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that he categorically expressed the government's stand on national security, including uprooting of terror networks. In posts on X, Modi praised External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's "exceptional" speech as well. He emphasised India's efforts to make terrorism a subject of global attention, highlighted the country's fitting response through Operation Sindoor and how the government is increasing the safety of citizens, Modi said.

Bhagwant Mann and Kejriwal vow to further realise dreams of martyrs

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Shaheed Udham Singh Wala (Sunam), July 31



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and National Convener of Aam Aadmi Party Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday renewed their pledge to further realize the dreams of martyrs by ensuring welfare of every section of society.

Addressing the gathering after laying the foundation stone of projects worth around Rs 85 crore to give facelift to Shaheed Udham Singh wala town, the National convener of AAP said that Shaheed Udham Singh made a supreme sacrifice for the sake of the freedom of the country. Arvind kejriwal said that it is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction for him to be part of this function to pay tribute to the iconic martyr. He said that India's freedom struggle saw countless sacrifices for the sake of the country to carve out an egalitarian society to ensure welfare of the weaker and underprivileged sections.

However, the National Convener of AAP said that it is unfortunate that even after 75 years of freedom none of their aspirations have been fulfilled as those in power misused their authority to plunder the wealth.

The former Delhi Chief Minister said that he elated to learn that the backbone of the drug has been broken for which the state government needs a pat. He said that the manner in which this anti-drug campaign has been launched finds no parallel in contemporary Indian history. Arvind Kejriwal said that the most notorious and feared drug lord has been put behind the bars by an honest government in the state.

The National convener of AAP said that no one had ever dared to touch this influential political leader, who was instrumental in introducing and spreading the drug in the state. In his address, the Chief Minister said that it is the duty of the state government to pay tributes to such legendary martyrs who had laid down their lives for the sake of the country.

Bhagwant Singh Mann further said that naming the airports, universities and other institutions in the name of these iconic martyrs is important to perpetuate their glorious legacy. He said that the countrymen are enjoying the fruits of freedom due to the enormous sacrifices made by legendary heroes like Shaheed Udham Singh.

Mann and Kejriwal pay tributes to Shaheed Udham Singh



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Shaheed Udham Singh Wala (Sunam), July 31

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and National Convener of Aam Aadmi Party Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday paid floral tributes to Shaheed Udham Singh in a state level function to commemorate his 86th martyrdom day and laid foundation stone of development projects worth around Rs 85 crore to the native town of martyr.

Paying rich tributes to Shaheed Udham Singh at Udham Singh Samark in the local stadium, the Chief Minister and Arvind Kejriwal laid wreaths at the memorial to pay homage to the martyr. They said that this true son of soil had in a heroic act exhibited exemplary courage by killing Michael O' Dwyer, the prime perpetrator of Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister and Arvind Kejriwal also gave a bonanza of about Rs 85 crore to the residents of Shaheed Udham Singh Wala in form of various development projects. These include Upgradation of Tehsil Complex at a cost Rs 15.32 crore, which will be completed within one year.

Similarly, they laid the foundation stone of a new bus stand being constructed in Sunam at a cost of Rs 13.64 crore.

CBSE amends affiliation norms: sections to be permitted based on school's built up area

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has amended its affiliation bye-laws to mandate that the maximum number of sections in a school will be permitted based on the total built-up carpet area of the school building, according to officials. The board has also decided that schools shall be allowed an equal number of sections at the secondary level and at the senior secondary level.

"The board has been receiving feedback from the schools and stakeholders that there are areas where there is an acute shortage of land availability, due to which, at times, the schools face functional difficulties in increasing additional sections beyond the permissible limit, even when there is a demand for new admissions. "The schools also find it difficult to meet the section student ratio of 1:40 with pressure for new admissions, but are unable to add additional sections due to the limit of permissible sections as per land criteria," said CBSE Secretary Himanshu Gupta. PTI

India to take all steps to protect national interest: Goyal on US tariff

NEW DELHI, JULY 31



India will take all necessary steps to safeguard and promote national interest, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday, a day after US President Donald Trump announced 25 per cent tariffs plus penalty on domestic exports to America from August 1.

In a suo motu statement in both the houses of Parliament, he said, the government is examining the implications of these tariffs and is in consultation with all stakeholders, including farmers, exporters, MSMEs and industry bodies, on the tariffs.

"The Government attaches the utmost importance to protecting and promoting the welfare of our farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs and all sections of industry. We will take all necessary steps to secure and advance our national interest," he said.

He added that the implications of the recent development are being examined by the government. The ministry is engaged with all stakeholders including exporters and industry for taking feedback of their assessment of the situation, Goyal said. US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India starting August 1, plus an unspecified penalty for buying Russian crude oil and military equipment. PTI

Lok Sabha adjourned for the day amid Opposition protests on SIR

NEW DELHI, JULY 23



The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day at 2 pm on Wednesday amid noisy protests by opposition members protesting against the revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

This is the third consecutive day of the Monsoon Session that the House has faced disruptions.

Waving placards and raising slogans, opposition members stormed into the Well of the House during Question Hour, leading to the adjournment of the proceedings for the day.

Earlier the proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm when the protests and sloganeering continued.

Similar scenes played out when the House reconvened and TDP leader Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the Chair, adjourned the proceedings.

Opposition members raised slogans like 'SIR wapas lo (Roll back SIR)'.

The opposition is demanding a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, an exercise initiated by the Election Commission ahead of the state assembly polls due later this year.

Speaker Om Birla said the protesting MPs were behaving as if they were on the streets and warned that he would be forced to take "decisive" action against them. PTI

2008 MALEGAON BLAST CASE

Court acquits all 7 accused, including Pragya Thakur

MUMBAI, JULY 31

Nearly 17 years after the Malegaon blast claimed six lives, a special court on Thursday acquitted all seven accused, including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit, noting there was "no reliable and cogent evidence" against them.

No religion teaches violence, the court said. Terrorism has no religion, but the court cannot convict on mere perception, it added.

Special Judge A K Lahoti, assigned to hear cases of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) here, flagged several loopholes in the prosecution's case and the investigation carried out, and said the accused persons deserved the benefit of doubt.

An explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque in the town, located about 200 km from Mumbai, on September 29, 2008 killing six persons and injuring 101 others.

Besides Thakur and Purohit, the accused comprised Major Ramesh Upadhyay (retired), Ajay Rahirkar, Sudhakar Dwivedi, Sudhakar Chaturvedi and Sameer Kulkarni.

Once the court acquitted the seven accused, they looked relieved with smiles on their faces. They thanked the judge and their lawyers. The court while reading out the judgment said there was no "reliable and cogent" evidence to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt. PTI

India, Russia can take their dead economies down together: Trump

WASHINGTON, JULY 31



US President Donald Trump once again mounted a sharp attack on India and Russia for their close ties and said that the two countries can take their "dead economies down together".

The US president's fresh criticism of New Delhi and Moscow came hours after announcing 25 per cent tariffs against India, plus a "penalty" for its trade with Russia. "I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care," he said.

"We have done very little business with India, their Tariffs are too high, among the highest in the World," he added. Trump on Wednesday announced the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India starting August 1, plus an unspecified penalty for buying Russian crude oil and military equipment.

The surprise announcement came a day after Indian officials said that a US trade team would visit from August 25 to negotiate a trade deal.

The announcement is being seen as a pressure tactic to get New Delhi to agree to demands made by the US, which has, in recent days, got favourable trade deals with major partners like Japan, the UK and the European Union. IANS

US sanctions 6 Indian companies over trade of Iranian petroleum products

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, JULY 31

"The Iranian regime continues to fuel conflict in the Middle East to fund its destabilizing activities. Today, the United States is taking action to stem the flow of revenue that the regime uses to support terrorism abroad, as well as to oppress its own people," the Department of State said on Wednesday, as it announced imposing sanctions on 20 global entities engaged in Iranian petroleum, petroleum products or petrochemical trade.

The State Department said multiple companies in India, the United Arab Emirates, Türkiye and Indonesia are being designated for their significant sales and purchases of Iranian-origin petrochemical products. PTI

Air India's Dreamliner aborts takeoff at Delhi airport due to technical issue

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

Air India's Dreamliner Boeing 787-9, which was to fly to London, aborted takeoff at the Delhi airport due to a technical issue on Thursday.

"Flight AI2017, operating from Delhi to London on July 31, returned to the bay due to a suspected technical issue. The cockpit crew decided to discontinue the takeoff run following standard operating procedures and brought the aircraft back for precautionary checks," an airline spokesperson said in a statement to media. According to a source, the flight was to be operated with a Boeing 787-9 plane.

"An alternative aircraft is being deployed to fly the passengers to London at the earliest. Our ground staff is extending all support and care to the guests to minimise inconvenience caused due to this unexpected delay," the statement said.

Details about the number of passengers onboard could not be immediately ascertained. In recent weeks, there have been various issues involving Air India planes, and the airline has also come under the regulatory scanner. PTI

Above-normal rain likely in India in second half of monsoon season: IMD

NEW DELHI, JULY 31



India is likely to receive above-normal rainfall during the second half of the monsoon season (August and September), the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday. Most parts of the country, except the Northeast and adjoining areas of eastern India, are expected to record normal rainfall in August, said IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra during an online press conference.

Rainfall in September is likely to be above normal, he said. India received above-normal rainfall during the first half of the monsoon season (June and July), with some states, particularly Himachal Pradesh, experiencing flash floods. "Overall, above-normal rainfall (106 percent of the Long Period Average of 422.8 mm) is most likely over the country during the second half of the southwest monsoon season," Mohapatra said.

"Geographically, normal to above-normal rainfall is most likely across most regions, except for many parts of the northeast and adjoining eastern India, isolated regions of central India and southwestern areas of the peninsular region, where below-normal rainfall is expected." PTI

MP Chabbewal meets Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, July 31



Lok Sabha MP Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal met Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and submitted a memorandum requesting early commencement of the Hoshiarpur-Tanda road construction project. The Union Minister assured that the work will begin soon.

During the meeting, which also included Sri Anandpur Sahib MP Malvinder Singh Kang, Dr. Chabbewal informed that the 27.9 km long road from Hoshiarpur to Tanda will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 28.86 crores.

He also raised the issue of the incomplete Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road, requesting immediate resumption of the halted work. Minister Gadkari assured that the pending work on this road will also begin shortly.

Dr Chabbewal stated that the delay in the Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road construction was due to issues related to land acquisition, particularly in areas where the road has not yet been built. However, Deputy Commissioner Aashika Jain has now assured that the land acquisition process will be expedited, paving the way for construction to resume.

Dr Chabbewal stated that the delay in the Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road construction was due to issues related to land acquisition, particularly in areas where the road has not yet been built.

He further added that the halted construction of the Adampur flyover is also being taken up and will resume soon.

It is worth noting that the Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road spans approximately 38 km, and the incomplete stretches have been causing significant inconvenience to commuters.

Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal and Malvinder Singh Kang reiterated that the AAP government in Punjab is fully committed to addressing state-related issues, and strong efforts are being made to resolve them during the ongoing session of the Lok Sabha.

Tributes paid to Shaheed Udham Singh on his 86th martyrdom anniversary in Ferozepur

HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, July 31



On the occasion of the 86th martyrdom anniversary of India's revolutionary hero Shaheed Udham Singh, floral tributes were offered by various organisations and prominent social, religious, and community leaders in Ferozepur.

The ceremony was led by the Shaheed Udham Singh Memorial Committee, which paid homage to the martyr who avenged the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre by assassinating Michael O'Dwyer in London on March 13, 1940. He was hanged at Pentonville Prison, London, on July 31, 1940.

Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Baljit Singh Kamboj said that Udham Singh's sacrifice remains a symbol of courage, determination, and patriotism, inspiring freedom lovers across the world.

Earlier in the day, citizens gathered at Shaheed Udham Singh Chowk in Ferozepur at 11 am and laid floral wreaths at his statue. Various speakers recalled his bravery and the importance of remembering such sacrifices, which paved the way for India's freedom.

Kamboj further highlighted that across Punjab, rallies, plays, and speech competitions were organized to mark the day. He stated that this occasion once again reminded the nation that freedom was not easily won and came through the sacrifices of great martyrs like Udham Singh.

The event concluded with a collective resolve to carry forward the legacy of Shaheed Udham Singh and uphold the values he fought for.

Notable attendees included Parminder Singh Thind, Sucha Singh Tibbi (Chairman), Gurbhej Singh Tibbi, Jasbir Singh Josan, Balwinder Singh Kamagar, Davinder Singh Kamagar, Jarnail Singh (Sarpanch), and others.

State-level inspection teams check fertiliser dealers across Amritsar to curb black marketing



RAMAN CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, July 31

In accordance with the Punjab government's efforts to ensure the timely availability of fertilizers to farmers, special state-level checking teams have been inspecting the records of private fertilizer dealers and co-operative societies across the state. This initiative also aims to investigate the rising consumption of urea fertilizer and prevent its hoarding or black marketing.

In Amritsar district, Dr Harpreetpal Kaur, Chief Agriculture Officer of Mansa, led the inspection team along with Agriculture Development Officers Parjeet Singh Aulakh, Gurinderpal Singh, Gurbir Singh, and Gurpreet Singh, all from Mansa. The inspections were carried out in various blocks including Ajnala, Chogawan, Harshachhina, Verka, Attari, Tarsikka, Raiya, Jandiala Guru, and Majitha.

The team examined fertilizer-related records of both private dealers and cooperative societies and also interacted with farmers to assess the ground-level availability of urea fertilizer.

Dr. Kaur directed all fertilizer sellers to update their Point of Sale (POS) machines to ensure the sold stock is recorded accurately and reflects the remaining stock. This measure, she said, would assist in timely requisitioning of fertilizer from the Government of India.

She instructed dealers to: Keep all licenses and essential documents up to date, Display daily stock and prices clearly on their boards, Provide bills for all sales and only sell required agricultural materials.

She instructed dealers to: Keep all licenses and essential documents up to date, Display daily stock and prices clearly on their boards, Provide bills for all sales and only sell required agricultural materials. Refrain from pushing unnecessary goods on farmers.

Strict action under the Fertilizer/Seed/Pesticide Act or Control Orders will be taken against those found violating these instructions, especially if found selling goods without proper billing.

Dr Kaur also appealed to farmers to always demand a proper bill for any purchase of fertilizers, pesticides, or seeds. In case of refusal, she encouraged them to lodge a written complaint at the nearest agriculture office.

AAP committed to fulfilling every promise made to people of Punjab: Ajinder Pal Kaur



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 31

The Punjab government is running under the able leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and all the promises made to the people of the state during the 2022 election campaign are being fulfilled. The above was said by Aam Aadmi Party Women Wing Malwa Central Zone Incharge Ajinder Pal Kaur while addressing a meeting organized under the chairmanship of Radha Malhotra for strengthening and expansion of women's organization in local Chandigarh Road 32 Sector.

Ajinder Pal Kaur said that the government has already started Mohalla Clinics where expert doctors are providing free treatment for more than 3 dozen diseases.

And the government has also provided relief to the people by providing the facility of anti-rabies injection. To bring the youth of Punjab out of the quagmire of drugs and enable them to take care of their families, about 54,000 government jobs have been created without recommendation by creating a corruption-free environment. The party has pledged to provide every basic facility to the people of the state by providing free electricity, free bus travel, free education.

Ajinder Kaur said that the women's organization of Aam Aadmi Party is giving an opportunity to women across the state to hone their skills so that women who are skilled in any work can try to start that startup and government institutions will fully support them for that work.

Students spread awareness on green work space and no plastic use

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 31



With focus on saving the environment, a group of Korean students working under the International Volunteer Organisation ASEZ (World Mission Society Church of God) organised an awareness program at Zone D office of Municipal Corporation (MC) on Wednesday.

The awareness program focussed on green work space, no plastic use and sustainable development.

With the help of posters and placards, the group of students also stressed upon climate change and how it is affecting our lives.

The ASEZ group members stated that in the coming days, they would also be organising awareness programs in different city areas including markets, public spaces. MC Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal appreciated the efforts being put in by the group and stated that everyone should make joint efforts to save the environment for the coming generations.

Poster-making competition held



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, July 31

Following the directions of My Bharat Hoshiarpur, and to highlight the importance of trees under the "Ek Rukh Maa De Naam" (One Tree in Mother's Name) initiative, Sat Sri Akal Doaba organized a poster-making competition on Thursday at Mary Gold Public School.

The event was graced by Prof. Ajit Singh Jabbal, Retired HOD, Government College Hoshiarpur; Principal Rupinder Kaur, and noted theatre artist Ashok Puri. The competition was held under the supervision of Retired Inspector Ramesh Kumar, President of Sat Sri Akal Doaba.

A total of 48 studentsfrom Classes 8th, 9th, and 10th participated in the two-hour painting competition. The entries were judged by Prof. Ajit Singh Jabbal, who praised the creativity and environmental awareness shown by the students.

A total of 48 students-from Classes 8th, 9th, and 10th participated in the two-hour painting competition. The entries were judged by Prof. Ajit Singh Jabbal, who praised the creativity and environmental awareness shown by the students.

Winners of the competition were: 1st Prize: Chahat (Class 10),2nd Prize: Nandini,3rd Prize: Prerna (Class 9).

FIR registered against Kotak Mahindra Bank

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 31

An FIR has been registered against officials of Kotak Mahindra Bank, Feroze Gandhi Market Branch, Ludhiana, based on a complaint filed by Davinder Singh Bedi of M/s Taipan Exports Private Limited.

According to the complaint, Bedi had booked foreign currency through the bank on the assurance of . Akhil Chawla (Wealth Manager), Varun Chopra, and Gaurav Chawla of the said branch. Following the currency booking, due to fluctuations caused by the Iran-Israel conflict, the bank demanded an additional deposit. Bedi deposited Rs 2.40 crores, but later received an automated message stating the deposits had been cancelled. Upon further communication, the bank requested another Rs 2.50 crores.

A formal complaint was submitted to the Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana. Upon investigation, it was found that the bank officials were at fault. Consequently, an FIR has been lodged against the aforementioned bank employees who had visited M/s Taipan Exports Private Limited and mismanaged the transaction, resulting in financial loss.

Gurmeet Singh Kular, President of the Federation of Industrial and Commercial Organization (FICO), condemned the unethical behavior of the bank, stating, "Such malpractice from a reputed financial institution is unacceptable. Along with the FIR, FICO will also escalate this matter to the Reserve Bank of India to ensure justice is delivered."

Doctor shot during clinic altercation in Ferozepur, out of danger



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, July 31

A sense of fear has gripped the local medical community after a 44-year-old BAMS practitioner, Dr Rupinderjit Singh of Guru Hargobind Clinic, was shot at his clinic on Malwal Road in Ferozepur during an altercation with three unidentified men.

According to sources, the assailants entered the clinic and, after a heated argument, one of them opened fire, injuring Dr. Singh in the chest while he was attending to patients. He was immediately rushed to a private hospital, where doctors later confirmed he is out of danger.

Eyewitnesses reported that while one attacker fired the shot, the other two fled the scene. Police have begun an investigation, recording preliminary statements and analysing CCTV footage. An FIR is being registered, and a manhunt has been launched, confirmed DSP (City) Sukhwinder Singh.

Pratibha Girls Scholarship awarded to 39 meritorious students

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, July 31



The Pratibha Girls Scholarship Programme, initiated by the Mayank Foundation (MF), has become a true blessing for young girls in the border district of Ferozepur. Under this initiative, 39 girls have completed their graduation so far. Driven by a sense of social responsibility and a commitment to education, the Foundation provides financial assistance annually to meritorious and economically challenged girls.

Mayank Foundation was established in memory of young student Mayank Sharma, who tragically lost his life in a road accident on October 7, 2017. To keep his spirit alive, his family and friends founded this organisation. A brilliant badminton player, Mayank's legacy now lives on through the Foundation, which actively works for the public welfare in areas such as education, sports, the environment, and road safety.

With an aim to encourage higher education and promote self-reliance among girls, Mayank Foundation once again organised the scholarship award ceremony at the Bajwa Auditorium of DCM International School. This year, too, 39 deserving students were selected to receive Rs 10,000 per year for three years. The program, now in its sixth year, has made a significant impact on the lives of many girls.

Project Coordinator Vinesh Galhotra explained that every year, 39 deserving girls are selected through a transparent process. Candidates are shortlisted based on outstanding performance in Class 10 and 12 board exams, followed by a written test and an evaluation of their family's financial condition to ensure that support reaches the truly needy. Each selected student receives a total of Rs 30,000 over three years.

Dr. Anirudh Gupta emphasised that despite being a border district, Ferozepur is making a name for itself in the fields of education and sports. He said that this scholarship program is a concrete step toward empowering girls and that the Foundation remains committed to bringing positive social change through such initiatives.

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State govt strengthens anganwadi services with pro-people reforms: Dr Baljit Kaur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31



Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab government is committed to strengthening Anganwadi services by making them more robust, empowered, and people-centric. In a major move towards this goal, the government will complete the recruitment process for over 5,000 vacant posts of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers by September 30, 2025.

This was announced by Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr Baljit Kaur, who stated that a special schedule has been issued for promotions, transfers/adjustments, and compassionate appointments for Anganwadi staff between July 23 and August 15.

She further informed that the department will process appointments for dependents of deceased Anganwadi Workers from August 1 to August 8, while transfers and adjustments will be finalized before August 15.

In a landmark decision, Dr Baljit Kaur highlighted that for the first time ever, the Punjab Government will provide job opportunities to dependents of Anganwadi Workers or Helpers who have become permanently disabled or unfit to work due to terminal illness during service.

The Cabinet Minister emphasized that the Mann government is consistently working for the welfare, protection, and motivation of Anganwadi staff. "These are not mere administrative steps but reflect our deep commitment to justice, empathy, and responsible governance. The government stands firmly with its frontline workers and will continue to safeguard their rights," she added.

Dr Baljit Kaur also shared that advertisements for the vacant posts will be published on August 22, and the last date to submit applications will be September 22. The entire recruitment process will be carried out transparently and strictly on the basis of merit, with no room for interference or bias.

Illegal Tramadol supply chain running from pharma unit in Uttarakhand busted; six held

N.P.S. CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, July 31



In a major big blow to illegal Pharma Opioid Supply Network amidst the ongoing war against drugs launched on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Police Commissionerate has unearthed a Tramadol supply chain originating from a small recovery of 35 tablets in Amritsar, leading up to a manufacturing unit in Haridwar in Uttrakhand.

The breakthrough came following the meticulous investigations into an initial recovery of 35 Tramadol tablets and the arrest of a local peddler, Ravinder Singh alias Nikka, in an FIR registered at Police Station A-Division, Amritsar. Probing backward and forward linkages, the police escalated the recovery to a staggering 74,465 Tramadol tablets, 50 Alprazolam tablets, and 325 kg of Tramadol raw material within just 15 days.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that based on sequential disclosures and raids, six arrests were made including chemists, distributors, and the plant head of Lucent Biotech Ltd.

Those arrested have been identified as Hari Kishore, Plant Manager of Lucent Biotech Limited, Roorkee, and Bikram, owner-cum-partner of Recall Lifesciences, Roorkee. Other arrested individuals include Manish Kumar Arora, Pooran Jatav, and Kulwinder Singh alias Kinda, a medical store owner from Kathunangal.

The DGP said that the grave concern of seized 'TRAKEMi-100' Tramadol strips bearing "Government Supply Only – Not for Sale," indicating illegal diversion of medical stock.

Punjab assembly panel on anti-sacrilege bill seeks public suggestions through Whatsapp, email

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

The select committee of the Punjab Assembly, formed for a wider consultation with the stakeholders on an anti-sacrilege bill, has released a WhatsApp number and an email ID for receiving suggestions from the public by August 31, a public notice said.

Suggestions can be sent by the public in writing on WhatsApp number 8054495560 and on e-mail IDs secy-vs-punjab@nic.in or pvs.legislation@gmail.com, it added.

According to the public notice, the select committee seeks suggestions from the public, religious institutions, non-government organisations, experts, intellectuals and various representatives of civil society regarding the bill.

The committee also asked people to send their views through MLAs of their respective constituencies and by post or by hand. The committee will consider suggestions received by August 31, it said.

The Punjab Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scripture(s) Bill, 2025, proposing punishment up to life imprisonment for sacrilege acts against religious scriptures, was introduced in the House on July 14.

Thereafter, the Punjab Assembly unanimously decided to refer the bill to the select committee of the House to seek public opinion, including religious bodies, on the proposed legislation.

A 15-member select committee, led by AAP MLA Inderbir Singh Nijjar, for seeking public opinion on the bill had been constituted by the Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan on July 19. The panel will submit its report on the bill within six months.

The first meeting of the select committee was held on July 24.

The anti-sacrilege bill mandates strict punishment, extending up to life imprisonment for the desecration of holy scriptures, including the Guru Granth Sahib, Bhagavad Gita, Bible and Quran.

According to the bill, any person found guilty of sacrilege may face jail term ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment. The guilty shall also be liable to pay a fine of Rs 5 lakh, which may extend up to Rs 10 lakh.

Those attempting to commit the offence may be sentenced to three to five years and shall also be liable to pay a fine which may extend up to Rs 3 lakh, according to the Bill. Individuals found abetting the crime will be punished in accordance with the offence committed. IANS

Jasvir Garhi meets Finance Minister Cheema



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31

Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission Chairman Jasvir Singh Garhi on Thursday met the State Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema.

During this meeting, Jasvir Singh Garhi discussed several issues related to the Scheduled Castes people of the state.

On this occasion, Garhi also apprised the Finance Minister about the functioning of the Scheduled Castes Commission and also talked about the early disposal of the pending cases related to the Commission so that the process of justice for the Scheduled Castes people of the state can be made faster and smoother. He also demanded to provide more staff in view of the current workload of the Commission.

Sardar Garhi said that the Finance Minister has assured to resolve all the issues related to the Commission at the earliest.

Centre denies permission to Minister Harbhajan Singh to visit US

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31



The Centre has declined to grant political clearance to Punjab Power and Public Works Department Minister Harbhajan Singh for his proposed visit to the United States.

The Aam Aadmi Party leader was scheduled to attend the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit 2025, to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, from August 4 to 6.

The official communication denying permission was reportedly received by the Punjab government on Thursday. This marks the fourth instance in which a minister or senior functionary from Punjab's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has been denied approval for foreign travel.

Last year, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was not granted clearance to travel to Paris during the Olympics, where he intended to watch a hockey match.

Similarly, Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan was refused permission to visit Kentucky, USA. In 2022, New and Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora was denied clearance for a proposed visit to Europe aimed at exploring advancements in the hydrogen energy sector.

The invitation to Punjab minister was jointly extended by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the National Legislators' Conference Bharat (NLC Bharat). According to a press release issued by the Punjab government on July 28, the invitation recogsized his notable contributions to legislative governance and public administration in the state.

The NCSL Legislative Summit 2025 is among the world's largest gatherings of legislative leaders, staff experts, and policymakers, offering an exceptional platform for learning, networking, and exchanging innovative ideas.

Arguments on Bikram Majithia's bail application today

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, July 31

A Mohali court on Wednesday fixed August 1 as the next date for hearing on the bail application of SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia held in a disproportionate assets case.

After four hours of hearing in the case, the prosecution sought the next date of hearing for arguments. Majithia's lawyers claimed that the government was regularly using time-gaining tactics in the bail case. They also said that they had moved an application for live streaming the court proceedings.

Soldiers killed in boulder accident in Ladakh cremated with military honours in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

The two soldiers killed in an accident in Ladakh were cremated with full military honours at their native places in Punjab on Thursday.

Lt Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh died, and three officers were injured, when a boulder fell on their army vehicle in eastern Ladakh on Wednesday.

The accident occurred in Charbagh near Durbuk in Galwan, some 200 km from Leh.

Earlier in the day, the bodies of Mankotia and Daljit Singh were brought to their native places in Pathankot and Gurdaspur's Shamsherpur village.

A large number of mourners gathered at their houses to pay their last respects to the armymen who died in the line of duty.

Daljit's father said Daljit had spoken to his mother on Tuesday and asked her to find a mason to build a house. "He hung up he will call back," the father, still in shock with his son's death, said.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann offered his condolences to the soldiers' kin.

Cabinet Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak and officers from the army attended the cremation of Lt Col Mankotia in Pathankot.

Maj Mayank Shubham (14 Sindh Horse), Maj Amit Dixit and Capt Gaurav (60 Armd) were injured in the accident.

They were part of a convoy on a training move from Durbuk to Chongtash. PTI

Govt accountable for death of 3 patients at Jalandhar hospital: Punjab LoP Bajwa

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, on Thursday unequivocally held the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government accountable for the tragic death of three patients caused by a disrupted oxygen supply at Jalandhar Civil Hospital and demanded the resignation of Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh.

Bajwa said that the Health Ministry's recent actions, including suspending three doctors and dismissing a house surgeon, are a clear indication of the gross negligence permeating this administration.

"Suspension and dismissal of doctors are wholly insufficient. The Health Minister must accept moral responsibility and resign without delay," Bajwa said in a statement. Senior Congress leader Bajwa did not hold back in denouncing the AAP government for its handling of the public health system, which has deteriorated significantly under their three-and-a-half-year tenure.

"In their reckless pursuit to impose a rejected health model from Delhi, the AAP government has dismantled the well-functioning health system of Punjab," underscoring the urgent need for a tailored approach that truly serves the people, he said. PTI

YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH

On day 152, Punjab Police conduct raids at 380 sites; 101 drug smugglers held

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31



Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 152nd day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 380 locations on Thursday leading to the arrest of 101 drug smugglers after registration of 79 first information reports (FIRs) across the state.

With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 24,089 in 152 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 778 grams heroin, 17 quintals poppy husk, 18,671 intoxicant tablets/capsules and Rs 44,710 drug money from the possession of arrested drug smugglers.

The operation was conducted on the directions of Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav simultaneously in all 28 Police districts of the state.

Notably, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann has asked the Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendent of Police to make Punjab drug free state. The Punjab government has also constituted a 5-member Cabinet Sub Committee led by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema to monitor the war against drugs.

Divulging details, Special DGP Law and Order Arpit Shukla informed that over 180 Police teams, comprising over 1100 police personnel, under the supervision of 82 gazetted officers have conducted raids across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 406 suspicious persons during the day-long operation, he added.

The Special DGP said that with the state government has enforced a three-pronged strategy— Enforcement, Deaddiction and Prevention (EDP)— to eradicate drugs from the state, the Punjab Police as part of 'De-addiction' has convinced 68 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

1,700 kg poppy husk seized from truck in Moga; 2 arrested

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Moga, July 31

In a drug trafficking case, the CIA staff of Moga police recovered 1,700 kilograms of poppy husk and arrested two accused during a special operation near Bhinder Kalan village today.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team intercepted a truck near the Ludhiana highway, finding it suspiciously parked. Upon inspection, 85 plastic bags — each filled with 20 kg of poppy husk — were found in the vehicle.

The arrested accused have been identified as Gurjant Singh alias Bolla, a resident of Bhinder Kalan in Moga district; and Kailash Kumar, a resident of Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh. Both were caught red-handed while transporting the contraband.

An FIR under Sections 15, 61, and 85 of the NDPS Act has been registered at CIA Moga Police Station. The accused were produced in court today and police remand was obtained.

Dharamkot DSP Ramandeep Singh supervised the raid. Further interrogation is underway to trace the drug supply chain and possible links to larger trafficking networks.

7 years on, JIT clears encroachment, paves way for 2nd access to railway station

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, July 31

After seven years of pendency, the Jalandhar Improvement Trust has finally got an encroached land cleared which was meant for the second entry point to Jalandhar City Railway Station.

The reclaimed land was a part of the chunk acquired by the JIT for developing 94.97 acres of Surya Enclave Extension Scheme and had been under illegal occupation since 2018. The land was to be used for creating a second entry point to the railway station and provide ease in travel to residents of Surya Enclave, Surya Enclave Extension, Guru Gobind Singh Scheme, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Scheme, and localities on the other side of PAP Chowk. These residents would now get improved access that they have awaited for years.

Encroachments in the form of slums had blocked plans for a 120-foot-wide road, disconnecting four major housing schemes from the city via the Domoria Bridge. Chairman of JIT Rajwinder Thiara and Jalandhar Central Aam Aadmi Party halqa incharge Nitin Kohli said, "The project had been stalled for years, causing immense inconvenience to residents of surrounding housing societies. The residents had made repeated representations and appeals. Finally, our combined efforts have borne fruit."

HONOURING THE LEGACY OF SHAHEED UDHAM SINGH

Over 1 lakh students, teachers and parents unite across Chandigarh schools

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31



In a historic and emotionally stirring initiative, the Department of School Education, UT Chandigarh organized a massive commemorative event on Thursday to honour the valiant martyrdom of Shaheed Udham Singh, the iconic freedom fighter known for his unwavering commitment to justice in the aftermath of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

This city wide tribute witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over 1 lakh individuals, including students, educators, and parents from government, government-aided, Central government and recognized private schools throughout Chandigarh.

The programme was conducted in two major sessions to ensure inclusivity for all institutions:

- Morning Session: 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
- Evening Session: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Each school held a special assembly, carefully designed to foster a sense of national pride, civic responsibility, and moral courage. Students gathered to reflect on the life, mission, and sacrifice of Shaheed Udham Singh—whose name has become synonymous with resistance against colonial tyranny.

The tribute was further dignified by a heartfelt message from Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT Chandigarh. He emphasized the vital importance of educating young citizens about India's freedom movement, not merely as history, but as a living call to action—to uphold democratic values, social justice, and ethical leadership in everyday life.

Schools across the Union Territory engaged in a diverse and creative set of activities, led entirely by students, showcasing their passion and understanding of national history:

- Speeches narrating the life journey and vision of Shaheed Udham Singh
- Patriotic songs and theatrical skits portraying episodes from the independence struggle
- Quizzes, poster-making, and visual presentations that deepened understanding and sparked dialogue
- Reflections and open-mic sessions, fostering emotional connection and critical thinking

In a thoughtful innovation, the tribute was organized alongside scheduled Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs), allowing parents to witness and participate in this moment of shared remembrance. This integrated format not only encouraged intergenerational learning but also strengthened the school-home partnership in value education.

This initiative served as more than a ceremonial homage—it was a powerful educational movement. Through storytelling, performance, and collective participation, the spirit of Shaheed Udham Singh was brought to life in classrooms, corridors, and hearts across Chandigarh.

His response to the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy, culminating in his supreme sacrifice, stands as a beacon of resistance, courage, and commitment to justice. The department's effort to commemorate him reflects its broader vision of cultivating historically conscious, ethically driven, and socially responsible citizens.

The Department of School Education applauded the tireless efforts of school heads, teachers, and coordinators who mobilized resources, mentored students, and executed the event seamlessly. Their dedication transformed a remembrance into a transformative civic experience.

PU Department of Education pays tribute to Shaheed Udham Singh on his 86th Martyrdom Day

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31

The students, scholars and faculty of Department of Education, Panjab University, on Thursday observed the 86th Martyrdom Day of Shaheed Udham Singh paying heartfelt tribute to the legendary revolutionary.

The event was organised to honour Shaheed Udham Singh's unwavering courage and commitment to justice at the department. The programme featured a poetry session by M.Ed students, showcasing literary tributes to the martyr. This was followed by speeches highlighting the life, bravery, and enduring inspiration of Shaheed Udham Singh.

The Chairperson of the Department, Prof. Satvinderpal Kaur, addressed the gathering, encouraging students to imbibe the ideals upheld by the martyr courage, justice, and unwavering determination. She also suggested students to read good books on Shaheed Udham Singh to deeply understand his legacy and the sacrifices made during India's freedom struggle.

Chief Secretary reviews civic infrastructure at Sector 26 Grain, Fruit & Vegetable Market

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31



A high-level meeting was convened on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary, UT Chandigarh, to comprehensively review key civic and infrastructural issues at the Grain, Fruit & Vegetable Market, Sector 26.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including Mandip Singh Brar, Home Secretary; Diprava Lakra, Finance Secretary; Amit Kumar, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation; Nishant Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner; Pardeep Kumar, Secretary Agriculture; Sumer Partap Singh, SSP (Traffic); Kanwaedeep Kaur, SSP (Law & Order); Hari Kalikkat, Secretary, Marketing Board; C. B. Ojha, Chief Engineer; Pavitter Singh Administrator Market Committee and other officials from the Market Committee.

Key issues such as sanitation, encroachments, road infrastructure, drainage, street lighting, and traffic regulation were deliberated upon in detail.

The Chief Secretary expressed concern over the prevailing sanitation conditions and directed the sanitation contractor to augment both manpower and equipment. The Municipal Corporation was tasked with establishing an effective and sustainable mechanism for slush disposal.

Encroachments by unauthorized vendors were discussed extensively. The Chief Secretary instructed the Market Committee to expedite the process of acquiring enforcement powers. Simultaneously, the Municipal Corporation and Chandigarh Police were directed to deploy dedicated personnel for regular removal of illegal vendors, with strict instructions to prevent their entry into the mandi.

On the matter of road repairs, the Chief Secretary approved the use of cement concrete for improved durability, replacing the earlier plan for interlocking pavers. The Engineering Department was directed to float tenders at the earliest.

For drainage improvement, officials were instructed to implement a modern and efficient system tailored to the needs of the Mandi. Installation of surveillance cameras was also mandated to deter illegal dumping.

Responsibility for the maintenance and operation of all street lighting within the Mandi was assigned to the Municipal Corporation.

Addressing traffic congestion, the Chandigarh Police was directed to ensure adequate deployment of traffic personnel to regulate vehicle movement and penalize illegal parking.

UT Police carry out of mock drill at IMTECH building

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31



Chandigarh Police Operation Cell conducted a mock drill at IMTECH building, Sector-39, U.T. on Wednesday. Conducted under the direction of Geetanjali Khandelwal, SP/Operations and under the supervision of Vikas Sheokand, Dy. SP/Operations, the exercise was aimed at checking the preparedness/readiness and coordination between the counter teams of Chandigarh Police and other emergency services of UT Administration in view of the upcoming Independence Day Celebration-2025.

All emergencies services of Chandigarh Administration participated actively in the mock exercise. During the drill, at IMTECH building Sector-39, U.T., Chandigarh was cordoned off and got evacuated by commandos of Operations Cell. A joint search operation by the HIT teams of Operation Cell, Bomb Detection Squad and Dog Squad of Chandigarh Police was carried out and the dummy bomb was traced out successfully from room No.402, 4th floor of IMTECH building Sector-39, U.T., Chandigarh. Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) of Operation Cell, PCR Vehicles, ambulance from GMSH-16, Dog Squad team, Bomb Squad team, Ambulance from Police Hospital, Sector-26, Dial-112, Fire brigade vehicle, team of Civil Defense, Mobile Forensic Team, Crime Branch, and a team of local area Police Station-39 reached on the spot immediately.

Thereafter through-out search of IMTECH building has also been conducted by the HIT teams, Dog Squad & Bomb Squad Team, but no other suspected item came to notice. Further traced dummy bomb has safely taken to open ground of Police Lines, Sector-26, Chandigarh in a sand bag truck along with pilot and escort PCR vehicles of Chandigarh Police for defusing the same.

PGI hosts 'Awareness Creation & Experiential Learning Workshop' under the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31



The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Indian Patent Office, hosted the inaugural 'Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Awareness Creation & Experiential Learning Workshop' on Friday.

This pioneering event marked a significant milestone in fostering innovation and intellectual property awareness among medical researchers, clinicians, and entrepreneurs. The workshop aimed to demystify the patenting process, address challenges faced by medical innovators, and promote the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative—a strategic effort to streamline patent facilitation and technology transfer in the biomedical domain.

The workshop was spearheaded by PGIMER, a premier medical and research institution, which provided the venue and intellectual leadership. ICMR, through its Innovation & Translational Research Unit, played a central role in conceptualizing and executing the event. Dr. Suchita Markan, Scientist-E and Mission In-Charge of MDMS at ICMR, led the initiative with insightful presentations and coordination. The Indian Patent Office contributed its expertise by guiding participants through the intricacies of intellectual property rights and best practices in patent filing.

Dr. Vivek Lal, Director of PGIMER, delivered the welcome address and emphasized the importance of innovation in healthcare.

Dr. Suchita Markan introduced the workshop's objectives and elaborated on the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra and MedTech Mitra initiatives, which aim to bridge the gap between medical innovation and commercialization.

Experts from PGIMER discussed the barriers faced by medical innovators, including regulatory, financial, and procedural challenges.

Officials from the Indian Patent Office provided a comprehensive overview of IPR procedures, offering practical insights into patent filing and protection strategies.

Department of Posts announces roll out of IT 2.0 application

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31

The Department of Posts has announced the rollout of the next-generation APT 2.0 application, marking a major leap forward in our journey towards digital excellence and nation-building.

As part of this transformative initiative, the upgraded system will be implemented across Post Offices and Branch Post Offices located in Rupnagar district (including Mullanpur, Kharar, Kurali, Gharuan, Landran, Manauli and Sohana Post Offices) from 04.08.2025.

To enable a seamless and secure transition to this advanced digital platform, a planned downtime has been scheduled on 02.08.2025. On 02.08.2025, no public transactions will be carried out at these post offices. Moreover, distribution of letters/parcels will be delivered as earlier. This temporary suspension of services is necessary to facilitate data migration, system validations, and configuration processes, ensuring that the new system goes live smoothly and efficiently.

The APT application is designed to offer an enhance user experience, faster service delivery, and a more customer-friendly interface, reflecting our unwavering commitment to delivering smarter, efficient, and future-ready postal operations.

PU grants golden chance to all Post Graduate and Professional Courses semester system students

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31

Panjab University has granted Golden Chance to all Post Graduate and Professional Courses semester system students to clear their pending reappear, compartment, full subjects or improvement and missed practicals w.e.f. admission year 2011. Earlier, this opportunity was available to all undergraduate, post graduate and professional courses semester students w.e.f. 2014.

Controller of Examinations Prof. Jagat Bhushan informed that students who do not have their reappear chances available can apply for this examination to clear their respective Reappear /Compartment/Full Subjects / Improvement / Missed Practicals. This golden chance is only for the Semester System Courses and will be conducted along with the End Semester Examinations – November / December 2025 for odd semesters and April / May 2026 for even semesters. PG courses semester system was introduced in the year 2011, so the University authorities have now extended the benefit of Golden Chance to the PG/ Professional courses semester system only w.e.f. the admission year 2011.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I hitherto known as CHHINDERPAL SINGH S/O MUKHTIAR SINGH R/O VILL THAKARWAL PO LALTON KALAN LUDHIANA PUNJAB, 142022 INDIA have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHINDERPAL SINGH.

I, Kiran Bala Sahni W/O Ravi Kumar R/O H. No. 119/05 Dayal Nagar (Jalandhar) have changed my name to Kiran Arora.

I, Ramdhyan R/O H. No. 107 Street No. 3, Old Sunder Nagar Bhamian Kalan P. O. Mundian Kalan (Ludhiana) declare that Ramdhyan and Ramdhyan Mishra both names are one and same person.

I, Ashwani Kumar S/O Gian Chand Dhawan R/O H. No. 57 Basant Vatika Near Flower Enclave Dugri (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Ashwani Dhawan.

I, Seema W/O Ashwani Dhawan R/O H. No. 57 Basant Vatika Near Flower Enclave Dugri (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Seema Dhawan.

I, Rhea C/O Vaneet Chaudhry R/O H. No. 119-120 Street no 2, Ranjit Nagar Opp. Westend Mall Ferozepur Road Rajguru Nagar P. O. Rajguru Nagar (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Rhea Abrol.

I Jaspal Singh Uppal S/o Gurdeep Singh R/o Village Mander Kalan (Sangrur) have changed my name to Jaspal Singh

I, Damanpreet Singh S/O Kanwaljit Singh R/O H. No. 424-R, Model Town Ludhiana declare that my son's name was written as Gurveer Singh Sachdeva in his School records but his correct name is Gurveer Singh.

I, Rohit Jain S/O Vimal Jain R/O H. No. 10, Lane 5, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Nagar Pakhowal road (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Rohit Kumar Jain.

I, Abdul S/O Mohammad Mujibul Rehman R/O H.no., 1008/29/7,St.no 8, Bal Singh Nagar Meharban (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Abdul Kadir.

I Kawaljeet Singh S/o Amolak Singh R/o 120-A, Model Town (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Kawaljit Singh

I Resham Singh S/o Manjit Singh R/o Patti Seman, V.P.O. Qilla Raipur (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Resham Singh Grewal

I Monika W/o Anil Kumar R/o 867, B-11, St. No. 3, Sikandari Road, CMC Chowk (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Monika Rani

I Meenu Satia W/o Ratan Sagar, R/o 551/1, Near Jawahar Sweets, Sunami Gate (Sangrur) have changed my name to Meenu

I Gurmeet Ram S/O Billu Ram R/O Ram Nagar Basti, W. No. 21 (Sangrur) Have Changed My Name To Gurmeet Singh

I Manpreet Kaur Dhaliwal W/O Harpreet Singh R/O Vpo Pakho Kalan (Barnala) Have Changed My Name To Manpreet Kaur.

I Gurdeep Singh Sidhu S/o Malkit Singh R/o H.No.195, W.No.10, Sant Nagar, Mehlan Road (Sangrur) have changed my name to Gurdeep Singh.

I hitherto known as PINKY W/o PARVEEN GOYAL residing at Village Zirakh, Tehsil Payal, District Ludhiana, Punjab-141117, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JYOTI

I hitherto known as NEERAJ RANI KOCHAR W/o RAJ KUMAR residing at House No. 32/1, Ward No. 4, Khatrian Wala Mohalla, Purana Bazar, Sahnewal Kalan, Ludhiana, District Ludhiana, Punjab-141120, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANSI

I Karamjit Kaur is Mother of Army No. 15185470F Rank L/Hav Name Tajinder Singh R/o #4 Bandian Bassi Banur Sub Tehsil Banur Distt SAS Nagar Mohali have declare that in my son Army record my name wrongly mentioned as Karamjeet Kaur, but my correct name is Karamjit Kaur.

I Santosh Kaur W/o Rachhpal Singh Lotey R/o H No 1206,St No 1,Near Ganga Engineering works, Janta Nagar, Ludhiana Have Changed My Name from Santosh Kaur to Santosh Kaur Lotey.

I Rachhpal Singh S/o Kartar Singh R/o H No 1206,St No 1,Near Ganga Engineering works, Janta Nagar, Ludhiana Have Changed My Name from Rachhpal Singh to Rachhpal Singh Lotey.

I, Aastha Dhand W/o Rajeev Dhand R/o H No. 14, Kalkaji Enclave, Rishi Nagar, near Garg Optical, Ludhiana, have changed my name from Aastha alias Charu to Aastha Dhand.

I Armaan Sangar S/o Sanjay Sangar R/o H No 34/656,Chander Nagar,Civil Lines,Ludhiana Have Changed My Name from Armaan Sangar to Armaan Sanggar.

I Shami S/o Sohan Singh R/o Village Birmi,P.O Malakpur,Near Govt. School,Ludhiana Have Changed My Name from Shami to Shami Kapoor.

I Anju Sahai Chhuttani W/o Aman Krishan Chhuttani R/o H No 2070/3A,Near Dispensary Chowk,Basant Avenue Ludhiana, have changed my name from Anju Sahai to Anju Sahai Chhuttani.

I Sargam Chhuttani D/o Aman Krishan Chhuttani R/o H No 2070/3A,60 Feet Road,Near Dispensary Chowk,Basant Avenue Ludhiana, have changed my name from Sargam to Sargam Chhuttani.

I, Shivam Shengari S/o Munish Shingari R/o H.No. 86, GM Enclave, Pathankot Bye Pass, Opposite Shrimann Hospital, Jalandhar, Punjab-144001 have changed my name from Shivam Shengari to Shivam Shingari. All concerned please note.

I, Ramesh Arora S/o Ram Nath Arora R/o H.No. 22, Diamond Avenue, Urban Estate Phase-I, Garha, Jalandhar, Punjab-144022 have changed the name of my minor daughter Hafeej Arora aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as Sargam Arora.

I Samardeep Bhagirath S/O Hardeep Kumar R/O Hno-4,5 Park Lane Vardhman Park Chandigarh Road Mundian Khurd Po Ramgarh Ludhiana Have Changed My Name Samardeep Bhagirath To Samardeep

I, Harinder Singh Bhatia S/O Gurdial Singh R/O 54 A, Krishna Square-1, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Harinder Singh Bhatia to Harinder Singh. Concerned note

I,Dilpreet Singh S/O Angrej Singh R/O VPO Khabbe Rajputan, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Dilpreet Singh to Dilpreet as my Given name and Singh as my Surname.Concerned note.

I,Randhir Kaur W/O Angrej Singh R/O VPO Khabbe Rajputan,Tehsil Baba Bakala,Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Randhir Kaur to Randhir as my Given name and Kaur as my Surname.Concerned note.

I, Manya Miglani alias Baby Twink D/o Vivek Bhushan Miglani, R/o H.No. 78-E, Rishi Nagar, Ludhiana both are the same person.

I,Jagseer Singh S/o Dalip Singh R/o Patti Sidhu,Deharka Tehsil Jagraon (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name to Jagsir Singh.

I, Sonia Anand Alias Harpreet Kaur W/o Prashant Anand R/o H.no.195-A, Rajguru Nagar (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sonia Anand.

I Daljinder Kaur Chhina W/O Kewal Singh R/O H No 52/25, Hargobind Avenue Palah Sahib Road, Amritsar 143105 Have Changed My Name From Daljinder Kaur Chhina To Daljinder Kaur. All Concerned May Please Note.

I Parmjeet Singh Gill S/o Harbans Singh R/o 2116 Near Setia Petrol Pump Abohar Road Bypass Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name to Parmjeet Singh.

I Sandeep Singh Brar S/o Gurjit Singh R/o 310 Village Duhewala Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name to Sandeep Singh .

I Sushil Kumar S/o Lt. Sant Lal R/o H.no. BXIX-514/6, Cemetry Road, Near Prince Hostel, Civil Lines, Ludhiana have changed my name from Sushil Bhutani to Sushil Kumar.

I Supreet Kaur D/O Rajinder Singh R/O House No. 5-E H, Gali No 1, Gopal Nagar Majitha Road Amritsar Have Declared That Supreet Kaur And Supreet Dhingra Both Are Names Of Mine, Both Are One And The Same Person. All Concerned May Please Note.

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MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

SH. ATUL AHLAWAT
Special Judge, NDPS Act.
Room No. 35, P-1, P. Building
Patiala House Courts
New Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS
(See Section 84 BNSS)
NCB Vs Mandeep SINGH

1) Whereas complaint has been made before me that Mr. Mandeep Singh S/o Late Shri Manohar Singh R/o 15/A Aman Park, Phase 7, Thareeke Road, Near Railway Line, Ludhiana, Punjab 141004 has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section 8(c), 18 (C) and 25 of NDPS Act 1985 and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said Mr. Mandeep Singh S/o Late Shri Manohar Singh cannot be found and whereas it has shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Mr. Mandeep Singh S/o Late Shri Manohar Singh has absconded. (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant)
2) Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on the day of 08-09-2025.

Sd/xxxx
Special Court, NDPS Act
Patiala House Courts

CBC 19126/11/2074/2526

DC urges maximum outreach of welfare schemes in health and education sectors

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Barnala, July 31



Deputy Commissioner Barnala held a meeting at the District Administrative Complex to review the performance of key departments, including the Health and Education Departments. During the meeting, he directed officers and doctors in the Health Department to ensure that the benefits of public welfare schemes reach the maximum number of eligible people.

He emphasized that most patients receiving treatment at government hospitals come from economically weaker sections. The government has provided medicines through hospitals and Jan Aushadhi Kendras, and these facilities must be utilized to their fullest to benefit the public.

On this occasion, the District Health Officer reported that in June, the Food Safety Wing collected 26 samples. Out of 12 enforcement samples tested by the Food Analyst Punjab, 9 passed while 3 failed. Among 14 surveillance samples, 2 beer samples, 3 milk samples, and 1 oil sample passed; however, 3 milk samples and 1 oil sample failed. Results for the remaining samples are still awaited.

In June, the ADC Court imposed fines totaling Rs 7,000 for 2 failed samples, and the department recovered Rs 17,000 in fines across various cases. Additionally, 24 cases involving failed samples are currently under consideration by the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the Education Department's performance, urging officials to ensure maximum student enrollment in scholarship schemes. District Education Officer Sunitinder Singh highlighted that Barnala district leads nationally in the Performance Rating Index and is the state leader in the Parakh Survey 2024, which assesses the quality of education and student learning.

LAND POOLING POLICY

Ludhiana landowners give consent to GLADA on more than 280 acre land

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 31

Giving a lot of positive response received from the general public/land owners regarding the benefits of land pooling policy with the aim of establishing new urban estates in Punjab, landowners in Ludhiana have partnered with the Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab government by giving their consent for developments on more than 280 acres of their land, instead of Compulsory Acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act.

Ludhiana residents, Praveen Jain and Jagdish Lal Jain, had personally met Cabinet Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian and handed over their consent forms for 100 acres of their land on July 17. They said that they are lucky to become partner in this ambitious project. Demonstrating strong confidence in the Punjab government's Land Pooling Policy, another resident HS Bawa, has also submitted his consent to the Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA) for the development of a new urban estate. Bawa gave his consent letter to Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain, who also serves as GLADA's Chief Administrator.

Cabinet Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian thanked the landowners and urged others to come forward and become partners in development. He emphasised the Punjab government's commitment to promoting urban development through the Land Pooling Policy.

HS Bawa also expressed gratitude to the Punjab government for the opportunity to contribute to this transformative project. He highlighted his efforts to raise awareness about the benefits of the Land Pooling Policy among his peers and encouraged other landowners to join the initiative, fostering collective progress in urban development.

Demonstrating strong confidence in the Punjab government's Land Pooling Policy, Rajesh Agarwal, a landowner holding 100 acres on Pakhowal road, has also submitted his consent to the Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA) for the development of a new urban estate.

Rajesh Agarwal expressed gratitude to the Punjab government for the opportunity to contribute to this transformative project.

Cabinet Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian thanked the landowners and urged others to come forward and become partners in development. He emphasised the Punjab government's commitment to promoting urban development through the Land Pooling Policy. He stated that landowners participation underscores the growing trust in this innovative policy, which encourages landowners to partner with the government in urban development projects.

Tribute paid to Shaheed Udham Singh on his martyrdom day



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 31

On the 86th death anniversary of Shaheed Udham Singh, former Chairman of the Punjab Large Industrial Development Board and former District Congress President, Pawan Dewan paid a heartfelt tribute to the great martyr.

Dewan said that Shaheed Udham Singh was one of the brave sons of Bharat Mata who avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and brought pride to the nation. His sacrifice is not only a milestone in the freedom struggle but also a lasting inspiration for future generations.

He further said that by traveling to London and eliminating Michael O'Dwyer, the man responsible for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Udham Singh proved that the atrocities committed on Indian soil would not go unpunished.

Pawan Dewan appealed to the youth of Punjab and the nation to follow the path shown by the martyrs, actively contribute to nation-building, and commit themselves to realizing the India of their dreams.

Apart from others, Spokesman PCC Kanwar Harpreet Singh, PCC Member Sushil Malhotra, Secy PCC Inderjit Tony Kapoor, Vinod Bathla, Joginder Singh Jangi, Rohit Pahwa, Maninder Pal Singh Titu, Baljit Singh Ahuja, Rajneesh Chopra, Harbhagat Singh Grewal, Sanjay Bansal, Deepak Hans, Azad Dhaniya, Anil Sachdeva, Happy Kapoor, Ramesh Kaushal, Lalit Manan, Sunil Sehgal, Raj Gill, Ajay Babbu Walia, Satish Soni, Dinesh Singla, Raj Kumar Pappi were also present on the occasion.

Dr Samaira honoured for work on Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji with book 'Ilahi Gyaan Da Sagar'



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Canada/Ludhiana July 31

An insightful interactive session was recently held with Dr Safdar Samaira, a scholar who has completed her Ph.D on the life and teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, at a prestigious event organised by Aamir Khan, Habibuddin, Gurbachan Singh Banwait, Ranveer Singh, and Rusnain Akbar at a grand hotel. The event centered on fostering global communal harmony and intercultural understanding.

During the programme, Krishan Kumar Bawa, Chairman of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Charitable Trust, Rakba (Ludhiana), along with Jaswinder Singh Bitta, presented Dr Samaira with the book "Ilahi Gyaan Da Sagar – Aad Guru Granth Sahib". The occasion also witnessed the arrival of a bus carrying devotees from various parts of Canada, who had recently returned from a spiritual journey to Kartarpur Sahib.

While exploring the Brampton area in Canada, Amarpreet Aulakh, Krishan Kumar Bawa, and Nirmal Singh Grewal visited the Vantage Café, a dynamic space run by enterprising youth from Ambala and Amritsar. The group expressed delight at witnessing such a vibrant and creative initiative by young Punjabis, which has become a popular local attraction and a symbol of cultural pride.

The group was later invited by Elm to visit the farm of Dharamjit Mand, located in village Bhutta near Ludhiana. The scenic farm featured a stud facility, open green fields, tractors, and traditional Punjabi cuisine including saag, makki di roti, an assortment of parathas, homemade butter, lassi, and dahi—all offering an authentic taste of Punjab in a Canadian setting. The gathering was graced by the presence of Baljit Singh, Harjeet Singh, Amarjeet Kaur, Paramjeet Kaur, and Ravinder Singh, who contributed to the warmth and hospitality of the occasion.

Central GST Ludhiana unearths evasion of ₹62 crore; arrests two

LUDHIANA, JULY 31

Based on specific intelligence, Central GST Ludhiana in Punjab on Thursday said it has conducted investigation against multiple firms in the field of audio-video productions and unearthed GST evasion of Rs 62 crore and arrested two people.

Prima facie, it appears that these firms have imported services worth Rs 342 crore from overseas entities and evaded GST, it said in a statement.

Investigation further revealed that they have not followed any documentation process mandated as per GST laws, which shows the blatant nature of tax evasion. The two people who are involved in creating and operating these multiple firms were arrested on Wednesday.

With the two arrests made so far in this case, the investigation is ongoing to uncover the full extent of the network and the quantum of GST evasion involved.

The CGST Ludhiana Commissionerate reaffirms its commitment to detecting tax fraud and thus ensuring a level playing field for honest taxpayers.

In a similar case, CGST Ludhiana last week conducted multiple search operations in Mandi Gobindgarh in Fatehgarh Sahib district and unearthed a syndicate involved in availing and passing on fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) in the iron and steel sector using five firms.

During the search operations, the officers had uncovered a modus operandi involving the acquisition of debt-ridden rolling mills, which were used as fronts by scamsters to avail and pass on fake ITC, thereby evading the scrutiny of GST enforcement agencies.

Following the search operations, two people, who were operating and controlling these firms, were arrested on July 24.

As per the preliminary assessment, the quantum of bogus bills stands at a staggering Rs 260 crore, resulting in a GST loss of Rs 47 crore to the exchequer. With the two arrests, the investigation is ongoing to uncover the full extent of the network and identify other entities involved, said the CGST. IANS

Amritsar woman allegedly raped by 4, 2 arrested

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, July 31

A woman was allegedly raped by four people in Mallian village, which falls under the Jandiala police station in Amritsar.

The police have arrested two people, while two other suspects are absconding.

Those booked were identified as Gurwinder Singh alias Golu and Harman, both residents of Mallian village, Gurpreet Singh alias Gora of Mallian village, and Nanak Singh of Wadali Dogra village.

Gurpreet and Nanak were arrested by the police.

The incident occurred three days ago, though a case was registered yesterday. The 25-year-old victim stated to the police that on Monday she was alone at home, and therefore her uncle, Kashmir Singh, left her 12-year-old cousin with her.

She said that in the night, her cousin forgot to bolt the door from inside, and they fell asleep. She said that at around 11 p.m., Gurwinder Singh and Harman barged into the house.

She alleged Gurwinder covered her mouth so that she could not raise the alarm, and then Harman dragged her to an open ground near the Gurdwara, where Gurpreet and Nanak Singh were also present. She alleged they pushed her to the ground, and the accused hit her with a pistol.

She said when she resisted and tried to escape, the accused assaulted and kicked her. She alleged that the accused forcibly touched and sexually harassed her.

She said as she was raising an alarm for help. On hearing her shouts, her uncle Kashmir Singh suddenly arrived there, and the accused fled the scene. She was rushed to Manawala hospital, which referred her to Guru Nanak Dev Hospital, where she was under treatment.

MLA Prashar launches project worth ₹42 lakh to reconstruct streets in Islam Ganj area

INDERJIT SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 31



With an aim to develop quality road infrastructure, Ludhiana Central MLA Ashok Prashar Pappi launched the project to reconstruct streets in Islam Ganj area of ward number 75.

The project is being taken up at a cost of around 42 lakh and concrete roads would be constructed in the area.

Block President Gurpreet Singh (Raju Baba) among other area residents and volunteers accompanied MLA Prashar during the inauguration ceremony.

MLA Prashar stated that the streets in the area were in bad shape. For providing relief to the residents, this project has been launched and the authorities have been directed to complete the project within the stipulated time period.

MLA Prashar stated that the authorities have also been directed to ensure that there is no compromise with the quality of the work.

MLA Prashar further stated that the state government led by Chief Minister (CM) Bhagwant Singh Mann is committed for overall development of the state. He further stated that more projects worth crores would be launched in Ludhiana central constituency in the coming days for developing quality infrastructure.

Health Dept holds 2nd Ayush camp in Ferozepur: 522 patients treated free

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, July 31



The second Ayush medical camp was organized by the Health Department, at Dharamshala Bhai Moti Ram in the Kamboj Nagar area. The camp was led by District Ayurvedic and Unani Officer Dr Rupinder Kaur Gill and District Homeopathic Officer Dr Rahman.

During the camp, Dr Rakesh Grover (Ayurvedic Medical Officer), Dr Sumit Moga, Dr Bhupinderjeet Kaur (Ayurvedic Medical Officer), and Dr. Satnam Singh (Homeopathic Medical Officer) provided medical checkups to 522 patients from surrounding areas. Free medicines were also distributed on the spot. The camp was inaugurated by Dr Avtar Krishan Grover, retired Ayurvedic Medical Officer, who advised people to adopt a healthy lifestyle, improve dietary habits, practice yoga, and stay away from drug addiction.

Medical team members including Rubina, Amandeep Kaur, Baljeet Singh, Gurvinder Singh, Neeru Rani, Tarsem Singh, Gajinder Gill, and Veena Rani played a vital role in making the camp a success.

30-year-old British Sikh man stabbed to death in London attack

LONDON, JULY 31

A 30-year-old British Sikh man has been stabbed to death in east London in an attack involving people known to each other, the UK police believe.

Gurmuk Singh, known as Gary, died last week in Felbrigge Road, Ilford in East London, and was formally named by Metropolitan Police on Thursday.

The force said its officers had arrested Amardeep Singh, 27, on suspicion of the murder that took place on July 23. He has since been charged with one count of murder and remains in custody until his next court appearance at London's Old Bailey for trial on January 5, 2026.

"Police were called by the London Ambulance Service to reports of an altercation at a residential address," said the Met Police statement. "Officers attended as Gary was treated for stab wounds. Despite the best efforts of the paramedics, he sadly died at the scene," it said.

Detectives also arrested a 29-year-old man and three women aged 29, 30 and 54 in connection with the fatal stabbing. They have all since been released on bail until October while the police investigation continues.

"Gary was a well-loved man who had a remarkable ability to connect with everyone he met," his family said in a statement released by the police.

"A true social butterfly, nothing brought him more joy than being surrounded by his family. Gary will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on in our hearts forever," they said.

A post-mortem examination has indicated the cause of death as a stab wound to the left thigh, with an inquest opened and adjourned while the police investigation into the attack is ongoing. Detective Chief Inspector Joanna Yorke from the Met's Specialist Crime North unit said at the time of the attack that detectives believed it was an "isolated incident".

"An incident of this nature sends shockwaves throughout the local area and we understand the direct impact on the community. PTI

2 car occupants die after collision with fuel tanker

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, July 31



Two car-borne unidentified persons were charred to death after a fuel tanker hit them at Jandiala Guru flyover here on Thursday.

According to eyewitnesses, the tanker lost its balance after one of its tyres burst and then collided with the Brezza car going from Amritsar towards Jalandhar side after jumping over the footpath. The impact was so strong that the car dangled from the flyover after it struck the iron railing of the flyover.

The unidentified occupants of the car died on the spot while the driver of the tanker fled the scene.

Mukhtar Singh, SHO, Jandiala police station, said that the fire brigade doused the fire. He said efforts were on to identify the occupants of the car. "We have found the licence plate of the car which has a Delhi number. We are trying to approach the Transport officials there to identify the owner of the car," said the SHO while adding that a case been registered against the unknown truck driver. The fuel tanker was coming from Jalandhar to Amritsar while the car was going from Amritsar to Jalandhr side.

bright Punjab Express

Trump's tariff

Confirming India Inc's worst fears, the US President Donald Trump has announced that India will face a 25% tariff plus an unspecified additional penalty for purchasing Russian energy from August 1. This is a setback to New Delhi's attempts to stave off higher levies, though the American president later stated that talks were still on and "we'll see what happens".

The move, which some US officials described as a negotiating tactic, could, if the tariffs last, put India at a disadvantage when compared to Asian countries such as Indonesia and Vietnam.

In a combative post on Truth Social, Trump criticised India for maintaining the world's highest tariffs and "obnoxious" trade barriers while continuing to buy Russian military equipment and energy during the Ukraine war. To quote him, he said, "Remember, while India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers of any country. Also, they have always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from Russia, and are Russia's largest buyer of energy, along with China, at a time when everyone wants Russia to stop the killing in Ukraine."

India's ministry of commerce and industry said that it had "taken note" of Trump's statement and was "studying its implications." The ministry said India remained "committed" to concluding a "fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement" while protecting "the welfare of our farmers, entrepreneurs, and MSMEs. The government will take all steps necessary to secure our national interest, as has been the case with other trade agreements including the latest Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the UK."

The announcement comes seven months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trump launched "Mission 500"—a goal to increase bilateral trade from $200 billion to $500 billion by 2030. The leaders announced plans to negotiate a first-phase Bilateral Trade Agreement by autumn 2025.

Five rounds of negotiations took place between March and July, with technical teams largely concluding the framework by late June. However, talks remained deadlocked over three core issues: agricultural market access, tariff reciprocity, and ongoing WTO disputes.

India was originally slated to be slapped with duties of 26%, including a 10% baseline that Trump announced as part of his "liberation day" trade policy. New Delhi and Washington have since stepped up negotiations.

A team of Indian negotiators led by Special Secretary Rajesh Agrawal concluded talks in Washington from July 14-17 without reaching a first-phase agreement, even though India avoided receiving a formal "trade threat" letter earlier this month—which had seemed to indicate a deal was close. Trade talks foundered on American demands for greater market access, particularly in agriculture where US officials sought "politically-impossible" concessions from India.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



NEP @5: Laying the foundation for Viksit Bharat

FROM CHALKBOARDS TO CREDIT BANKS: INDIA'S FIVE-YEAR REVOLUTION



Dharmendra Pradhan

In 2020, India did more than release a policy, it rekindled an ancient ideal. With the National Education Policy, learning was once again placed at the heart of nation-building, drawing from our civilisational wisdom to shape the possibilities of the future. Framed through one of the most participatory policy-making processes in our nation's history and guided by the foresight of (Late) Dr. K. Kasturirangan, whose contribution we deeply honour, NEP 2020 was not merely a policy document. It was a visionary roadmap rooted in our cultural values, reimagining learning as a process free from the confines of rote memorisation, rigid structures, and linguistic hierarchies. It set the stage for an education system that is holistic, inclusive, and future-ready, an education that empowers every learner to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Five years on, the NEP's transformational impact is visible not just in policy corridors but across classrooms, campuses, and communities. It has redefined both the structure and spirit of India's education system, holistic in approach, learner-centric in design, and equitable in reach.

Today, NEP's imprint can be seen in early childhood classrooms where joyful, play-based learning is displacing rote memorisation; in schools where children read with fluency in their mother tongue; in vocational labs where Class 6 students explore hands-on skills; and in research hubs where India's knowledge systems engage in dialogue with cutting-edge science. It is reflected in the rise of women in STEM fields, in the growing global presence of Indian institutions, in inclusive classrooms that embrace diversity, and in the renewed belief that learning must be a lifelong pursuit.

Our foremost priority has been to rebuild the foundation of learning. The NIPUN Bharat Mission has been instrumental in bringing about a positive impact with significant improvement in learning outcomes by ensuring that all children attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 2 as envisioned in NEP 2020. NIPUN Bharat's success, reflected in ASER 2024 and the PARAKH RashtriyaSarvekshan 2024, which has turned classrooms into spaces of curiosity and comprehension, not just compliance.

Initiatives like Vidya Pravesh and the institutionalisation of Balvatikas have laid a strong foundation for integrating early childhood care and education across the country.

Further supporting this is the development of new age textbooks and the introduction of JaaduiPitara and e-JaaduiPitara in 22 Indian languages. More than 14 lakh teachers have completed NISHTHA training, and platforms like DIKSHA have expanded access to high-quality teaching resources nationwide.

Equally foundational is the policy's focus on language. NEP recognised that language is not a hurdle but a powerful medium of empowerment. With 117 language primers developed and the introduction of Indian Sign Language as a subject, the vision of multilingual, inclusive education is being realised at scale. These efforts not only enhance cognitive skills but reinforce a child's cultural identity. Initiatives like the Bhartiya Bhasha Pustak Yojana and the National Digital Depository for Indian Knowledge Systems will further democratise access to linguistic and civilisational learning.

Subsequently, the NEP has reimagined new curriculum and textbooks for igniting curiosity and critical thinking among students. The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) and new textbooks for Grades 1–8 are already in place, promoting competency-based learning and integration across disciplines. The bridge programs for curriculum transition and experiential learning initiatives like Prerana are ensuring students are not overwhelmed, but supported through each phase.

With the vibrant efforts of centrally sponsored schemes like Samagra Shiksha and PM POSHAN, India has achieved near-universal enrolment, with GER reaching 91.7% at the elementary level, and steady gains at the secondary level. The focus now is on improving learning outcomes across all levels of school education.

The NEP's reach has also extended to previously underserved populations. More than 7.12 lakh girls from disadvantaged groups are enrolled in over 5,138 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, over 490 hostels have been sanctioned for PVTG learners and 692 hostels under DhartiAabaJanjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

These efforts to expand equitable access and reduce dropouts reflect another defining achievement of NEP 2020, universal access to school education. With stronger infrastructure, inclusive programs like PRASHAST for disability screening, and new digital tools, the schooling system is becoming more resilient and inclusive.

A key driver of this transformation is the establishment of 14,500 PM SHRI Schools. These modern, inclusive, and green institutions are being developed as exemplars schools aligned with the NEP vision, redefining infrastructure and pedagogy while catalyzing innovation and best practices in their regions.

To foster community engagement, the Vidyanjali platform has connected over 8.2 lakh schools with more than 5.3 lakh volunteers and 2000 CSR partners, directly benefiting 1.7 crore students. It is an extraordinary example of Jan Bhagidari, strengthening the learning ecosystem through shared responsibility.

In higher education, the transformation is no less profound. Total enrolment has risen from 3.42 crore to 4.46 crore, a 30.5% increase. Women now comprise nearly 48% of all students, and female PhD enrolment has more than doubled from 0.48 lakh to 1.12 lakh.

This expansion in enrolment, especially for SC, ST, OBC, and minority students, marks a historic achievement for inclusivity in higher education. Female GER has surpassed male GER for six consecutive years, an inspiring testament to NEP's equity vision.

Parallel to this, the structural fabric of higher education has been reshaped. The introduction of Multiple Entry and Exit (MEME), the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) with over 21.12 crore APAAR IDs issued, and the National Credit Framework (NCrF) have provided unprecedented flexibility and mobility. With 153 universities offering multiple entry and 74 offering multiple exit options, learning is no longer linear, it is modular, student-driven, and future-ready.

The operationalisation of these frameworks, MEME, ABC, and NCrF, has made India one of the few countries to support lifelong learning through such integrated digital academic systems.

NEP's emphasis on research and innovation has already yielded dividends. From improving India's Global Innovation Index rank from 81st to 39th, to incubating over 18,000 start-ups across 400 HEIs, our campuses are fast becoming innovation hubs. The Anusandhan NRF, revamped PMRF 2.0, and the ₹6,000 crore One Nation One Subscription initiative further demonstrate our commitment to democratising and decentralising access to research.

Technology continues to be a driving force. Platforms like SWAYAM and SWAYAM Plus have collectively recorded over 5.3 crore enrolments, and with the support of initiatives like DIKSHA and PM E-Vidya with over 200 DTH Channels, are making high-quality content available to learners across the country.

The success of India's digital learning ecosystem, including the roll-out of biannual admissions, dual degree regulations, has made higher education more inclusive, interdisciplinary, and industry-relevant.

India's rising academic standing is now reflected globally. In the QS World University Rankings 2026, 54 Indian institutions made the list, up from just 11 in 2014. Simultaneously, global universities like Deakin, Wollongong, and Southampton have set up campuses in India, a testament to our growing credibility and ambition.

This transformative journey is being celebrated through the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, but more importantly, it is being measured in the quiet confidence of millions of learners, teachers, and parents. NEP 2020 was never an announcement. It is an unfolding renaissance, not marked by noise but by depth, not by speed but by scale.

Yet, we remain mindful of the road ahead. We must continue to green our campuses, expand critical research infrastructure, nurture talent in frontier technologies, and deepen learning outcomes in every district. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we have realised that education is not just policy, it is our greatest national investment, our moral compass, and our collective promise to the future.

The flame that was lit in 2020 now lights up every corner of our education system. But its true purpose is to spark a million more, across homes, hearts, and horizons. Yatra vidya, tatrapragati, where there is learning, there is progress. A billion minds, unshackled and empowered, are not just a demographic dividend; they are the supernova of a new India.

This is Bharat's sankalp, unfolding each day in the luminous dreams of children who now believe they can soar high while staying rooted, and who will shape the destiny of a developed India.

(Union Minister for Education, Government of India. Views expressed are personal)

Govt consistently increased budget allocation for science & research in last 5 years: Minister

The government has consistently increased the budget allocation for science and research, with the highest allocation made in FY2025-26 since the last five years, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh, informed the Parliament on Thursday.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, Singh shared that "more than Rs 65,307 crore budget has been allocated to six scientific agencies for research in FY 2025-26".

In comparison, Rs 41,581.96 was allocated for science and research in 2024-25, and Rs 39,843 crore in 2023-24.

In 2022-23, the government allocated Rs 37,828 crore and in 2021-22, Rs 37,823 crore.

The six major scientific agencies/departments are the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research/ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR/CSIR), the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the Department of Space (DOS), the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).



"DST bagged the highest (Rs 28,508.90 crore) in FY 26. It was followed by DOS at Rs 13416.20 crore in FY 26," Singh said. The agencies also received the highest allocations this year since FY 22.

Further, the MoS informed that the government has been implementing several fellowships that offer direct benefits to young scientists and researchers. Some of the key schemes include INSPIRE fellowship, INSPIRE faculty fellowship, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)-PhD, WISE-Post Doctoral Fellowship (PDF), and the scheme for young scientists and technologists (SYST) programme.

In addition, to provide high-level strategic direction for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the country, the government has established the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) through the ANRF Act of 2023, Singh said.

Under the Act, special provisions have been made towards encouraging the public sector enterprises as well as the private sector entities to invest in the activities of the ANRF. **IANS**

NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN

Over 16.5 crore Indians sensitised against drug abuse, says govt

More than 16.5 cr Indians, including women and youth, have been sensitised against drug abuse under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, the government informed the Parliament. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) is the nodal department for drug demand reduction in the country.

To fight the growing concern of drug addiction, DoSJE in 2020 launched the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA).

From 272 districts identified as most vulnerable, the NMBA is now extended to all districts of the country, said Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment B.L. Verma, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

The national campaign against drugs aims to spread widespread awareness about substance use with a focus on higher educational institutions, university campuses, and schools. "Till now, through the various activities undertaken on-ground, 16.5+ crore people have been sensitized on substance use, including 5.5+ crore youth and 3.43+ crore women," the Minister said.



"Participation of 4.47+ lakh educational institutions have ensured that the message of the Abhiyaan reaches children and youth of the country," he added.

To tackle the issue of substance use, DoSJE has been implementing the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) -- a centrally sponsored scheme. It provides financial assistance to states, NGOs, and government hospitals for Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs), Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts, among others.

Further, DoSJE has also implemented a toll-free helpline for de-addiction -- 14446 -- for providing primary counselling and immediate referral services to persons seeking help through this helpline.

"More than 4.3 Lakh calls have been received, so far, on the helpline number," Verma said.

DoSJE has also signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with several spiritual organisations like The Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris, Sant Nirankari Mission, ISKCON, Shri Ram Chandra Mission, and All World Gayatri Pariwar to support NMBA and conduct mass awareness activities. **IANS**

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NEWSBRIEFS

Three killed in elephant attack in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: In a tragic incident, a wild elephant trampled three persons to death at Baghadharia village in Odisha's Dhenkanal district on Thursday. The deceased were identified as Jhulana Dehuri (55), her brother-in-law Karunakar Dehuri (60) and one Sashi Sahu, all belonging to the same village. Jhulana was plucking flowers near her home when she came across the wild jumbo. The elephant suddenly attacked the victim, leaving her dead on the spot. Jhulana's brother-in-law Karunakar, who had gone to answer nature's call, rushed to her rescue after hearing her cries. He was also trampled to death by the jumbo at the spot. Later, the wild elephant also attacked another villager, identified as Sashi Sahu, who sustained serious injuries. The villagers immediately rushed the critically injured Sahu to a nearby hospital. **IANS**

Honour killing in TN: Deceased Dalit techie's father alleges police role in his son's murder

CHENNAI: The father of Kavin Selvaganesh, the 27-year-old Dalit software engineer brutally hacked to death in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli, has alleged that a local police officer played a direct role in the suspected honour killing. He accused Palayamkottai Inspector Kasi Pandian of colluding with the main accused, Surjith, and facilitating the murder. Speaking to reporters, Kavin's father claimed that the Inspector not only tipped off Surjith about his son's travel plans but also repeatedly threatened Kavin to end his relationship with Surjith's sister, who belongs to a an intermediary caste. **IANS**

New voter registrations without documents raise alarm ahead of SIR in Bengal

KOLKATA, JULY 31



The West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office is on high alert following reports of new voter registrations being processed without valid supporting documents, even before the commencement of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

According to officials, 127 instances of new voter registrations without proper supporting documents have already been flagged. These are just from two constituencies -- Moyna in East Midnapore district and Baruipur (Purba) constituency in South 24 Parganas district.

Of these 127 instances, 87 names have surfaced from Moyna and the remaining 38 from Baruipur (Purba).

The figure has kept the officials at the CEO's office on high alert, since these irregularities have surfaced from just two assembly constituencies, and that too before the beginning of the SIR. There are 294 constituencies in the state.

Interestingly, neither Moyna nor Baruipur (Purba) is located near international borders with neighbouring Bangladesh, making the revelations more concerning.

Senior officials fear that the number of such dubious registrations could be far higher in districts neighbouring Bangladesh.

The concern is further compounded as the number of Form-6 applications in certain districts during the last two weeks has witnessed a sharp spike. These districts are Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Malda, North Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Nadia, and North & South 24 Parganas -- all having international borders with Bangladesh.

Form 6 is an application for the inclusion of one's name in the electoral list.

On Wednesday, the leader of the opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to initiate an immediate investigation and appropriate action against the electoral registration officers (EROs) who are clandestinely involved in accepting Form 6 applications from fictitious voters without proper verification.

Even the office of the CEO, West Bengal, had already issued a memo this week, citing instances of EROs receiving a considerable number of Form-6 applications from such fake voters during sample checks. The situation, officials say, underscores the need for heightened vigilance ahead of the upcoming electoral roll revision exercise. **IANS**

US student detained at Chennai airport for carrying banned satellite phone

CHENNAI, JULY 31



Security officials at Chennai International Airport detained an American student early Thursday after he was found in possession of a satellite phone, a device banned in India for security reasons.

The incident took place as a Scoot Airlines flight bound for Singapore was preparing for departure at 12.30 a.m.

During a routine security check, airport officials detected the satellite phone in the baggage of Oakley Jackson (22), an American national travelling to Australia via Singapore.

Jackson, a university student from the US, had arrived in Chennai last week from Delhi on a tourist visit.

Upon questioning, he claimed he was unaware that satellite phones were prohibited in India and explained that he had carried the device with him from the US to Delhi and then to Chennai without facing any issues. However, security officials at Chennai Airport did not accept his explanation, citing national security concerns.

The student's flight ticket was immediately cancelled, and the satellite phone was confiscated.

Both Jackson and the seized device were subsequently handed over to the airport police station for further investigation.

Police sources said they are probing whether the student had used the satellite phone during his stay in Chennai and, if so, with whom he had communicated. Investigators are also trying to ascertain whether anyone had attempted to contact him through the device while he was in India.

"Satellite phones can bypass conventional communication networks, and their unmonitored usage poses a serious security threat," a senior official at the airport said. "Strict action is taken whenever such devices are found," the official said.

The US Consulate in Chennai has been informed about the incident.

Officials from the embassy are expected to extend necessary assistance to Jackson as the inquiry progresses. **IANS**

Rajasthan govt allows teachers to declare holidays if school infrastructure unsafe

JAIPUR, JULY 31



The tragic incidents in the schools in Rajasthan's Jhalawar and Jaisalmer have prompted the state government to lock and seal dilapidated buildings and empower teachers to declare holidays if the condition of the educational premises poses a risk.

State Education Minister Madan Dilawar has issued strict instructions to ensure the safety of students and staff, particularly during the ongoing monsoon season.

In a firm directive, Minister Dilawar has instructed that all dilapidated school buildings must be locked and sealed immediately.

He emphasised that the safety of children is non-negotiable and that no classes should be held in unsafe structures.

Rooms showing signs of damage should be marked with red and kept locked to prevent entry.

"Teachers should not wait for official orders when children's safety is at stake. They have full authority to act immediately," the minister said.

With several villages witnessing floods, overflowing rivers, and waterlogged school premises, the government has also directed District Collectors to declare school holidays wherever needed. Many districts have already announced such holidays under this provision. **IANS**

49-year-old TN woman fulfils dream to study medicine, cracks NEET with daughter

CHENNAI, JULY 31



In a heartwarming story of perseverance and determination, a 49-year-old woman from Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu, is set to begin her medical studies, fulfilling a dream she has cherished for more than 15 years.

Amuthavalli, a physiotherapist by profession, always aspired to become a doctor but could never pursue her ambition due to personal and financial constraints.

While helping her daughter prepare for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), she rekindled her long-standing dream and decided to appear for the exam herself.

Speaking about her journey, Amuthavalli said, "I've been working as a physiotherapist for years, but I always wanted to study medicine. This dream started 15 years ago, but I never had the opportunity. When I began preparing alongside my daughter, I realised it was now or never. She gave me the courage to try again."

Although Amuthavalli scored 147 marks in NEET, she qualified under the Persons with Disabilities (PwD) category and has secured admission to the Government Medical College in Virudhunagar.

Her daughter, Samyuktha Krupalini, who scored an impressive 460 marks in the same exam, has taken part in the ongoing general counselling process and is expected to secure a seat in one of Tamil Nadu's medical colleges.

Interestingly, the mother-daughter duo has decided not to attend the same college even if they both get admission offers. "We want to study in different medical colleges so that we can focus independently on our studies," Amuthavalli said with a smile. The story of Amuthavalli's perseverance has inspired many in her hometown of Tenkasi. **IANS**

DELHI/NCR

Punish those who filed, pursued false Malegaon blast case: Delhi BJP chief

NEW DELHI, JULY 31



Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Thursday welcomed the NIA Special Court's decision to acquit all seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, demanding legal action against those who filed and pursued the false matter.

He said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and all Congress leaders must apologise not only to the Hindu society but to the entire country, as the case was filed during the UPA regime.

Sachdeva said Hindus were falsely targeted and implicated in the case, a fact that the Special NIA Court's decision has now confirmed.

He demanded that legal action be taken against those who filed and pursued this false case.

Sachdeva stated that the Congress fabricated the false narrative of "saffron terror" or "Hindu terror" to protect real terrorists, but that conspiracy has now fallen apart.

Sachdeva said that those who used terms like "saffron terror" and "Hindu terror" should apologise to the entire nation.

"The country witnessed how Congress and its allies used such language against Hindus purely for the sake of appeasing a specific vote bank," he said.

Sachdeva stated that the Congress tried to defame the majority community, but now that they have failed after the court's verdict, their leaders are talking about appealing against the acquittal in the Bombay High Court. **IANS**

Delhi court defers decision on issuing notice to Robert Vadra in land deal case

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

A Delhi court on Thursday deferred till August 2 the pronouncement of its decision on issuing a notice to businessman Robert Vadra, son-in-law of former Congress President Sonia Gandhi, in connection with a money laundering case linked to a land deal in Haryana's Shikohpur.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had filed a prosecution complaint under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), claiming that Vadra's Skylight Hospitality "fraudulently" purchased 3.53 acres of land situated in the village of Shikohpur in Haryana's Gurugram district through "false declaration".

The Rouse Avenue Courts,



which was slated to deliver the verdict on Thursday, deferred the pronouncement till August 2.

Last week, the trial court had reserved its order regarding the issuance of a notice to Vadra, the husband of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. During the hearing, advocate Zoheb Hossain, appearing for the ED, stated that the sale deed falsely declared a payment of Rs 7.5 crore, whereas in reality, no such payment was made. This amount was paid at a later stage to evade stamp duty, a fact that has been confirmed by key witnesses, added Hossain.

Further, the federal anti-money laundering agency claimed that Vadra, "through his personal influence", obtained a commercial license on the land purchased.

As per the ED, the land was later sold to DLF at a higher price, and this aspect of the case is still under investigation. In April this year, Vadra was questioned in multiple rounds by the ED, during which his statement was also recorded.

The land purchase deal in question was executed in February 2008 when Congress was at the helm in Haryana, and Bhupinder Singh Hooda was the Chief Minister. **IANS**

Rain brings relief from heat, Delhi-NCR breathes cleanest July air in decade

NEW DELHI, JULY 31



Continuous rainfall in Delhi-NCR on Thursday has brought much-needed respite from the sweltering heat, while simultaneously delivering a remarkable improvement in air quality.

According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), July 2025 has recorded the cleanest air in over a decade, with Air Quality Index (AQI) readings falling below 50 in several parts of the region a level categorised as "very good".

This drastic improvement is largely attributed to the frequent rain showers over the past week, which have significantly reduced dust and airborne pollutants. **IANS**

DDA plans hot air balloon activities at four sites near Yamuna

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

In a first, Delhi residents will soon get a chance to enjoy the city's natural beauty while riding a hot air balloon as the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has shortlisted an agency for this project to promote eco-tourism, an official said on Thursday.

A concept visualised under the guidance and supervision of Lt Governor V.K. Saxena will promote recreational activities at Yamuna Sports Complex, Commonwealth Games Sports Complex and along the Yamuna bank at Asita and Baansera.

An official statement said that the private agency will be provided 3,600 sqm (60X60 m) space at each site for operation of the hot air balloons and its operations would commence within two months.

The selected agency has been awarded the task for three years, extendable up to maximum period of nine years.

Each day, four hour of flying time will be allowed. However, the DDA may extend it as per requirements, said the statement.

The private firm would operate the Balloon rides on a revenue sharing model and the pricing will be decided with approval of DDA.

"To ensure transparency and proper record keeping, all proceeds from ticketing will be credited to DDA's account," it said. **IANS**

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I Parminder Kaur Alias Parminder Kaur Manjgotra D/o Late Surinder Singh W/o Vivek Ambardar R/o 8, St, No 3, Sahib Enclave Patiala, Punjab have Changed My Name to Parminder Kaur Ambardar after my Marriage.

I Harpreet Singh S/O Bachiter Singh Vpo. Gurbaxpura Teh Dhuri Dist. Sangrur has changed name Harpreet Singh to Harpreet Singh Khaira.

I Kamal Kultar Singh alias Kanwal Kultar Singh Bajwa S/o Piara Singh H.No362/1, Street No.3, Tagore Nagar, Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Kanwal Kultar Singh Bajwa. Concerned Note.

I Parminder Kaur Alias Parminder Kaur Manjgotra D/o Late Surinder Singh W/o Vivek Ambardar R/o 8, St, No 3, Sahib Enclave Patiala, Punjab have Changed My Name to Parminder Kaur Ambardar after my Marriage.

I Kulwinder Singh Ratol S/o Jawala Singh R/o Saraud (Malerkotla) have changed my name to Kulwinder Singh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Amanjeet Kaur, w/o Late S. Waryam Singh, R/O #J-4, 39 West society, Jujharnagar, SAS Nagar, declare that my son Chanpreet Singh and his wife Vaishali Gandhi are out of my control. I disown both of them from all my movable / immovable properties. In future, if anybody deals with them will be responsible himself. Me and my family members will not have any responsibility whatsoever.

I, Suraj Kumar Manchanda S/o Rattan Lal R/o H.no. E-7-05, Second Floor, Omaxe Royal View Homes, Pakhowal Road, P.O. Dad (Ludhiana) declare that My correct name is Suraj Kumar Manchanda, not Suraj Kumar.

I Lachhman Singh S/o Gopal Singh R/o H.no:- 15, Mundian Khurd, Ludhiana declare that my son Sukhwinder Singh (married) and my daughter Paramjeet Kaur (married) are out of my control. I disowned them and from my all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with them at his/her own risk. Me and my family members will not be responsible for any act or conduct done by them.

I Mahinder Singh S/o Hushyar Singh R/o H.no. 512/20-F, St. No.1, Atma Singh Nagar, Giaspura (Ludhiana) declare that Mahinder Singh and Mohinder Singh are one and the same person.

I, Rupa D/o Dharam Singh R/o H.no:- 7, St.no:- 3, Gobindgarh, Jugiana (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name Rupa Kumari to Rupa. My Date Of Birth Is 06-08-1997. In Future I Will Be Known As Rupa.

ਮੈਂ,ਰਾਜ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਗੁਰਨ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਰੂਪ ਨਗਰ,ਤਹਿ: ਵਾਂ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਾਜ਼ਿਲਕਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਲਵਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੇਰੇ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਮੈਂ ਉਸਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Gurpreet Singh s/o Labh Singh R/o H.No. 285/1, St. No.5, Bachittar Nagar, Ludhiana have Lost My two Original Sale deeds bearing Khasra No.1386, Village GILL-2, Locality Bachittar Nagar, Teh. & Distt. Ludhiana Sale Deed Vasika No. 8000 Dated 10/11/2010, measuring 100 Sy Executed By Smt.Harmeet Singh s/o Sh. Jasmer Singh,In favor of Smt. Kulwant Kaur w/o Sh. Harnek Singh and Sale Deed Vasika No. 4212 Dated 25/08/2015, measuring 100 Sy Executed By Smt. Kulwant Kaur w/o Sh. Harnek Singh, In favor of Sh. Harmandeep Singh s/o Jawand Singh.Thesesale deeds have been lost Near GNE College, Ludhiana dated 02.06.2025. A police report LR N: 614560/2025 dated 31.07.2025 has been logged in PSOC Dehlon Ludhiana City. If anyone found these sale deeds please contact in 15 days contact no. 98551-02885.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT **Harpreet Singh S/o Tarsem Singh** have agreed to mortgage the property more particularly described in the schedule mentioned hereunder written (hereinafter referred to as 'the said property") to my/our client **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd**, Ludhiana, the said proper is free from all charges or encumbrances as per information provided by owner. That Harpreet Singh S/o Tarsem Singh is owner of property mentioned below vide Sale deed Wasika no. 2024-25/100/1/816 dt.18.12.2024. Further Harpreet Singh S/o Tarsem Singh has stated that he has lost following documents in respect of said property of which a DDR report has been done vide SR No: 613777/2025 dt. 29.07.2025.Original Sale deed Wasika no.1566 dt.21.02.2013 executed by Harvinder Singh S/o Ram in favour of Komalpreet Singh S/o Parvinder Singh.All PERSONS claiming any share, interest or right in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, transfer, assignment, mortgage, charge, lease, license, lien, tenancy, trust, gift, easement, possession, inheritance or otherwise however are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned in writing, within (7) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice, with all supporting documents, failing which mortgage over the said property shall be created without reference to all claims if any, and the same shall be deemed to waived/ and or abandoned and will not be binding on my/our clients. THE SCHDEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO (Detail description of the property) Property measuring 0K-1-3/4M (53 Sq.Yds) Comprised in Khasra no.16//1/2 Khatta no 114/125 as per Jamabandi for Year 2020-21 Situated at Village Harian, H.B no.206, Tehsil Koom Kalan & Distt. Ludhiana. Boundaries East: Vacant Plot Krishan Lal West: Haria Road North: shop of Guljar Singh South: Vacant Plot Dalbara Singh. **Himanshu Jindal (Advocate),Distt. Courts, Ludhiana. Mobile: 9815641509/8968105533,** For and on Behalf of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. Ludhiana 141001

PUBLIC NOTICE

It hereby inform to general public at large **Sapna Pal W/o Ravinder Pal** intends to Purchase property detailed as under from Madhuari Singh W/o Varinder Singh. Further Sapna Pal W/o Ravinder Pal is taking a loan of said property from **DCB Bank Limited** SCO 10-11, Feroze Gandhi Market— Ludhiana. Further Sapna Pal W/o Ravinder Pal (Purchaser) has entered into agreement with Madhuari Singh W/o Varinder Singh. Madhuari Singh W/o Varinder Singh has stated that following documents in respect of said property has been Lost of which a DDR report has been done vide SR No: 608056/2025 dt.09.07.2025.Original Sale deed wasika no.269 dt.16.08.2018 executed by Gurdeep Singh S/o Sham Singh and Jasvir Singh S/o Jagir Singh in Favour of Avdesh Kumar Singh S/o Mahender Parsad.Through this notice public at Large it is informed that All PERSONS claiming any share, interest or right in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, transfer, assignment, mortgage, charge, lease, license, lien, tenancy, trust, gift, easement, possession, inheritance or otherwise regarding Original Sale deed wasika no.269 dt.16.08.2018 are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned in writing, within (7) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice, with all supporting documents, failing which mortgage over the said property shall be created without reference to all claims if any, and the same shall be deemed to waived/ and or abandoned and will not be binding on my/our clients and baseless claim and shall have no value in the eyes of law. THE SCHDEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO (Detail description of the property) Plot No.16 Property measuring 45 Sq.Yds., Comprised in Khasra No.5//21, 6//14, 15, 16, 18/2, 19/2, 22/2, 23, 24, 18/1, 19/1, 25, 14//3, 4, 5, 8/1, 7, 15//1/1, Khatta No.202/223, 224 as Per Jamabandi for Year 2006-07 (Khatta No.233/245-246 as Per Jamabandi for Year 2016-17), Situated at Village Mundian Khurd, H.B no.240, Sub-Tehsil Sahnewal, Teh. & Distt. Ludhiana. Boundaries as per Sale deed Wasika no.4307 dt. 27.03.2018 as East: Street 20'Wide Adm.15' West: Neighbourer Adm.15' North: Neighbourer Adm.27' South: Neighbourer Adm.27'.Plot No.15, Property measuring 45 Sq.Yds. Comprised in Khasra No.5//21, 6//14, 15, 16, 18/2, 19/2, 22/2, 23, 24, 18/1, 19/1, 25, 14//3, 4, 5, 8/1, 7, 15//1/1, Khatta No. Khatta No.233/245-246 as Per Jamabandi for Year 2016-17, Situated at Village Mundian Khurd, H.B no.240, Sub-Tehsil Sahnewal, Teh. & Distt. Ludhiana. Boundaries as per Sale deed Wasika no.2020-21/102/1/4133 dt.22.01.2021 as East: Street 20'Wide Adm.15' West: Neighbourer Adm.15' North: Neighbourer Adm.27' South: Neighbourer Adm.27'.Contact to undersigned: **Himanshu Jindal (advocate) Mb: 8968105533,** For and on Behalf of DCB Bank Limited, SCO 10-11, Feroze Gandhi Market—Ludhiana

Shaheed Udham Singh's courage, sacrifice & determination will always inspire us: Haryana CM

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday said that the austerity, sacrifice, and courage of the great revolutionary Shaheed Udham Singh will always inspire us. He recalled that Udham Singh avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by killing General Dyer on foreign soil. This act of bravery remains an everlasting inspiration for the entire nation and a beacon of patriotism.

Saini addressed a public gathering at Sunam, the birthplace of Shaheed Udham Singh, in Punjab.

Earlier, the Chief Minister paid floral tributes at Shaheed Udham Singh Memorial. He also planted a sapling at the memorial and visited the Udham Singh Museum, where he saw the photographs, letters, and memories associated with the martyr. He recorded his thoughts in the visitor's book.

Later, the Chief Minister met the family members of Shaheed Udham Singh, accompanied by Sardar Hardayal Singh, who presented him with a memorandum of their demands.

Later, the Chief Minister attended a public meeting organized by BJP leader Daaman Bajwa on Sangrur Road, where Punjab BJP leaders gave him a warm welcome.

The Chief Minister said that it was an honor to visit the birthplace of Shaheed Udham Singh. He recalled that during the Baisakhi gathering at Jallianwala Bagh, General Dyer ordered the firing on unarmed civilians after blocking all exits, leading to the killing of thousands. It was then that Udham Singh vowed not to rest until he avenged the massacre.

After 21 years of perseverance, on April 13, 1940, Udham Singh shot General Dyer on British soil, avenging the massacre of April 13, 1919, and ultimately sacrificed his life for the nation. Revolutionary Udham Singh's courage, sacrifice, and determination remain unparalleled. It is because of countless sacrifices by heroes like Udham Singh and Bhagat Singh that we live in a free India today, the Chief Minister said.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to building the India of the martyrs' dreams. We all must work together to realize the vision of the freedom fighters for an independent and prosperous nation, he added.

On this occasion, senior Punjab BJP leaders, organization members from Sunam, and various dignitaries honored the Chief Minister with a memento.

Speaking to reporters later, the Chief Minister said that it was a proud moment for him to pay homage to Shaheed Udham Singh at his birthplace and meet his family.

Answering a question, he criticized the Punjab government for failing to fulfill the promises made to the people.

The government has shown people mere illusions. Just as they misled the people of Delhi, who have now understood their reality, the people of Punjab are also realizing the same, he stated.

Shaheed Udham Singh's family members, including Sardar Hardayal Singh and Aman, Punjab BJP's Acting State President, Ashwani Sharma, senior BJP leader and MLA, Arvind Khanna, General Secretary, Dayal Sodhi, Punjab BJP Secretary and event organizer, Daaman Bajwa, Sunam District President, Amritraj Chattha, and many other dignitaries also remained present on this occasion.

As senior-most MLA, my duty is to oversee all of Haryana: Anil Vij

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

Haryana Transport Minister Anil Vij said on Thursday that he "is the senior-most legislator and he has to oversee all of Haryana".

"I will soon begin a statewide tour. I will meet new and old party workers and check on their well-being," he told the media.

Minister Vij is popular among his supporters for his straightforwardness.

He is known for criticising lazy officials in meetings.

Issuing a stern warning to officers, the Minister said, "I will also be checking on those officers who are not implementing government schemes."

He was responding to queries of the media regarding this week's BJP Legislative Party meeting during which constituencies were allotted to MLAs and Ministers but the names of seven-time MLA Vij was missing from the list. PTI

BJP wants to crush poor & middle class under burden of inflation: Hooda

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has demanded withdrawal of the increase in the collector rate and said that the decision will send the land rates sky high.

"The government has directly increased the collector rate by 10 to 145 percent, about two and a half times. For example, in an area of Fatehabad, the land rate has increased from Rs 15000 to Rs 35,000 per square yard, an increase of more than double," he said.

He said the government had increased this rate drastically last year in December 2024 itself. "Even then, the government had increased the collector rate by up to 250 per cent in many places. Whereas generally this increase was only 5 to 10 percent, but now this government is increasing the rates differently for every street, locality and village," he added.

The former Chief Minister said such a huge increase has never been made in the history of Haryana. "Taking such a decision for the second time within 8-9 months shows that the government has no concern for the problems of the poor and the middle class. The BJP wants to crush them by pressing them under the burden of inflation from all sides," he noted.

Hooda said that due to the uncontrollable increase in the collector rate, the land rates will skyrocket and the common man's dream of buying his own land and house will now remain a dream. "The anti-poor and anti-middle class face of the BJP was also seen at that time, when the decision was taken to allot HUDA plots on the basis of auction.

Rohtak: Collector rate hike to benefit property buyers, say realtors

ROHTAK, JULY 31

The circle rates of property have been increased by 5 to 25 per cent in different parts of Rohtak district. On an average, the circle rates or collector rates in the district will increase by 10 to 15 per cent. Real estate dealers maintain that the hike in circle rates will not have any adverse impact on the market, rather it would benefit the property buyers as they will be able to get higher loans from banks.

"Hence, the hike in Collector rates is likely to boost the market," said NK Sharma, a realtor based in Rohtak. Ramesh Rana, a local property dealer, said the government should reduce the stamp duty on property registration along with increasing the circle rates.

Persons engaged in property trade state that the registration of property is not being done for a couple of days in view of the revision of circle rates. However, the District Revenue Officer, Pramod Chahal, stated that the registration of property was going on as usual. Meanwhile, the property dealers point out that the registration was being done in only those cases for which the tokens had been issued, while new tokens were not being issued. Meanwhile, market observers state that as of now, the property market is stagnant in Rohtak.

"There are not many buyers and the property owners are not very keen to sell as the market rates are not on the higher side. We can hope that the property market begins to look up following the hike in circle rates," says Kamal Leekha, another realtor. AGENCIES

Over 15,000 athletes to participate in Grand Sports Mahakumbh: Sports Minister

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 31

Haryana's Minister of State for Sports Gaurav Gautam, stated that due to the state's excellent sports policy and consistent medal wins at national and international events, Haryana has emerged as a leader in Indian sports. Despite representing only 2% of the country's population, Haryana's athletes contribute to 60% of India's medal wins at international competitions. Continuing this legacy, the Sports Mahakumbh 2025 will begin in two phases starting August 2, with 15,410 athletes participating in 26 different sports.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will inaugurate the event as Chief Guest at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Panchkula on August 2. The first phase will run till August 4. For the first time, this state-level event is being held as a grand ceremony inaugurated by the Chief Minister.

While addressing the press conference at the Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh, the Sports Minister expressed pride that Haryana athletes have won medals in each of the past five Olympic Games, bringing home 15 medals and making the nation proud. He added that the 26 sports will be hosted across four locations: Panchkula: Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Handball, Hockey Faridabad: Shooting, Taekwondo Rohtak: Boxing, Netball, Football Sonipat: Lawn Tennis

Athletes from all 22 districts and Haryana Sports University, Rai (Sonipat), will participate. In both phases of the event, a total of 2,102 medals will be awarded — 836 in the first phase and 1,266 in the second. The second phase will be held in the last week of August.

The Minister highlighted that Haryana's Sports Mahakumbh will be bigger than many national-level sports events. For comparison, around 8,000 athletes participate in the Khelo India Youth Games organized by the Sports Authority of India, while over 15,000 will compete in this Mahakumbh.

He assured that the selection of athletes from districts was conducted fairly under the supervision of district sports officers. Proper arrangements for food, kits, and accommodation have been made to ensure athletes face no inconvenience. A special coordination committee has been formed under the Additional Sports Director to oversee the event. Any athlete across the state can report issues related to facilities or technical arrangements directly to the committee. Immediate action will be taken against negligent officials.

HIMACHAL/J&K

After 1999 ban, Cabinet approves resumption of lotteries in Himachal

SHIMLA, JULY 31

The cash-strapped state of Himachal Pradesh has decided to allow the operation of lotteries with an expected annual revenue between Rs 50 to Rs 100 crore.

The decision was taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held here today. Himachal Government had banned sale of tickets of all types of lotteries operated by Himachal, other states and UT's in 1999. This was done under Sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998.

The lotteries will be sold in the state after tendering its operations under the various laws in this regard. The debt burden of the state government has already crossed Rs 1 lakh crore and the state government is keen to generate additional revenue from other sectors, including mining, tourism and power.

The Finance Department made a detailed presentation before the Cabinet on the issue of starting operation of lotteries in the hill state to generate additional revenue. The decision has been taken on the recommendation of the Resource Mobilisation committee, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri. As per the presentation made by the Finance Department, Kerala had earned over Rs 13,582 crore, Punjab Rs 235 crore and a small state like Sikkim about Rs 30 crore in one year.

The states that are presently operating lotteries include Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Sikkim, Nagaland and Mizoram. AGENCIES

Amarnath Yatra crosses 4 lakh mark, J&K L-G calls it 'miracle'

SRINAGAR, JULY 31



After the Yatris were allowed to move towards the holy cave shrine from Baltal base camp on Thursday, the annual Amarnath Yatra 2025 has crossed the four lakh mark.

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Amarnath ji Shrine Board (SAAB), shared the information on his X handle.

"Baba Amarnath makes the impossible, possible. With his blessings, the Holy Yatra today crossed the figure of 4 Lakh. I bow to Lord Shiva for this miracle and express my gratitude to everyone involved in making the holy pilgrimage a divine experience for devotees," he posted on X.

He said this godly expedition was "incomparable not because it's arduous and challenging but because it's an inimitable journey into pure bliss".

"It's a spiritual experience & gives an opportunity to devotees to know themselves & offers deep trust & fills their hearts with infinite gratitude," the L-G further wrote in the post. The L-G said the record number of darshans and the arrival of devotees from across the country and the globe were a testament to India's unity and its resolve to overcome the challenges.

"I am truly thankful to the devotees, who have shown immense faith and strengthened our priceless spiritual heritage," he said.

The movement of Yatris from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu was suspended on Thursday morning due to the maintenance of the track from Pahalgam to the cave shrine, but later in the day, devotees were allowed to move towards the cave shrine from Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district.

This year's Yatra has witnessed a large rush of devotees as it takes place in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack of April 22, in which 26 civilians, including 25 tourists and a local, were killed by Pakistan-backed three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists.

All three hardcore Pakistani terrorists, including Suleman Shah and his two associates, Abu Hamza and Jibran Bhai, were killed by the joint forces on July 28 in Operation Mahadev in the upper reaches of the Dachigam national park in Srinagar.

Yatris approach the cave shrine either from the traditional Pahalgam route or through the shorter Baltal route. Those undertaking the trek from the Pahalgam side take four days to reach the cave shrine, while those using the Baltal base camp return to the base camp the same day after having the darshan. IANS

Probe ordered into J&K doctor's viral video of govt maternity hospital

SRINAGAR, JULY 31

The health authorities on Thursday ordered a probe after a purported video clip shot by a doctor in the labour room and operation theatre of a maternity hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city came to the fore.

The video clip went viral on social media on Wednesday, causing anguish among people. The video allegedly shot and posted by a doctor showed the labour room and the operation theatre of a maternity hospital where the surgery of a patient was being performed.

The clip has raised questions about the professional ethics of doctors and the patient's right to absolute privacy.

The video shows the doctor walking with his colleagues through the labour room and the operation theatre and shooting the video like a casual bystander.

Not only the people, but members of the doctors' fraternity have also expressed anger and mounted criticism on the doctor's act to film himself in such sensitive areas of a maternity hospital.

Principal of the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, under whose administrative control the maternity hospital falls, has ordered a probe with instructions to furnish the report within 24 hours.

The conduct of the doctor not only violates the patient's right to privacy, but also violates the directives of the Medical Council of India (MCI), in addition to being punishable under the Information Technology Act 2000, said officials here.

Just a week before this incident, there was another incident of alleged misbehaviour in the SMHS hospital of the city, where doctors allegedly roughed up a female journalist after saying they had been ill-treated. PTI

Landslips affect water, power supply schemes in Kangra

DHARAMSALA, JULY 31

Continuous moderate to heavy rainfall over the past several days resulted in the blockade of at least 70 roads, including key national and state highways as well as several link roads, in Kangra district on Wednesday. Potable water and electricity supply was also disrupted due to landslides triggered by heavy rain.

According to reports, 70 roads were blocked due to landslides on Wednesday morning. However, more than 40 blocked roads were cleared of debris and reopened for traffic. The work on the blocked link roads was in progress.

The main Dharamsala-McLeodganj road near the Army camp was blocked by a landslide. However, the local authorities cleared debris within a couple of hours and reopened it for traffic. A bridge on the Jawalaji-Khundian via Surani road was damaged, halting vehicular movement. Lanslides also blocked an alternative route via Gummer-Kota-Baggi, cutting off access to the region. In Shahpur, the Bhanala-Drini, Drini-Boh, Boh-Lam, Ridkmar-Kutharna, Bhitloo-Kut, Chadhi-Ghera, Ghera-Kareri, Kareri-Kutharna, Ridkmar-Ghatarda (washed away), Rait-Nerti and Shahpur-Chakban-Lapiana roads were blocked. AGENCIES

Bus plunges into gorge in Mandi; 1 killed, 9 injured

MANDI, JULY 31

A tragic road accident occurred today evening near Tuna village in Gohar subdivision of Mandi district when a private bus lost control and plunged into a deep gorge.

The mishap claimed the life of a 44-year-old woman and left nine others injured, including the driver and conductor.

The ill-fated bus was en route from Jehal to Chailchowk when it veered off the road near Kashawari in Tuna and fell into a steep gorge. Locals rushed to the scene and immediately launched a rescue operation to evacuate the injured.

The deceased has been identified as Nirmala (44), wife of Kishori, a resident of Naun village. Gohar SDM Bachittar Singh, confirmed the incident and said four critically injured victims have been referred to the medical college in Nerchowk, while five victims are admitted to Civil Hospital Gohar in Mandi for treatment. Mandi SP Sakshi Verma stated that a case has been registered and investigation is underway to ascertain the actual cause of this accident. AGENCIES

PWD helper dies by suicide in Kasauli

SOLAN, JULY 31

A 31-year-old man, employed as a helper at the Public Works Department (PWD) Circuit House in Parwanoo, allegedly committed suicide in his room on Thursday morning.

According to police, the deceased identified as Jagdish Chauhan, a resident of Kasauli's Dharda village, was found hanging from the rod of a ceiling fan.

Solan SP Gaurav Singh said that no suicide note was recovered from the spot.

The body was shifted to ESI Hospital, Parwanoo for postmortem. Police recorded the statements of family members and others present at the scene.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the deceased was married but was allegedly in a relationship with a woman known to his relatives. However, no foul play is suspected at this stage, police said.

Inquest proceedings are being carried out under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). AGENCIES

NEWSBRIEFS

One killed, 14 injured in central Afghanistan road accident

KABUL; One person was killed and 14 others injured after their vehicle veered off the road and turned turtle in central Afghanistan's Bamiyan province, the state-owned Bakhtar News Agency reported late Wednesday.The mishap occurred in the Kotal Bukak area of Yakawlang district, where a mini-bus overturned due to a technical fault, killing one traveler on the spot and injuring 14 others, including women and children, the Afghan news agency quoted Mohammad Khawani Rasa, provincial police spokesman, as saying. According to Rasa, all the injured were transported to nearby health centers for treatment. **IANS**

One dead, six hospitalized amid outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in inner-Sydney

SYDNEY: One person died and six more were treated in hospital amid an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in an inner-Sydney suburb, the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) said in a statement on Thursday.Seven people from Potts Point, an affluent inner-city suburb less than two km from the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House, have contracted Legionnaires' disease since May, Xinhua News Agency reported.The cases include a man aged in his 80s who became ill in late June and has since died.The remaining six people were hospitalized for treatment. **IANS**

South Korea: Special counsel to execute detention warrant for Yoon Friday

SEOUL: A South Korean special counsel team said on Thursday that it will execute a detention warrant for jailed former President Yoon Suk Yeol this week to forcibly bring him in for questioning. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team said it plans to send an assistant special counsel, a prosecutor and investigators to the Seoul Detention Centre in Uiwang, just south of the capital, at 9 a.m. Friday. Earlier in the day, the Seoul Central District Court issued a detention warrant for Yoon after the former president, who is under arrest over his failed attempt to impose martial law in December, defied two summonses to appear for questioning this week. **IANS**

Balochistan not for sale: Activist warns Trump against Pakistan's 'false claim' on oil reserves

QUETTA: Just after US President Donald Trump announced to help Pakistan develop its "massive oil reserve," leading Baloch human rights defender Mir Yar Baloch wrote to the American President, stating that military leadership in Islamabad have gravely misled the US administration regarding the "true geography and ownership" of Pakistan's resources. He stated that the oil reserves are in Balochistan and not in Punjab. This came after President Trump, on his social media platform, announced that the US and Pakistan have finalised an agreement to collaborate in developing the oil reserves in the South Asian country. **IANS**

US Fed keeps interest rates unchanged despite pressure from Trump admn

WASHINGTON, JULY 31



The US Federal Reserve kept the target range for the federal funds rate unchanged at 4.25 per cent to 4.5 per cent, though it faces stark pressure and harsh criticism from the Trump administration.

"Although swings in net exports continue to affect the data, recent indicators suggest that the growth of economic activity moderated in the first half of the year. The unemployment rate remains low, and labour market conditions remain solid. Inflation remains somewhat elevated," said a statement by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC).Uncertainty about the economic outlook remains elevated, said the statement.

The US economy expanded at an annualised rate of 3 per cent in the second quarter, compared with a contraction of 0.5 per cent in the first quarter, according to data released on Wednesday by the US Commerce Department.

The FOMC added that it is "strongly committed to supporting maximum employment and returning inflation to its 2 per cent objective."

The US consumer price index rose by 2.7 per cent in June compared to a year earlier and saw the largest increase since February, which is seen as the start of tariff-driven inflation, reports Xinhua news agency.

Notably, among the 12 voting members of the FOMC, two voted for a cut in the benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points, while a Fed board member did not cast a vote.

"It seems to me, and to almost the whole committee, that the economy is not performing as though restrictive policy is holding it back inappropriately and modestly restrictive policy seems appropriate," said Fed Chair Jerome Powell at a press conference Wednesday. **IANS**

US Navy F-35 fighter jet crashes near naval air station in California, pilot ejects safelyw

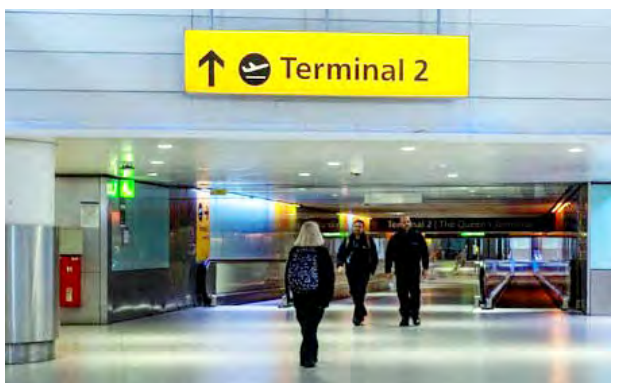
A US Navy F-35 fighter jet crashed near Naval Air Station Lemoore in central California on Wednesday at around 6:30 pm local time, according to a Navy press statement. The pilot ejected safely and the cause of the crash is being investigated, as per the statement.

"NAS Lemoore can confirm an aviation incident on the Operations side of the installation. At 1830, an F-35C attached to the VFA-125 Rough Raiders went down not far from NAS Lemoore. We can confirm the pilot successfully ejected and is safe. There are no additional affected personnel," read a statement issued by the Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore.

According to the US Navy, the aircraft was assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron VF-125, a Fleet Replacement Squadron responsible for training pilots and aircrew.

UK air traffic glitch triggers mass disruptions, over 100 flights cancelled

LONDON, JULY 31



More than 100 flights were cancelled and several others delayed after a technical glitch in the UK's air traffic control system led to widespread disruption at key airports across the country.

The issue, identified as radar-related by the National Air Traffic Services (NATS), temporarily halted departures from major hubs including Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, and London City airports on Wednesday (local time).

Although the malfunction was reportedly resolved within 20 minutes through a switch to a backup system, cascading delays and cancellations continued for several hours, leaving thousands of travellers stranded or rerouted, according to local media reports.

NATS later issued a statement confirming that systems were "fully operational" again and that air traffic capacity was returning to normal levels.The agency acknowledged the inconvenience caused and issued an apology for the disruption.

Low-cost airline Ryanair emerged as one of the worst-hit carriers, claiming the incident triggered more than four hours of operational chaos, local media reports suggested. The airline drew comparisons with a similar system failure in August 2023 that had also resulted in major disruptions, sparking criticism over the air traffic authority's preparedness.

Neal McMahon, CEO of Ryanair, strongly criticised the management of the latest disruption and called for the resignation of NATS chief executive Martin Rolfe.

"It is outrageous that passengers are once again being hit with delays and disruption," McMahon said.

"It is clear that no lessons have been learnt since the August 2023 NATS system outage," the Ryanair CEO added.Airports and airlines urged passengers to contact their respective carriers before heading to the airport, as recovery efforts were expected to continue through the evening. **IANS**

'US using sanctions as tools to dictate its will on countries like Iran and India'

TEHRAN, JULY 31



Iran on Thursday accused the United States of weaponizing the economy and using sanctions as tools to "dictate its will on independent nations" such as Iran and India and impede their growth and development.

"The United States continues to weaponize the economy and use sanctions as tools to dictate its will on independent nations such as Iran and India and impede their growth and development. These coercive discriminatory actions violate the principles of international law and national sovereignty, representing a modern form of economic imperialism," the Embassy of Iran in India posted on X.

"Resisting such policies is a stand for a more powerful emerging non Western-led multilateral world order and a stronger Global South," it added.

The reaction came less than 24 hours after US President Donald Trump announced that he will levy a 25 per cent tariff on India and a penalty for buying Russian oil, starting August 1.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Thursday described the new US sanctions against Iran's oil trade as a "malicious act" aimed at damaging the country's economic development and the well-being of its people.

Strongly condemning the imposition of new sanctions by the US against a group of Iranian individuals, entities, and vessels related to Iran's oil and energy sector, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei described the "oppressive sanctions

" as clear evidence of the hostility of US decision-makers toward the Iranian people.

"The Foreign Ministry spokesperson further stressed that Washington's addiction to unilateralist behavior and its reliance on illegal and coercive tools to pursue illegitimate objectives at the international level, as well as its flagrant disregard for the rule of law and human rights, has made a mockery of the fundamental principles of international law, including respect for state sovereignty and the freedom of interstate trade, putting the world at unprecedented risk,

" read a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Addressing the media in Tehran, Baqaei said that these unilateral and illegal sanctions are criminal in nature, violate the fundamental principles and norms of international law and human rights, and constitute a crime against humanity. **IANS**

Myanmar announces formation of new union government

YANGON, JULY 31



Myanmar's National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) on Thursday formed a new union government and State Security and Peace Commission, the state-owned Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) reported.

The union government is led by U Nyo Saw as Prime Minister, and the State Security and Peace Commission is chaired by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Xinhua News Agency reported, citing the report.

The NDSC also decided to annul the order transferring the sovereign power to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, according to the report.

Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson of Myanmar's State Administration Council, said on Thursday the NDSC had decided to end the state of emergency to hold general elections.

In February 2021, Myanmar's then-Acting President U Myint Swe declared a one-year state of emergency and transferred sovereign power to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. The office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services subsequently formed the State Administration Council, with Min Aung Hlaing as its chairman. The NDSC has made multiple six-month extensions until July 31 this year.

Meanwhile, Myanmar is working to accelerate its digital transformation with the implementation of the Myanmar Digital Economy Roadmap 2030, the state-owned daily Myanma Alinn reported on July 26. **IANS**

Over 10,000 people evacuated in southern Myanmar due to flooding

NAYPYIDAW, JULY 31



A total of 10,395 people from 2,298 households were evacuated to 24 temporary rescue shelters due to flooding in Hpa-an township of Kayin state, the state-owned Myanmar Radio and Television reported on Wednesday night.

The evacuation was carried out by members of disaster management committees, firefighters, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, and community-based organizations on Wednesday as the Thanlwin River rose above danger levels following heavy rain, the report said, Xinhua News Agency reported.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology on Thursday, the river in Hpa-an has risen to about six feet above the danger level and is expected to remain at risk for another day.

The Kayin State Government, along with donors, is providing basic food supplies, while the Ministry of Health is delivering medical treatment and services, the report said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Myanmar Fire Services Department (MFSD) said that a total of 2,851 people from 771 households were evacuated in Myawaddy township of Kayin state due to flooding.

The evacuation was carried out by the MFSD on Tuesday as the Thaungyin River rose above danger levels following heavy rain, it said.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, the river in Myawaddy has risen about 12 feet above the danger level and is expected to remain at risk for another day. **IANS**

Rwanda lawmakers approve peace deal with Congo to bolster regional stability



KIGALI, JULY 31

Rwanda's Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved a law ratifying a peace agreement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), aimed at restoring peace and security in the Great Lakes Region.

The agreement, signed in Washington on June 27, received the backing of all 76 lawmakers present. It seeks to resolve longstanding tensions and security challenges between the two neighbouring countries.During the parliamentary session, Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Olivier Nduhungirehe, said that the deal was signed in the United States, which participated in the process, under the facilitation of Qatar and with support from the African Union. **IANS**

35 injured in violent clash between BNP and NCP supporters

DHAKA, JULY 31



At least 35 people, including five journalists, were injured after a violent clash broke out between the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and National Citizens Party (NCP) during a protest rally held in Cumilla, local media reported.

The incident occurred on Wednesday evening after NCP supporters organised a rally under the banner of 'People from all walks of life of Muradnagar Upazila' to protest against alleged propaganda and conspiracy against the local government advisor of the interim government, Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain.

Subsequently, leaders and activists from the NCP and BNP parties chased each other while throwing bricks and stones, causing panic in the area.

Citing eyewitnesses, leading Bangladeshi newspaper, Prothom Alo, reported that during the protest rally, when Asif's followers raised slogans like 'Direct action against extortionists', 'Catch extortionists, throw them in jail', 'Muradnagar's soil, Asif's base', all of a sudden stones and bricks were thrown at them from the opposite side.

Later, both BNP and NCP supporters started hurling brickbats at each other, injuring five journalists present at the scene.

As the clash intensified, panic gripped the area, and businessmen present in the region shut down their shops and fled in different directions. **IANS**

Man shot dead by police in Australia's Melbourne

MELBOURNE, JULY 31



A man has been shot dead by police after assaulting a woman at a property east of Melbourne in Australia's state of Victoria.

A police statement said on Wednesday night that officers were called to reports of the assault in the town of Yarra Junction, about 55 km east of Melbourne, at about 5:30 p.m. local time on Wednesday.

Two officers arrived and observed the man assaulting a woman. As a result of the confrontation, one of the officers fired their gun and struck the man.

Ambulance crews were called to the scene, but he could not be revived.

The woman was airlifted to the hospital to be treated for serious injuries.

According to police, the man and woman were known to each other. A crime scene has been established, and detectives from the homicide squad will investigate the incident, reports Xinhua news agency.

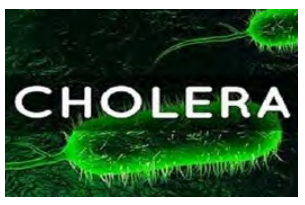
In a similar incident on July 24, a man was hospitalised with serious injuries after being shot during a violent home invasion in Melbourne.

Emergency services were called to reports that multiple armed offenders broke into a home in Gladstone Park, 15 kilometres northwest of central Melbourne, and assaulted two occupants around 1:25 a.m. local time on July 24.

A police statement said that it is believed the male resident confronted the group before he was shot and attacked with weapons. **IANS**

Some 80,000 children at risk of cholera across West, Central Africa: UN

UNITED NATIONS, JULY 31



An estimated 80,000 children are at high risk of cholera as the rainy season begins across West and Central Africa, a UN spokesperson said.

Active outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria raise the threat of cross-border transmission to neighbouring countries, said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, at a daily briefing on Wednesday.

Chad, the Republic of Congo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo are also grappling with ongoing epidemics, Haq cited UNICEF. Niger, Liberia, Benin, the Central African Republic and Cameroon remain under surveillance due to vulnerability, he added.

Since the start of the outbreaks, UNICEF has been delivering health, water, hygiene and sanitation supplies to treatment facilities and communities, said the spokesperson.

Besides supporting cholera vaccination in the affected areas and encouraging families to seek treatment and improve hygiene practices, urgent and scaled-up efforts are needed to prevent further spread and contain the disease across the region, Xinhua news agency reported.

To augment the emergency response across the region over the next three months, UNICEF West and Central Africa urgently requires $20 million to provide support in health, water and sanitation, risk communication and community engagement, Haq said. **IANS**

lifestyle



Chitrangda on comedy: Had to let go of control, **just enjoy madness**

Actress Chitrangda Singh, who tried her hand at comedy for the first time with Housefull 5, revealed she was initially nervous. However, she said she had to let go of control and simply enjoy the madness.

"I was nervous, honestly. Everyone else had already tuned into the rhythm, and I was finding my feet," Chitrangda said.

But she surprised herself.

"Once I caught the rhythm, I was having the time of my life," revealed the actress.

The actress also did a couple of stunts for the film, directed by Tarun Mansukhani.

"No rehearsals just right into it on set. I was punching, kicking, and getting knocked around. I felt like a kid," she shared.

For an actor more often seen in dramatic, layered or romantic avatars, essaying the chaotic and playful character named Maya was new to the actress, who tagged it as liberating.

"Honestly, it was liberating," she said.

Chitrangda added: "I had to let go of control and just enjoy the madness."

The film also stars Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Jacqueline Fernandez, and Sonam Bajwa are just a few of the stars who are set to light up the screen. Also joining the cast are Nargis Fakhri, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Nana Patekar, Chitrangada Singh, Fardeen Khan, Chunky Pandey, Johnny Lever, Shreyas Talpade, Dino Morea, Ranjeet, Soundarya Sharma, Nikitin Dheer, and Akashdeep Sabir.

Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala under the banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, "Housefull 5" released on June 6.

In June, the actress revealed that shooting for next film "Parikrama" was an emotional experience for her. Chitrangda took to Instagram, where she shared a poster and several behind-the-scenes moments from the film, which is directed by Goutam Ghose. It also stars Marco Leonardi and Cristina Donadio.

She wrote as the caption: There are some films that entertain us .. and then there are some stories that are important to tell .. Parikrama is one such film that Ive had the pleasure to be part of .. shooting this film became an emotional experience for me .."

The actress thanked Ghose, who is the only Indian to have been feted with the "Vittorio Di Sica" Award, Italy, in 1997. Details about the film are under wraps. **IANS**

Triptii Dimri reveals she is 'nervous, excited, emotional' ahead of **DHADAK 2** release

As Triptii Dimri and Siddhant Chaturvedi starrer romantic entertainer, "Dhadak 2" is gearing up to grace the cinema halls on Friday, the leading lady of the drama penned a heartfelt note revealing that she is experiencing a mix of emotions.

Taking to her IG, Triptii wrote, "It's almost time. Dhadak 2 is about to be yours, and I'm feeling so many emotions all at once."

Revealing how her character, Vidhi resonated with her, she added, "Vidhi is someone who quietly found her way into my heart and never left. Living her story, feeling her love, her confusion, her courage changed something in me. And now, it's time for you to meet her."

"Everyone who's been a part of this film has poured their love and hard work into it, and I truly hope it touches your heart the way it touched mine. See you at the cinemas," Triptii concluded.

Earlier, during an exclusive interaction with IANS, Triptii shared that her co-star Siddhant's performance in "Dhadak 2" is the best of his career so far.

Sharing her experience of working with Siddhant, she called it nothing short of wonderful. Calling him a dedicated and sincere actor, Triptii stated that Siddhant's performance in the movie ended up moving her deeply when she first watched the film. **IANS**





Bipasha shows what it's like to be a 'girl dad' with 'Mr Macho' Karan

Bollywood actress Bipasha Basu in a playful video showcased how life has taken a tender turn for her "Mr. Macho," Karan Singh Grover, ever since he became a father to their baby girl Devi.

Bipasha shared a video on Instagram, where her husband Karan and daughter Devi are seen twinning in blue. The father-daughter duo are seen standing in front of a mirror and dancing.

Behind the camera is Bipasha, who is heard telling Karan: "Papa, hold your dress and dance. Father of a girl child. This is your life now Mr. Macho."

"Girl Dad #girldad," she wrote as the caption.

Bipasha and Karan first met on the sets of their film "Alone" and the two soon fell in love. The couple tied the knot on April 30, 2016. In August 2022, they welcomed their first child, a daughter named Devi Basu Singh Grover.

On the work front, the 46-year-old actress made her Bollywood debut with the thriller "Ajnabee" in 2001. She gained wider attention with the erotic thriller "Jism" in 2003 and went on to star in films like "No Entry," "Dhoom 2," "Phir Hera Pheri," "All the Best: Fun Begins," "Race," and "Bachna Ae Haseeno." **IANS**



Sidharth Malhotra wishes happy birthday to his 'favourite face, in any place' **Kiara Advani**

The newest mommy in the block- Kiara Advani is celebrating her 33rd birthday on Thursday. Actor Sidharth Malhotra wished his better half a "happy birthday" with a special post.

The 'Shershaah' actor took to his Instagram and shared a stunning photo of Kiara in a short pink dress, paired with matching shoes and shades.

Wishing his ladylove on her special day, Sid penned the caption, "My favourite face, in any place. Happy Birthday love", with a red heart emoji.

Additionally, actress Ananya Panday shared Kiara's photo on her Insta Stories and wrote, "Happy birthday you gorgeous girl inside out!! Big hug to you mama @kiaraaliadvani".

Kareena Kapoor also wished the new mommmy with the following words, "Happy birthday to the newest mommy on the block...bestest time ahead always for you...@kiaraaliadvani."

Coming to Sid and Kiara's love saga, the rumours of the two dating each other initially started doing the rounds while these two were shooting for their 2021 blockbuster "Shershaah".

Sidharth and Kiara were seen accompanying one another at various events after that; however, they refused to comment on their relationship status.

Finally, Kiara and Sidharth got married in a lavish ceremony in February 2023.

In March 2025, Kiara and Sidharth announced that they are expecting their first child together.

The couple shared a joint post with a lovely photo of their palms holding an adorably tiny knitted sock. "The greatest gift of our lives...Coming soon (sic)," they captioned the post. Sidharth and Kiara embraced parenthood on 15 July this year as they welcomed their baby girl. **IANS**

Nora Fatehi to share the mike with Shreya Ghoshal for a cross-cultural vocal collaboration



Actress Nora Fatehi has joined forces with India's melody queen, Shreya Ghoshal, for a cross-cultural vocal collaboration.

Nora, known for her global hits such as "Pepeta", "Dirty Little Secret", and "Snake" is now all ready to start a new chapter in her musical journey. Nora, who has created magic on screen with her screen presence, will now flaunt her singing prowess alongside one of the most celebrated voices in the country.

Shreya, who is known for her perfect voice and technical expertise in the field, will definitely enhance Nora's latest creative attempt.

Along with impressive lyrics and powerful voices, the song is also expected to have striking visuals and a lush soundscape, elevating this cross-cultural celebration of music. It would be exciting to see what these two dynamic ladies end up creating together.

Over and above this, Nora will also be seen lending her voice to another track with Tanzanian musician and songwriter Rayvanny for the song titled "Tetema."

To be released under the T-Series banner, the track is touted to be a high-octane global fusion that will blend Afro-Bongo energy with a multilingual, cross-cultural twist. Inspired by Rayvanny and Diamond Platnumz's hit number, the sources claim that the recreated version of the dong will be named "Oh Mama Tetema". **IANS**

NEWSBRIEFS

Vivo launches vivo T4R 5G

CHANDIGARH: vivo launched the T4R 5G, the newest addition to vivo's series T portfolio. The smartphone is the slimmest quad curved display smartphone with industry-leading water & dust Protection - IP68 and IP69 ratings. The smartphone is tailored to the needs of youngsters and thrill-seekers, offering an uncompromising experience that is the perfect partner for their adventures. The vivo T4R 5G is powered by the Mediatek Dimensity 7400 SoC, enabling it to deliver power-packed performance. The smartphone features a 50 MP Sony IMX882 Main Camera, along with a 32MP Front Camera, both of which enable users to record 4K videos, ideal for capturing high-quality footage. The phone features a large 5700mAh Battery with 44W Fast Charging Support, ensuring Long-Lasting performance. **BPE**

Park Avenue Fragrances accelerates category expansion in deodorants with 4x premium perfume range

CHANDIGARH: Park Avenue Fragrances, a leading perfume and deo brand from Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), is deepening its footprint in the men's deodorant category with a sharp focus on premium fragrance performance at accessible pricing. As the market continues to evolve with more discerning and experience-led consumption, Park Avenue is tapping into the next wave of category growth by reimagining its deodorant portfolio, starting with the launch of Amazon Woods, a 4X Premium Perfume Spray that marks a bold shift in format by delivering elevated fragrance performance and value, now presented in refreshed, premium packaging. **BPE**

Taj steps into Naina Tikker, Himachal Pradesh

CHANDIGARH: Indian Hotels Company (IHCL), India's largest hospitality company, today announced the signing of a Taj-branded hotel in Naina Tikker, Himachal Pradesh. This is a brownfield project. Suma Venkatesh, Executive Vice President – Real Estate & Development, IHCL, said, "Naina Tikker represents a unique opportunity for the Taj brand to mark its presence in a relatively unexplored part of Himachal Pradesh. With excellent connectivity and a location surrounded by a protected forest, it is poised to become a sought-after destination for leisure, MICE and social celebrations. This addition strengthens IHCL's presence in the region enabling a travel circuit across Chandigarh, Chail, Theog, and Dehradun. We are delighted to further strengthen our partnership with Micro Turners Group." **BPE**

Annual DHL Express 'Rakhi Express' campaign offers discounts on international shipments, starting at ₹ 3,099 all inclusive

CHANDIGARH: DHL Express, the global leader in international express logistics, has launched its annual festive offering 'Rakhi Express', bridging distances and helping customers celebrate the cherished bond of Raksha Bandhan with their family. The initiative offers attractive discounts, with a flat fee starting from INR 3,099* on international Rakhi and gift shipments. The offer is valid across DHL's robust network of 700+ retail outlets nationwide and on its official website, until 9 August 2025. Customers choosing to avail the offer in-store simply need to use the PROMO code *RAKHIGIFTS* while booking their shipment at the store. **BPE**

CEAT introduces ROCKRAD – radial technology for the roughest mining terrains

LUDHIANA: CEAT, a leading Indian tyre manufacturer, today announced the launch of CEAT ROCKRAD, its first radial tyre engineered specifically for mining and rough terrain applications. With this strategic introduction, CEAT reinforces its technology credentials in the Truck and Bus Radial (TBR) segment and signals its entry into a highly demanding category with a product built to endure the harshest of conditions. ROCKRAD has been tested extensively - from the challenging mines of Barbil in Odisha to the rugged terrains of Indonesia. **BPE**

Don't skip this step: Oil before you wash for monsoon-ready hair

CHANDIGARH: Monsoon is the season of rain-soaked streets, refreshing snacks and the smell of wet mud – however, it can also pose a challenge for the overall health of your hair. With humidity at its peak and increased exposure to rainwater, your hair tends to become dry, frizzy and prone to breakage. In such a scenario, the one solution that can save your hair from long-term damage is hair oiling. Dr Shilpa Vora, Chief R&D Officer at Marico Limited, talks about the benefits of maintaining a disciplined hair oiling routine during the monsoon season: Strengthening and repairing hair: Regular oiling provides essential nutrients to protect and repair the hair shaft, which often suffers from excessive humidity and dullness during the monsoons. **BPE**

Samsung celebrates Independence Day with the Big Bespoke AI Fest

CHANDIGARH: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, is celebrating Independence Day with The Big Bespoke AI Fest, inviting consumers to upgrade their homes with the latest AI-powered digital appliances. Running from August 1 to 17, 2025, this limited-time campaign offers exclusive benefits on Samsung's Bespoke AI range, which include refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, and microwaves. **BPE**

Coca-Cola India provides hydration and comfort during Shravan

CHANDIGARH: The months of Shravan (July-August) are celebrated in the regions of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jharkhand, and are considered a time of cultural vibrancy and social harmony. All through Shravan, Coca-Cola India supported several commuters and travelers with availability of its beverages. Coca-Cola focused on key locations across Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jharkhand, boosting the local economy by supporting distributors and retail outlets in high-traffic areas. Vendors at dhabas were provided with 4, 6, and 10 door coolers, enabling them to serve chilled beverages to travelers and helped increase their income opportunities. **BPE**

Samsung Galaxy Z Fold7 stocked out in select markets in India

CHANDIGARH: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, on Thursday said that it is witnessing unprecedented demand for the Galaxy Z Fold7, with the smartphone being 'out-of-stock' in select markets across the country. The company is taking necessary steps at its manufacturing factory in Noida to meet the unprecedented demand. "We would like to thank India's tech-savvy consumers for giving the Galaxy Z Fold7 a blockbuster start. We are aware that many markets in the country are facing a shortfall due to huge demand. We are working overtime to ensure adequate supplies of our most advanced smartphone, to enable customers to enjoy the Galaxy Z Fold7 at the earliest. The strong demand is coming from both retail markets and online platforms," said Raju Pullan, Senior Vice President, MX Business, Samsung India. **BPE**

Tata Motors to acquire IVECO Group

LUDHIANA: Iveco Group NV, a European leader in commercial vehicles and mobility, and Tata Motors Limited, a global automotive leader, announce that they have reached an agreement to create a ommercial vehicles group with the reach, product portfolio and industrial capability to be a global champion in this dynamic sector. **BPE**

Cabinet gives go-ahead for railway projects worth ₹11,169 crore

NEW DELHI, JULY 31



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday approved four multi-tracking railway projects with a total investment of Rs 11,169 crore, according to a cabinet communique.

These projects are the Itarsi-Nagpur 4th Line, the Aurangabad (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar)-Parbhani Doubling, the Aluabari Road-New Jalpaiguri 3rd and 4th Line, and the Dangoaposi-Jaroli 3rd and 4th Line.

The four projects covering 13 districts across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by 574 km.

The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways.

The proposed multi-tracking projects will enhance connectivity to approximately 2,309 villages with a population of about 43.60 lakh.

These are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, cement, clinker, gypsum, fly ash, containers, agricultural commodities, and petroleum products. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 95.91 million tonnes per annum, the statement said.

"These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a New India, which will make people of the region 'Atmanirbhar' by way of comprehensive development in the area, which will enhance their employment and self-employment opportunities," the comminique said.

The projects are based on the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with a focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods, and services, the statement said.

The Railways, being an environment-friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimising logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (16 crore litres) and lower CO2 emissions (515 crore kg), which is equivalent to the plantation of 20 crore trees, the statement added. **IANS**

Adani Electricity organises monsoon safety awareness drive in schools, slums in Mumbai

MUMBAI, JULY 31



Adani Electricity, the leading electricity distribution company in Mumbai, on Thursday said it organised a monsoon safety awareness drive in schools as well as slums here.

The awareness drive was "held across schools under the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)," the civic governing body of Mumbai.

"The safety awareness drive was held across its power distribution areas to create awareness about electricity safety during the monsoon season," according to the company.

In June, the leading electricity distribution proactively enhanced its disaster management readiness in preparation for the monsoon season. It aimed to safeguard its 3.15 million customers from potential disruptions.

The company also activated its Central Disaster Control Centre (CDCC). This pivotal hub aims to orchestrate response efforts and operate round-the-clock, ensuring swift action and communication throughout the monsoon period.

"Seven Quick Response Teams (QRTs) have been strategically deployed across the distribution network. These teams are equipped with comprehensive response, recovery, and restoration plans specifically tailored for the challenges posed by the monsoon season," the company said.

Further, to monitor rising water levels, it integrated 98 advanced water level sensors with the Advanced Distribution Management System at critical locations. This setup was aimed at enhancing the ability to pre-empt and respond to flood-related electrical issues.

The CDCC will leverage state-of-the-art satellite and wireless technologies, including walkie-talkies and remote devices, to maintain uninterrupted communication across departments and with external authorities. This infrastructure ensures minimal downtime and efficient incident management.

Ahead of the rains, Adani Electricity also conducted extensive pre-monsoon inspections and maintenance. **IANS**

Adani Realty most valuable unlisted company on 'Hurun Real Estate List 2025'

MUMBAI, JULY 31



Adani Realty has once again secured its position as the most valuable unlisted real estate company on the '2025 GROHE-Hurun India Real Estate 150 list', it was announced on Thursday.

Valued at Rs 52,400 crore, Adani Realty continues its focus on large-scale urban projects and redevelopment initiatives across Indian cities, as noted in the report by Hurun Research Institute.

The report said that India's top real estate firms are valued at Rs 16 lakh crore or $188 billion, up by Rs 1.9 lakh crore. Their total value grew by only 14 per cent, a sharp drop from last year's 70 per cent growth and the lowest on record for the list.

DLF remains India's most valuable real estate company at Rs 2 lakh crore. Adani Realty is the top unlisted firm, valued at Rs 52,400 crore.

Mumbai leads India's real estate sector, with 42 listed companies valued at Rs 6,96,800 crore. There is the emergence of 63 new entrants to the list, with 29 of these entrants debuting directly into the Top 100 in the list.

The overall real estate landscape in financial year 2025 presented a more modest growth trajectory, with the combined value of India's most valuable real estate companies reaching Rs 16 lakh crore or $188 billion, an increase of Rs 1.9 lakh crore from the previous year.

The real estate added Rs 1.4 lakh crore in value, driven by a sharp rebound post-April, as stable interest rates and strong housing demand aided recovery.

Of the top 10 on the real estate rich list, four are from Bengaluru, three from Mumbai, two each from Hyderabad and Delhi-NCR, and one from Ahmedabad.

Rajiv Singh from DLF leads the list with a wealth of Rs 1.27 lakh crore, followed by Mangal Prabhat Lodha and the family of Lodha Developers with Rs 92,340 crore. **IANS**

Indian stock market defies US tariffs, settles slightly lower

MUMBAI, JULY 31

The Indian stock market settled slightly down after a highly volatile session on Thursday. The domestic indices showed resilience, averting a big crash post US tariff imposition on India, driven by buying interest in FMCG stocks.

Sensex ended the session at 81,185.58, down 296.28 points or 0.36 per cent. The 30-share index opened the trading with a significant fall at 80,695.50 against the last session's closing of 81,481.86. The index showed some resiliency, erasing early gains and returning in green in the afternoon, hitting an intraday high at 81,803.27 amid buying in the consumer sector. However, it did not hold up the momentum in the closing hour due to a monthly expiry day.Nifty closed at 24,768.35, down 86.70 points or 0.35 per cent.

According to analysts, India's true strength lies in its economic resilience.Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Reliance, Asian Paints, L&T and Titan were the top losers from the Sensex basket. **IANS**

Swiggy's losses nearly double in Q1 to ₹1,197 cr

MUMBAI, JULY 31

Swiggy Limited, the food delivery and quick commerce platform, on Thursday reported a net loss of Rs 1,197 crore year-on-year (YoY) for the June quarter (Q1 FY26), almost double the Rs 611 crore loss it posted in the same period previous year (Q1 FY25).

On quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) basis, the Bengaluru-based firm posted a net loss of Rs 1,081 crore in the previous quarter (Q4 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing.

The widening losses were mainly due to its Quick Commerce division, Instamart, where the financial strain deepened sharply.

On an EBIT basis, losses from Instamart jumped to Rs 797 crore from Rs 379 crore a year ago.

Swiggy's overall EBITDA loss also increased to Rs 954 crore, compared to Rs 544 crore in the same quarter previous year.However, the food and grocery delivery major recorded a 53.9 per cent jump in its revenue from operations to Rs 4,961 crore during the June quarter against Rs 3,222 crore in Q1 FY25.

However, the company recorded strong growth in revenue, which rose 54 per cent to Rs 4,961 crore from Rs 3,222 crore in the year-ago quarter.Revenue from the food delivery business stood at Rs 1,799 crore, up from Rs 1,515 crore, while Quick Commerce revenue more than doubled to Rs 806 crore from Rs 374 crore.The food delivery segment showed operational improvement, with EBIT rising to Rs 202 crore from Rs 67 crore previous year.

But losses continued to grow in supply chain, distribution, and platform innovation. **IANS**

Maruti Suzuki India's Q1 profit, revenue fall sequentially, exports up

MUMBAI, JULY 31



Maruti Suzuki India Limited on Thursday reported a decline in its earnings for the first quarter (Q1) of FY26, with consolidated net profit falling 3.03 per cent to Rs 3,792.4 crore compared to Rs 3,911.1 crore in the previous quarter.

Revenue from operations also dropped, falling 5.66 per cent to Rs 38,605.2 crore in Q1 from Rs 40,920.1 crore in Q4 FY25.

Total income for the quarter stood at Rs 40,493.4 crore, down 4.56 per cent from Rs 42,431.3 crore in the preceding quarter.

However, on year-on-year (YoY) basis, the country's largest carmaker, reported slightly higher net profit of Rs 3,792 crore for the first quarter of FY26, than the Rs 3,760 crore recorded in the same period previous year.The company's total income for April–June 2025 rose to Rs 40,493 crore from Rs 36,840 crore a year ago.Net sales also increased YoY to Rs 36,625 crore from Rs 33,875 crore, as per the exchange filing.

Maruti, which produces popular models such as the Swift and Dzire, said the domestic passenger vehicle industry continued to face sluggish demand in the first quarter.Domestic sales fell 4.5 per cent, but this was offset by strong export growth of 37.4 per cent, leading to an overall sales volume increase of 1.1 per cent compared to previous year."For the company, a decline in domestic sales of 4.5 per cent was compensated by a robust 37.4 per cent growth in exports resulting in an overall sales volume increase of 1.1 per cent for the quarter, year-on-year," it stated. **IANS**

Vedanta's Q1 net profit falls 12.5 pc to ₹4,457 cr

MUMBAI, JULY 31

Vedanta Limited on Thursday reported a fall of 12.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ended June 30 (Q1 FY26), at Rs 4,457 crore compared to Rs 5,095 crore in the same quarter previous year (Q1 FY25).

Despite the drop in profit, the company's revenue from operations rose 5.8 per cent to Rs 37,824 crore in the April–June quarter, up from Rs 35,764 crore in the year-ago period, according to a filing to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

Total income also grew 5.7 per cent to Rs 38,809 crore from Rs 36,698 crore a year earlier.

The company's total expenses increased to Rs 32,756 crore in the June quarter from Rs 30,772 crore in the same period previous year.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) remained almost flat at Rs 9,918 crore, with margins slipping to 26.20 per cent from 27.80 per cent a year ago.Following the result announcement, on the stock market, Vedanta shares were trading under pressure at around 3 p.m., down 2.28 per cent or Rs 9.9 at Rs 424.7 per share on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta said, "Our 1Q performance has set a strong foundation for the year ahead. Amidst global market volatility, we delivered the highest-ever first quarter EBITDA."

Ajay Goel, CFO, Vedanta, said, "Our adjusted PAT grew 13 per cent YoY to 5,000 crores. **IANS**

KYLE WALKER

"IT'S GREAT. BEING PART OF THIS PROJECT AND SEEING WHAT BURNLEY HAVE ACHIEVED OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF SEASONS HAS BEEN FANTASTIC TO WATCH FROM THE OUTSIDE."

Rain forces early lunch at The Oval after India reach 72 for 2 against England

LONDON, JULY 31







Sudden rain forced an early lunch to be taken on day one of the fifth Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test at The Oval. At the time of interruption, India were at 72/2 after 23 overs, where B Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill were unbeaten on 25 and 15 respectively.

Electing to bowl first on the grassiest pitch of the ongoing five-match series, England removed India openers KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal, but Sudharsan has looked solid and weathered past challenges to be unbeaten on 25 off 67 balls.

Gill, meanwhile, has been positive in his 15 not out so far and went past Sunil Gavaskar's 732 runs against the West Indies in 1978/79 to grab the new record for most runs by an Indian captain in a Test series. Once the heavy downpour goes off, both Sudharsan and Gill will be required to dig in again under tough batting conditions.

For England, Chris Woakes and Gus Atkinson took a scalp each, but the hosts would feel they could have bowled a bit tighter, especially with Josh Tongue and Jamie Overton being all over the place. At times, England had issues with the landing area, which was moist due to the rainy weather in London.

Atkinson made the early breakthrough when he got a fuller wobble seam ball to nip in a touch and trap Yashasvi Jaiswal lbw, with Pope's hesitant review leading to the on-field call being overturned in their favour.

Rahul and Sudharsan had a little partnership of 28 runs, where they judged line and length well. But the build-up of pressure made by a couple of quiet overs after drinks break forced Rahul to go for a cut off Woakes, but the ball being too close to him meant he chopped on to his stumps for 14.

Sudharsan began to open up by driving Tongue down the ground for four, before Gill rocked back to punch Overton for another boundary. While Gill punished short and wide balls from Overton for boundaries, Sudharsan wowed everyone by nailing a perfect straight drive off Woakes, before an unexpected heavy downpour forced everyone to go off the field. **IANS**

Karun Nair gets a possible last shot at redemption

LONDON, JULY 31



The cricketing gods have their hands firmly on the shoulders of batter Karun Nair.

Nair has been roped back into the Playing XI for the fifth and Test against England starting Thursday, July 31.

With conditions overcast, England captain Ollie Pope invited India to bat and Nair will have a chance to make an impact.

Nair, who played the first three Tests, got starts but didn't go on to build on them.

Nair did well to blunt the new ball but failed to cash in once set. He is the only batter in the top 7 of the batting order, to not have a meaningful innings.

His highest score in the series is 40, scored in the 2nd innings at Lord's in the 3rd Test.

Nair will bat at No 5 at The Oval in what many see as his last chance at redemption.

Will younger batters like Sarfaraz Khan, Abhimanyu Easwaran and Shreyas Iyer knocking on the doors of selectors, the 33 year old Nair will have no choice but to score big to keep his place in the Test squad. **AGENCIES**

'Dhoni No 1 India captain; Kohli fifth'



MUMBAI, JULY 31

Former batter Ambati Rayudu ranked Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the No 1 India captain, while placing Virat Kohli in fifth position.

Asked to blind rank the Indian captains in a video posted by ESPNCricinfo on X, Rayudu was clear in his choice of two-time World Cup winning skipper Dhoni as India's best-ever captain ahead of the likes of Sourav Ganguly and Kapil Dev.

Ganguly was the first pick whom Rayudu placed at No 3, while the legendary Kapil Dev, who guided India to their first-ever World Cup title in 1983 was placed fourth. Rayudu ranked Rohit Sharma, who captained India to the T20 World Cup and ICC Champions Trophy titles, at second position, while Kohli was fifth among the top six choices. Mohammad Azharuddin was picked for sixth place. 'It depends on the format. In red ball cricket, he would be in the top two but overall five,' he reasoned. **AGENCIES**

India-England series will help sell more tickets for Ashes: Cricket Australia



MELBOURNE, JULY 31

Cricket Australia chief executive Todd Greenberg believes that the aggressive tone of the ongoing Test series between India and England will be a huge selling point for the match-day tickets of the upcoming Ashes.

The Ashes 2025-26 between Australia and England will begin in November, and Greenberg is hoping to go past the 837,879 gross fans footfall during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25.

"It's great, isn't it? It's great cricket (India vs England series for Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy) to watch as a fan," Greenberg told The Sydney Morning Herald.

The BGT was the highest attended Test campaign in Australian history outside of the Ashes and the record stands at 946,750, which was set during the 1936-37 Ashes when Sir Donald Bradman was in his pomp.

"Everyone will have their opinion when our English friends arrive I'm sure, and we're looking forward to that very much. I love the way they're playing their cricket and I can't wait to see them test themselves on our shores," he added.

The five-Test series between India and England have seen several flashpoints between the players from either side, and head coach Gautam Gambhir's tip with the Oval curator Lee Fortis too has added to the drama.

Greenberg said the presale Ashes tickets have already doubled those of the Border-Gavaskar series.

"It's great cricket to watch leading into them coming here on this Ashes trip. It will sell more tickets for us. We like to think that's talkability," he said. **PTI**

Mbappe takes Real Madrid's iconic No 10 shirt



MADRID, JULY 31

Kylian Mbappe will follow Real Madrid greats Ferenc Puskas, Clarence Seedorf and Luis Figo by wearing the iconic number 10 jersey after Luka Modric's departure to AC Milan, the LaLiga club said late on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old French forward wore the number nine shirt in his debut season after arriving from Paris St Germain on a free transfer. He scored 44 goals in all competitions in the 2024-25 season, though failed to lift a major trophy.

> He scored 44 goals in all competitions in the 2024-25 season, though failed to lift a major trophy.

Among the other elite players to wear the number 10 shirt for Real Madrid is Gheorghe Hagi, Michael Laudrop, Robinho and Mesut Ozil. **AGENCIES**

Leverkusen striker Schick dismisses team's title chances after Xhaka becomes latest to leave

LEVERKUSEN (GERMANY), JULY 31



Bayer Leverkusen striker Patrik Schick says his team is not capable of fighting for the German Bundesliga title without new signings, after Granit Xhaka joined a string of title-winning players to leave the club.

Former Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag is faced with an even bigger rebuild as Leverkusen's new coach after midfielder Xhaka joined English Premier League side Sunderland.

Attacking midfielder Florian Wirtz, right back Jeremie Frimpong and defender Jonathan Tah — all crucial to Leverkusen's league and cup double in 2024 — left the club this off-season and coach Xabi Alonso departed for Real Madrid.

"The most important players have gone and that obviously hurts," Schick, who was Leverkusen's top scorer last season with 27 goals in 45 games, told Sky Sport Germany in an interview released late Wednesday.

"Right now, we're hoping that we can still get a couple of good players in, because we're not currently in a position where we're capable of fighting for the title."

Czech striker Schick said, as a forward, he'd most miss attacking midfielder Wirtz because "the quality that he has is very hard to find," but that Xhaka is the biggest loss to the team as a whole.

"He was a leader," Schick said. "He was the player with the most experience."

The bulk of Leverkusen's off-season spending so far has gone on American attacking midfielder Malik Tillman from PSV Eindhoven and former Liverpool defender Jarell Quansah, while the club's also signed Brentford's highly-rated goalkeeper Mark Flekken.

Schick, however, picked out a lesser-known name as his most impressive signing of the summer. Ibrahim Maza, a 19-year-old midfielder signed from second-tier German club Hertha Berlin, is "really a good player," he said. **AP**

I try to be a leader on pitch and hope youngster can learn from me: Kyle Walker

LONDON, JULY 31



Ahead of the Premier League 2025-26 season, Kyle Walker explained his decision to join Burnley and his desire to guide younger players, saying he will try to be a leader on the pitch to mentor the next generation players.

Six-time Premier League champion Walker joined Burnley from Manchester City on a two-year contract earlier this month.

"It's great. Being part of this project and seeing what Burnley have achieved over the last couple of seasons has been fantastic to watch from the outside. I already know some faces at the club, and I'm excited to get started this season," Walker said on JioHotstar.

"At this point in my career, I felt I needed something different a real family club. After spending many years at a great club and a spell overseas, I wanted a place with that special atmosphere. My son trains at the Burnley training ground, and you can really sense the aura there and see the vision the owners have for the club. I wanted to be part of that success and the journey Burnley are on," he added.

He linked up with Burnley head coach Scott Parker, who he played with during his time at Tottenham Hotspur.

Reflecting on the influence Burnley manager Parker had on his decision to join the club, Walker said, "He's been a massive influence. The style of football he's brought—not only here at Burnley but previously at Fulham—was something I admired. But above all, I value him as a person.

"I've had the pleasure of sharing a dressing room with him, both at Tottenham and for England, and when someone like that calls and asks you to join his team, it means a lot. I'm grateful for the opportunity he and everyone at the club have given me."

After beginning his career at boyhood club Sheffield United, Walker signed for Spurs in the summer of 2009. He spent time on loan with Sheff Utd, Queens Park Rangers and Aston Villa, before cementing his place in the Spurs team and establishing himself as one of the best right-backs in the league.

Walker then moved to Man City in 2017 and became a key player in an unprecedented era of success, helping the club to win 15 major honours. This included winning the Treble - the Premier League, UEFA Champions League and FA Cup - in an incredible 2023/24 season.

"With 410 Premier League appearances, I'd almost thought it might be time to move on, but football is a strange and wonderful game. I hope I can add to that number and bring something to this dressing room and our style of play.

"I try to be a leader on the pitch, and I hope the younger players can look up to me and learn from my experience. I also want to support the gaffer, Scott, in every way I can," he said. **IANS**

Ferrari hand Fred Vasseur new multi-year deal as team eyes stronger future

MARANELLO, JULY 31



Ferrari have announced a multi-year contract extension for Team Principal Fred Vasseur, a move the team says reflects their determination to build on the strong foundation laid under his leadership since he joined ahead of the 2023 Formula 1 season.

The Frenchman took charge of the Scuderia after a stint at Sauber and has since overseen a period of renewed competitiveness and internal stability.

Under his watch, Ferrari narrowly lost out to McLaren in the 2023 Teams' Championship, finishing just 14 points behind the title winners. Though the gap this season has widened m— Ferrari trail McLaren by a hefty 268 points heading into the summer break — the team remains second in the standings, ahead of Mercedes and Red Bull.

On the eve of the Hungarian Grand Prix weekend, Ferrari confirmed the new deal, bringing an end to recent speculation about Vasseur's future.

In June, reports in the Italian media had suggested that he was at risk of losing his job - claims that had deeply frustrated the 57-year-old. He dismissed the rumours at the time, calling them "disrespectful" and "clearly hurting the team".

Ferrari, however, have shown faith. "His ability to lead under pressure, embrace innovation and pursue performance aligns fully with Ferrari's values and long-term ambitions," the team said in a statement.

"Under Fred's leadership, Ferrari is united, focused and committed to continuous improvement. The trust placed in him reflects the team's confidence in its strategic direction and reinforces a shared determination to deliver the results that Ferrari's fans, drivers and team members expect and deserve."

Ferrari CEO Benedetto Vigna echoed that sentiment, saying: "Today we want to recognize what has been built and commit to what still needs to be achieved. It reflects our trust in Fred's leadership – trust rooted in shared ambition, mutual expectations and clear responsibility. "We move forward with determination and focus, united in our pursuit of the level of performance Ferrari has to aim for."

Vasseur, who has been key in fostering a strong internal culture, welcomed the extension. "I'm grateful for the trust Ferrari continues to place in me," he said. "This renewal is not just a confirmation – it's a challenge to keep progressing, to stay focused and to deliver.

"Over the past 30 months, we've laid strong foundations and now we must build on them with consistency and determination. We know what's expected, and we're all fully committed to meeting those expectations and taking the next step forward together." **IANS**

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