bright
Punjab Express
brightpunjabexpress.com
CHANDIGARH > THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025 | RNI.No. PUNENG/2018/76070 | VOLUME 7, ISSUE 326 | ₹3.00

INDIA'S WIND ENERGY CAPACITY RISES TO 51.67 GW, GUJARAT, TN & KARNATAKA LEAD P06

NETANYAHU SLAMS UK'S PLAN TO RECOGNISE THE STATE OF PALESTINE P09

CHANCE FOR UPBEAT INDIA TO LAND KNOCKOUT PUNCH ON STOKES-LESS ENGLAND P12

Sacred Piprahwa relics of Buddha brought back to India after 127 years: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



FILE PHOTO

The sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha have been brought back to India after 127 long years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday, noting that they were discovered in 1898 but taken away from the country during the colonial rule.

It is a joyous day for our cultural heritage, Modi said in a post on X.

"It would make every Indian proud that the sacred Piprahwa relics of Bhagwan Buddha have come home after 127 long years. These sacred relics highlight India's close association with Bhagwan Buddha and his noble teachings. It also illustrates our commitment to preserving and protecting different aspects of our glorious culture," he said.

When these holy relics appeared in an international auction earlier this year, Modi said, his government worked to ensure that they returned home. "I appreciate all those who have been involved in this effort," he added.

These relics were unearthed in 1898 during the excavation of an ancient Buddhist stupa in Uttar Pradesh's Piprahwa, near the India-Nepal border, according to a website (piprahwa.com) containing research, information and news on "The Piprahwa project".

The relics include bone fragments believed to be of Gautam Buddha, along with soapstone and crystal caskets, a sandstone coffer, and gold ornaments and gemstones. PTI

Charmed by PM Modi's 'diplomatic spell', Maldives and Lankan leaders give up anti-India stance

COLOMBO: Charmed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "diplomatic spell", Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu and Sri Lankan President Anura Dissanayake - two leaders who backed a strong anti-India policy before coming to power in their respective nations - now seem to have made a major shift in their approach towards New Delhi, the Lankan media cited on Wednesday. The observations were made during Dissanayake's ongoing July 28-30 State Visit to the Maldives which took place almost immediately after PM Modi's landmark visit to Male, last week. PTI

PM to release ₹20,500 cr PM-Kisan installment for 9.7 cr farmers on Aug 2

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 20th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme worth Rs 20,500 crore, from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, on August 2, benefiting 9.7 crore farmers across the country.

The announcement comes as the government's flagship direct benefit transfer scheme completes over five years since its launch in 2019. So far, Rs 3.69 lakh crore has been transferred directly to farmers' accounts through 19 installments under the programme. PTI

CM gives big bonanza to 942 contractual employees of Forest Dept, hands over regular appointment letters to them

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30



In a major relief to the 942 contractual employees of the Forest department, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday gave a big bonanza to them by handing over the regular appointment letters to these employees after more than decade long service.

Addressing the gathering while giving letters of regular appointment to these employees and candidates of Housing & Urban Development Department, the Chief Minister it gives him immense pride and satisfaction to announce that eliminating the word contractual prefixed before the posts of these employees the state government has regularized their services by overcoming all the legal and administrative hiccups. He said that from today onwards the word contractual will be forever eliminated from before the name of these employees who have given their precious years to the government while serving. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the motive was to ensure the secure future employees as the state government had made concerted efforts due to which this historic day is being witnessed today.

The Chief Minister said that this is not a favour on anyone but it is his bounden duty to serve the state and the masses for which he is leaving no stone unturned. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that he has been blessed that people of the state have reposed so much trust in him adding that he will make every effort to uphold this faith. He said that his government is making every effort to ensure the holistic development of the state and prosperity of its people.

The Chief Minister said the successive state governments had befooled the people by giving incentives in the last year but his government has worked from day one to ameliorate the hardships faced by people. He said that these people had looted the people during their regimes and never bothered about their well being. However, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that his government is working from day one to ensure the welfare of the people of state.

The Chief Minister quipped that those who claim to be inheritors (waaris) of Punjab can't even write a single word of Punjabi language as these convent educated leaders are completely disconnected with the state and its people. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that these leaders who had taken education from Sanawar and Doon school are poor in speaking Punjabi due to which they can't connect with masses. He said that these leaders had ignored education in the state due to which people had ousted them and paved the way for new people to come and join politics.

The Chief Minister said that sectors like health, education, power, water and infrastructure are the top five priorities of his government and no stone is being left unturned for it.

Donald Trump announces 25 pc tariffs with penalty on India from Aug 1

WASHINGTON, JULY 30



US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced that the US will impose a 25 per cent tariffs, with penalty, on Indian imports starting August 1.

The announcement was made on Truth Social, his own social media platform. Trump said the decision also comes with a penalty on India for buying military equipment and energy from Russia. He claimed that India's tariffs are among the highest in the world and that the country also has "the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers" compared to any other nation.

"Remember, while India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their tariffs are far too high," Trump said. He also mentioned that the US has a massive trade deficit with India.

The announcement follows months of talks between the two countries, but a mini or interim trade deal has remained out of reach. The US President also criticised India's continued purchases of Russian weapons and energy, especially during the ongoing war in Ukraine.

He said India has always bought the majority of its military supplies from Russia and is one of the largest buyers of Russian energy, along with China.

"At a time when everyone wants Russia to stop the killing in Ukraine, these things are not good," Trump added.

"All things not good! India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25%, plus a penalty for the above, starting on august first. thank you for your attention to this matter. maga!" he wrote. IANS

National interest prime, studying implications: India on Trump's tariff move

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

The government says it will take all steps necessary to secure our national interest

Taking note of US President Donald Trump's statement on 25% tariff on imports from India from August 1 plus penalty tariffs for buying Russian oil, India has said it has always kept and will always keep national interest prime in any trade negotiation.

Noting that the government is studying the implications of the statements by Trump, the government said it will take all steps necessary to secure our national interest.

"The government has taken note of a statement by the US President on bilateral trade. The government is studying its implications," an official statement said.

It noted that India and the US have been engaged in negotiations on concluding a fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement over the last few months.

"We remain committed to that objective. The government attaches utmost importance to protecting and promoting 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. IANS

CASH HAUL CASE

SC reserves verdict on Justice Varma's plea against in-house panel findings

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on a plea filed by Justice Yashwant Varma -- who faces an impeachment threat following the cash-discovery row -- challenging the findings of the three-member in-house enquiry committee, which recommended his removal under Article 124(4) of the Constitution.

In his writ petition, Justice Varma, a sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court, sought to quash the communication forwarded by then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna to the President and Prime Minister, recommending action based on the in-house committee's findings. PTI

Lt Col among 2 Army personnel dead, 3 officers injured as boulder falls on vehicle in eastern Ladakh

LEH, JULY 30



Two army personnel, including a Lt Colonel, died and three officers were injured when a boulder fell on an army vehicle, part of a convoy, in a remote area in eastern Ladakh on Wednesday, officials said.

They said the accident occurred at Charbagh near Durbuk in Galwan, some 200 km from here, at around 11.30 am.

The Army identified the deceased as Lt Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh (14 Sindh Horse).

Maj Mayank Shubham (14 Sindh Horse), Maj Amit Dixit and Capt Gaurav (60 Armd) have sustained injuries, it said.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, ArmyCdrNC and all ranks of Northern Command pay homage to the Bravehearts Lieutenant Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

"Northern Command stands firm with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," the Northern Command said in a post on X.

In an earlier post, the Fire and Fury Corps said that "a boulder from a cliff fell on one of the vehicles of a military convoy in Ladakh, around 1130h on 30 July 2025. Recovery action is in progress."

The officials said that the five personnel sustained critical injuries in the accident involving an SUV of the Army.

The convoy was on a training move from Durbuk to Chongtash, they said, adding the vehicle was badly mangled under the impact of the boulder.

Two personnel succumbed to injuries and three other officers were undergoing treatment, they said. PTI

ISRO's NISAR earth-observing satellite, built in collaboration with NASA, lifts off

SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH), JULY 30



Marking ISRO's maiden collaboration with NASA, a GSLV rocket on Wednesday blasted off from this spaceport to place the NISAR earth observation satellite, jointly developed by the two space agencies, in an intended orbit.

The 51.7-metre-tall three stage GSLV F-16 rocket soared into the skies at the end of a 27.30-hour countdown, carrying the 2,393 kg satellite. The launch vehicle majestically lifted-off from the second launch pad at this spaceport, situated about 135 km east of Chennai. The GSLV rocket is slated to place the satellite in the Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit after a near 19-minute journey, and at an altitude of 745 km.

NISAR has been developed for microwave imaging purpose globally and it carries L-Band radar provided by NASA and S-band designed by ISRO with a capability to acquire fully polarimetric and interferometric data. PTI

Lok Sabha gives nod to statutory resolution approving extension of President's Rule in Manipur

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a resolution approving extension of President's Rule in Manipur by another six months beyond August 13, with the government asserting that peace is prevailing in the northeastern state.

What can be a bigger proof of peace returning there than the fact that since President's Rule was imposed, there has been only one fatality with no casualties in the last four months, Minister of State Nityanand Rai said.

It is important to have President's Rule in Manipur for ensuring that peace is established, he said.

"I want to say that there is peace prevailing there... the law and order situation is also under control. Full efforts are being made to remove differences between the two ethnic communities through dialogue to establish permanent peace," he said.

Rai had moved the statutory resolution to extend President's Rule in the state for discussion in Lok Sabha.

Speaker Om Birla said President's Rule was imposed in Manipur on February 13 and the House had approved it on April 2.

The approval of the President's Rule by Parliament is valid for six months. PTI

Why did you name it 'Operation Sindoor' when women lost their sindoor, asks Jaya Bachchan

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan on Wednesday questioned why India's retaliatory action post-Pahalgam attack was named "Operation Sindoor", when women were widowed in the incident and actually "lost their sindoor".

Participating in a debate on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor in the Rajya Sabha, the SP MP was also seen objecting to interruptions from other MPs. The actor-turned politician, who is known for her sharp temper, was urged by the Chair not to pay attention to others.

Bachhan replied saying she has "sharp ears", and at one point, she was seen telling Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, who was sitting next to her, "don't control me". PTI

Punjab's 1076 helpline service enhances access to over 400 govt services in Tarn Taran

INDER PAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, July 30



The 1076 helpline service launched by the Punjab government to provide efficient administrative services has proven to be a significant benefit to citizens. This service allows individuals to access over 400 types of administrative services, including caste certificates, residence certificates, marriage certificates, birth/death certificates, labor cards, and more, all by calling the number 1076.

Deputy Commissioner of Tarn Taran, Rahul, provided details about the service, stating that there is no longer any need for citizens to visit government offices to avail themselves of these services. He mentioned that five service assistants have been appointed in the district to facilitate the delivery of various government services directly to the public.

Launched on December 11, 2023, the 1076 helpline has already served 7,201 citizens, providing essential services without the need for them to leave their homes. The service saves citizens valuable time and effort by allowing service assistants to visit homes, collect applications, obtain necessary documents, and deliver certificates once the process is completed.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted that services such as pensions for the elderly, widows, disabled individuals, and dependents, along with income certificates, deposit withdrawals, and various caste certificates, are available through this initiative. While a fee is charged at the service centre, an additional charge of Rs 50 per service visit is applied for doorstep assistance.

Rahul urged residents of Tarn Taran district to take full advantage of this convenient service and save valuable time by calling the 1076 helpline for all their administrative needs. Punjab's 1076 helpline service enhances access to over 400 govt services in Tarn Taran

World Hepatitis Day observed at DMCH

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 30



To observe World Hepatitis Day themed "Let's Break It Down' the Department of Microbiology and Medicine jointly organised various activities aimed at raising awareness and fostering collaborative learning on the prevention, diagnosis, and management of hepatitis.

Intra-department al symposium titled 'Viral Hepatitis was conducted with enthusiastic participation from faculty and residents across Medicine, Microbiology, Pathology, Transfusion Medicine, Community Medicine, and Interns enriching the academic dialogue and underlining the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to combating hepatitis. As part of the observance, a poster and slogan writing competition, for B.Sc MLT and Paramedical students, Quiz on viral hepatitis for undergraduate and Post graduate students was organized, encouraging them to creatively express their understanding of hepatitis prevention and control.

Awareness sessions on overview of Viral Hepatitis was conducted for nursing, technical staff and paramedical students. A key highlight of the day was a role play presented by nursing students, which emphasized the frontline role of healthcare workers in the identification, care, and prevention of viral hepatitis. Their performance brought attention to the importance of awareness, empathy, and early intervention in managing the disease.

In his message, Bipin Gupta, Secretary, DMC&H Managing Society, appreciated the organizing team for their efforts in conducting a meaningful and impactful awareness programme. He remarked, "Such initiatives highlight the institution's ongoing commitment to community well-being and proactive health education"

Dr G.S Wander, Principal, DMC&H said that raising awareness about viral hepatitis through academic collaboration is a commendable step toward improving healthcare outcome.

Dr. Veenu Gupta, Professor & Head of Microbiology, added, "Hepatitis remains a significant public health challenge. Interdepartmental collaboration is not only beneficial but essential for effective surveillance and management strategies."

Dr. Rajesh Mahajan, Professor & Head of Medicine, stated, "Events like these play a crucial role in strengthening our collective understanding of viral hepatitis. Through collaborative learning, we can ensure more timely diagnosis and better patient outcomes."

'100 pc No-Plastic Mission' successfully implemented in langars during Mata Chintpurni Mela: SDM



DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, July 30

On the fifth day of the Mata Chintpurni Mela, SDM Hoshiarpur, Gursimranjit Kaur, shared key insights regarding the arrangements of the mela. She revealed that as part of a significant step toward environmental conservation, the Hoshiarpur district administration has implemented a 100 pc no-plastic campaign in all community kitchens (langars) during the event.

This initiative is part of the "Chardha Sooraj" Green Mission in collaboration with the Red Cross Society, with the goal of completely eliminating single-use plastic from all religious food sites during the mela.

She informed that more than 20 volunteer organizations from Hoshiarpur, along with over 300 volunteers including 150 NGO members and 150 civil defense personnel have been deployed in shifts across langars from Adampur to the district border. These volunteers are tasked with maintaining cleanliness, ensuring a plastic-free environment, spreading awareness among pilgrims, supporting waste management, and preparing daily monitoring reports

cleanliness but also about setting a new standard for environmentally conscious religious events. She urged the media to widely publicize the initiative so that other religious gatherings can draw inspiration from it.

To ensure the success of the campaign, the administration has set up cloth bag distribution centers, clean drinking water arrangements, additional dustbins, and special sanitation teams. In collaboration with the Municipal Corporation, Punjab Pollution Control Board, and the Rural Development Department, eco-friendly utensils worth Rs 5 lakh including plates, spoons, and other items will be distributed to langars still using plastic.

She also urged langar organizers to completely boycott single-use plastic and encouraged devotees to bring cloth/jute bags and reusable water bottles. Shopkeepers have been asked to use eco-friendly packaging. Volunteers have been instructed to remain available to assist pilgrims throughout the mela.

"This is not just an awareness campaign," she said. "It's a strong step toward ensuring a clean and green future for the generations to come."

For public convenience, the administration, with support from Reliance Industries, has set up a control room.

Joint awareness session organised by ESIC and EPFO



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 30

The Sub-Regional Office of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Ludhiana, in collaboration with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Ludhiana, organized a joint awareness session for employers at the Chamber of Industrial and Commercial Undertakings (CICU), Focal Point, Ludhiana. The session was graced by the presence of Pranesh Kumar Sinha, Joint Director, (In-Charge), ESIC Ludhiana and Paritoshdeep Singh Sekhon, Regional Commissioner, EPFO Ludhiana, as distinguished guests. During the event, Ajeet Kumar Singh, Assistant Director, ESIC, explained detail information to the participating employers about the recently launched "Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees (SPREE) 2025", which will remain in force from July 1 to December 31, 2025. Under this scheme, employers can digitally register their establishments and employees through the ESIC portal, Shram Suvidha portal, and the MCA portal. Registrations will be deemed valid from the date declared by the employer, and there will be no inspection or demand for past records for the period prior to registration.

While elaborating on SPREE 2025, Pranesh Kumar Sinha explained that the initiative encourages voluntary compliance by eliminating the fear of retrospective penalties and simplifying the registration process. The primary objective is to bring unregistered establishments and workers under the ESIC coverage, ensuring comprehensive social security. Additionally, representatives from EPFO shared information about the upcoming Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ELI), scheduled to launch on August 1, 2025.

PDA demolishes unauthorised colonies in Patiala

BALINDER SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, July 30



On Wednesday, the Patiala Development Authority (PDA) under the supervision of Chief Administrator, PDA and Additional Chief Administrator, PDA Patiala, took action against unauthorized colonies developed in violation of the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act, 1995 in District Patiala. This colonies, namely in Village Karheri, Ramnagar and Balberhain District Patiala were demolished.

Officials of PDA clarified that strict action will be taken against any unauthorized colony developed in the jurisdiction of PDA, Patiala to safeguard the public investments in these colonies and to prevent unregulated development in district Patiala.

In Addition to these, several notices have also been issued to other colonizers for developing unauthorized colonies and if they fail to respond or provide necessary documents during the notice period, similar action will be taken against them and FIRs (First Information Reports) will be registered under the relevant sections of the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act, 1995. During this operation Seemakaushal (District Town Planner), Gurinder Singh (Assistant Town Planner), Rajeev Kumar (Sub Divisional Engineer), Gurpreet Singh (Junior Engineer), Sanjeev Kumar(Junior Engineer) and Amandeep Singh (Junior Engineer), were present.

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' programme promotes tree planting

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, July 30





The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (One Tree in Mother's Name) programme, organized by My Bharat Hoshiarpur at Civil Hospital Hoshiarpur, emphasized the importance of tree planting and conservation. The event, led by Dr Swati Shimar, SMO, along with Lion Vijay Arora, President of the Lion Club, and Ally Ramesh Kumar, North Multiple Chairman of the Alliance Club, saw participation from various prominent personalities.

The programme was anchored by Faculty Manager Monika Kanda, Staff Nurse Neelam Sharma, and Harpreet Kaur. To mark the occasion, SMO Dr Swati Shimar, Lion Vijay Arora, Dr Shifa (ANA Hoshiarpur), nursing student Kamaljeet Kaur, and theater artist Ashok Puri planted bottle brush trees in the hospital's arrival park, each in honor of their respective mothers. A pledge was also taken by the participants, promising to plant and care for a tree in their mother's name.

Dr Swati Shimar emphasized the vital need for planting and conserving trees, calling it a responsibility of the present time. She stressed that tree planting should not just be a symbolic gesture but a long-term commitment to nurturing these trees for the environment.

On behalf of Bahurang Kalamanch Hoshiarpur, nursing sisters Sikandar Kaur, Kulraj Kaur, and Paramjeet Kaur honored Dr Swati Shimar with a shawl for her contributions.

Training programme on 'Value Addition of Milk and Milk Products' concludes at Vet Varsity



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 30

A five-day hands-on training programme on "Value Addition of Milk and Milk products" was organized by the College of Dairy and Food Science Technology, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana.

The training aimed to empower farmers, self-help groups, rural youth, and women entrepreneurs with practical knowledge on converting milk into value-added products. The programme covered the manufacture of Paneer, Ghee, Curd, Khoya, Flavored milk, indigenous sweets and Mozzarella cheese. Participants also learned about packaging, labeling, shelf-life improvement, and marketing strategies.

The training was inaugurated by Dr S P S Ghuman, Dean of the college, who emphasized that value addition of milk is the key to boosting dairy farmer income and creating rural employment. He highlighted the college's commitment to bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and field-level application.

Alumni Meet organised

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mandi Gobindgarh, July 30

The School of Nursing at Desh Bhagat University, in collaboration with the Alumni Welfare Association, successfully hosted an Alumni Meet at the Mahapragya Seminar Hall. The event brought together former nursing students from various batches in a joyful reunion to celebrate their shared journey, professional achievements, and enduring connection to their alma mater.

The program commenced with a warm welcome by Bhupinder Kaur and Karanvir Kahlon, followed by an inaugural address by Prof. Dr Lovesampuranjot Kaur, Principal of the School of Nursing. She expressed heartfelt appreciation for the alumni's contributions to the healthcare sector and lauded their continued dedication to service and excellence.

For
ADVERTISEMENT
BOOKING
and
QUERIES
Contact :
0161-2464630
HEAD OFFICE:
SCO 46 G, BRS Nagar, Ludhiana-141012
Ph. 0161-2464630
CHANDIGARH OFFICE:
SCO 118-119, (1st Floor), Sec 8-C,
Madhya Marg, -160009
PHONES: 0172-5016121,4087118

District-Level Advisory Committee meeting on food safety held in Tarn Taran

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, July 30



A District-Level Advisory Committee meeting on food safety was held on Wednesday at the District Administrative Complex Tarn Taran, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Rajdeep Singh Brar.

During the meeting, the ADC emphasized that obtaining a license and registration is mandatory for all food operators in the city. He warned that shopkeepers, restaurant owners, and dhaba sellers who fail to apply for a license or registration will face prosecution under the Food Act.

The ADC further assured that all pending court cases related to food sampling would be resolved at the earliest.

On the occasion, Assistant Civil Surgeon of Tarn Taran, Dr Sukhbir Kaur (Convener), highlighted the Health Department's ongoing commitment to ensuring adulteration-free and hygienic food supplies. She mentioned that the department is continuously working to uphold food safety standards.

Dr Sukhbir Kaur also updated the committee about the food safety activities carried out in June and July. She instructed the authorities overseeing schools to ensure that food safety is registered within schools and courtyards promptly, and that food served to children complies with food safety guidelines. She also shared information about the ban on the sale of energy drinks near schools.

APS triumphs in Kargil Vijay Diwas quiz, honours valour of IAF

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, July 30



Under the aegis of the Golden Arrow Division, Army Public School (APS) Ferozepur proudly hosted an exhilarating Inter-School Quiz Competition on Wednesday, commemorating Kargil Vijay Diwas and honouring the unwavering valour of the Indian Armed Forces. The prestigious event saw enthusiastic participation from various schools, all vying for intellectual supremacy.

The highly anticipated quiz was expertly conducted by the distinguished Quiz Master, Colonel Vembu Shankar, SC (Retd). His profound knowledge and inspiring personal experiences added immense gravitas to the occasion, captivating and motivating the participating students.

After several rounds of intense and closely contested questions spanning diverse subjects, APS Ferozepur emerged victorious, showcasing their exceptional intellectual prowess. The winning team was felicitated by Major General RS Manral, SM, VSM, GOC Golden Arrow Division.

Cabinet approves restructuring of rural development blocks

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30



In a significant administrative reform aimed at improving governance and service delivery in rural areas, the Punjab Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, has approved the restructuring of rural development blocks to align them with district boundaries, thereby enhancing administrative efficiency. A decision to this effect was taken during a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Chief Minister on Wednesday.

Disclosing this here today, a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said that the restructuring has been undertaken to bring the jurisdiction of development blocks in line with existing district boundaries especially benefiting the districts of Sangrur, Malerkotla, Fazilka, Ferozepur, SAS nagar and Patiala. This realignment is intended to ensure better coordination between block-level and district-level administrations, streamline the planning and implementation of rural development schemes, and eliminate administrative overlaps that often led to delays and inefficiencies. The restructuring exercise was carried out after careful examination of the existing administrative boundaries and operational requirements.

All necessary legal and administrative procedures have been followed in the reorganization process. With this move, the state government aims to Strengthen planning and monitoring mechanisms at the district level, Enable seamless integration of block and district-level data and decision-making, Facilitate easier access to services for citizens and Panchayati Raj Institutions and Improve overall efficiency in the implementation of central and state-sponsored rural development programs.

OXYGEN SUPPLY DISRUPTION

Jalandhar Civil Hospital MS among three doctors suspended, one dismissed for dereliction of duty

NARINDER GUPTA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, July 30



In a stern response to the tragic incident at a Jalandhar Civil Hospital, Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh on Wednesday announced the suspension of three doctors including Medical Superintendent and Senior Medical Officer, while, dismissal of house surgeon for gross negligence that led to the loss of patient lives due to disruption in oxygen supply.

Those suspended are Medical Superintendent Raj Kumar, Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Surjeet Singh, Consultant Anesthesia Dr Sonakshi (on-duty doctor). "All the three doctors have been placed under suspension. Detailed inquiry is being conducted and they are likely to be dismissed from the service and lose all benefits of the service," said the Health Minister, while reaffirming that exemplary punishment will be given for this 'unpardonable' administrative failure.

The House Surgeon, Dr Shaminder Singh, has been dismissed outright for gross dereliction of duty.

As per the information, a sudden disruption in oxygen supply caused by a technical fault in the hospital's oxygen plant resulted in death of three critically ill patients at Jalandhar Civil Hospital on Sunday evening.

Addressing the media, Dr Balbir Singh said that the preliminary investigation has revealed that the incident occurred due to administrative failure, despite the availability of adequate infrastructure, manpower, and multiple oxygen supply sources at the facility.

The hospital had a functional pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen plant with dual compressors, a manifold system with 18-20 cylinders, and a liquid medical oxygen plant—ensuring four backup sources, he said, while adding that, however, irresponsible handling by the duty staff resulted in the fatal drop in oxygen pressure.

Previous state govts' neglect of Punjab's BBMB interests sparked irregularities: Harpal Cheema

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30



Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema announced on Wednesday that the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government is vigorously pursuing the recovery of long-standing dues owed to the state by other partner states in the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB). He sharply criticized the previous SAD-BJP and Congress state governments, asserting that their neglect of Punjab's interests within the BBMB allowed other states to draw more than their allocated share of water and fail to make timely payments.

Addressing a Press conference here at Punjab Bhawan, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema confirmed that the Punjab government has formally addressed these critical issues with the defaulting states. "Punjab's long-standing BBMB liability, amounting to Rs 113.24 crore, has now been officially forwarded to the Haryana government for settlement", he added.

Giving details, the Finance Minister said that that a thorough reconciliation process, conducted by relevant Punjab officials, confirmed the outstanding amounts. "This includes Rs. 103.92 crore due to the XEN BML Canal Division, Patiala, and Rs. 9.32 crore for the Mansa Canal Division, Jawaharke, all pertaining to the reimbursement of actual expenditures incurred on the operation and maintenance of common carrier channels of the Bhakra Systems", said Cheema.

Addressing a query regarding the BBMB's request for funds to deploy Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema reiterated that the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, representing the three crore people of the state, unanimously passed a resolution opposing the move. He further added that this resolution, which has been sent to both the Centre and the BBMB, expressed full confidence in the Punjab Police's capabilities to secure the BBMB assets, emphasizing that no mischievous elements have ever breached the security perimeter maintained by the Punjab Police.

Reiterating the Punjab government's unwavering commitment to resolving outstanding BBMB issues, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema emphasized that the AAP-led state government is resolute in safeguarding the state's interests.

Punjab Cooperative Dept introduces digital attendance system to improve public service delivery

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30

In a significant step to enhance the efficiency of workforce for better public service delivery, the Punjab government has introduced the use of the mSewa app for marking attendance in all offices – at headquarters and field of the Offices of the Registrar and the Apex Cooperative Institutions.

Disclosing this here on Wednesday, the Registrar Cooperative Societies, Punjab Girish Dayalan informed that this initiative aims to monitor staff punctuality, prevent irregularities and optimise resource allocation for effective governance as mandated by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government.

He further stated that, this trial run of marking online attendance on mSewa app, will be conducted for a period of one month starting from August 1. During this trial phase, participation will be mandatory to ensure a smooth onboarding process. Following the successful onboarding and trial run, the attendance system will be enforced from September 1.

The Department of Good Governance and Information Technology will provide necessary cooperation and support in implementing this initiative, Dayalan said while adding that by leveraging technology to track attendance, the Government of Punjab is committed to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of its workforce, ultimately leading to better public service delivery.

Sanjeev Arora meets industrialists in CII event, invites industry feedback and collaboration to strengthen policy implementation

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30



Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Punjab organised a high-level interactive session today with Sh. Sanjeev Arora, Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment Promotion & NRI Affairs, Government of Punjab, at the CII Northern Region Headquarters, Chandigarh. The session witnessed participation from leading industry stakeholders and senior government officials.

Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora, in his keynote address, reaffirmed the government's commitment to fostering a progressive industrial ecosystem in Punjab and invited industry feedback and collaboration to strengthen policy implementation. "We are here to listen, respond, and work hand-in-hand with the industry to position Punjab as a leading investment destination," the Minister stated.

"Punjab is focused on building a business-ready environment where policy meets execution and investors feel confident in our long-term vision," said Sanjeev Arora. Industrialists appreciated the decision of the Punjab government for constituting sectoral specific committees for making further improvements in the industrial policy and ease of doing business. Industrialists have also lauded the previous decision taken by the government of Punjab such as One Time Settlement Scheme and leasehold to freehold industrial plots etc and also demanded to open Air Cargo facility in Punjab.

YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH

On day 151, Punjab Police conduct raids at 312 sites; 81 drug smugglers held

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 151st day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 312 locations on Wednesday leading to the arrest of 81 drug smugglers after registration of 61 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 23,942 in 151 days. The raids have resulted in recovery of 337 grams heroin, 154 kg poppy husk and Rs 7490 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.

Dr Ravjot orders to suspend JE and Sanitary Inspector for negligence in duty

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Morinda, July 30



Taking strict notice of negligence in duty and addressing the complaints of residents of the city against Junior Engineer Naresh Kumar and Sanitary Inspector Varinder Singh of Municipal Council, Morinda. Local Government Minister Dr Ravjot Singh on Wednesday issued an order to suspend both employees with immediate effect.

On the early hours of Wednesday morning, Cabinet Minister along with MLA Dr Charanjit Singh conducted the surprise visit in the Ward No. 5 and 6, Chunni Road Near Rest house, Ward-13,14,15, Purana Bassi Road and Shiv Nanda School road and observed that there were mismanagement in garbage collection and trash from the household scattered in all wards at large scale.

While referring to the lax work culture of the Municipal Committee and mismanagement in sanitary services and routine cleanliness of the city, the Local Government Minister issued an order to transfer the Executive fficer Municipal Council Parwinder Singh Bhatti, Morinda.

On this occasion, residents of ward no. 5 and 6, flagged the issue of a blocked sewage system in their area from a long time which was stagnant on the road and affected the houses and main road.

Acting on the issue of sewage services, Ravjot Singh issued the notice to Executive Engineer of Sewage Board Rajiv Kapoor to clear all blocked pipes of the sewage system in one month and said that he will review the same area after one month.

On the occasion ADC (U) Pooja Seyal Grewal, SDM Morinda Sukhpal Singh, President Urban Area Morinda Navdeep Singh Tony, Jagtar Singh, Nirmalpreet Meharwan, Vivek Sharma, Jagdev Singh Bittu were also present.

NCGG team conducts strategic visit to Punjab Transparency Commission to strengthen citizen-centric governance

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30



A high-level delegation from the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) conducted a review visit to the Punjab Transparency and Accountability Commission (Pb-Trac), marking a significant step toward strengthening India's Right to Service (RTS) implementation framework. The strategic engagement, led by Dr Surendrakumar Bagde, IAS, Director General of NCGG under the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, underlined the commitment to advancing citizen-centric governance models.

The coveted meeting brought together senior administrative leaders including V.K Janjua, Retd. IAS, Chief Commissioner of Pb-Trac, Dr Nayan Jassal, PCS, Secretary of Pb-Trac and Shivani, Governance Fellow with the Commission. This high-level interaction facilitated substantive discussions on transformative governance practices and institutional strengthening mechanisms.

Punjab conducts 22.26 lakh artificial inseminations; procures 3.75 lakh doses of sexed semen to boost dairy farming: Khudian

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30



In a significant development to boost the dairy farming sector, Punjab Animal Husbandry department has made significant strides by conducting 22.26 lakh artificial inseminations (AIs) in FY 2024-25, supported by the production of 18.50 lakh semen straws (6.47 lakh for cows and 12.03 lakh for buffaloes), said Gurmeet Singh Khudian, Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Punjab.

While addressing a seminar on "An Innovative Approach to Animal Nutrition, Repeat Breeding and Disease Control" here at Kisan Bhawan, on Wednesday, Gurmeet Singh Khudian stated that 3.75 lakh doses of frozen sexed semen were purchased to produce high genetic merit female calves, which will contribute to reducing the number of stray animals and lowering the financial burden on farmers associated with rearing male calves. The Animal Husbandry department has also procured 3.38 lakh doses of superior-quality semen for cows to address the shortage of high-quality cow semen.

Gurmeet Singh Khudian directed the department officials to enhance animal productivity through Artificial Insemination to increase farmers income, besides, implementing timely vaccination programs to control diseases in animals.

Lives of child beggars being transformed in state; project Jeevanjyot 2.0 shows tangible impact: Dr Baljit Kaur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30



The Punjab government's Project JEEVANJYOT 2.0 is making visible strides in transforming the lives of child beggars shifting them from a life of vulnerability on the streets to a future of education, safety, and self-reliance. This was stated by Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr Baljit Kaur.

Providing details, the Minister informed that a total of 245 special rescue raids have been conducted across the state so far, leading to the rescue of 214 child beggars, out of which 106 children have been successfully reunited with their families. These outcomes reflect the Punjab Government's firm commitment to eradicating child begging.

Dr Kaur said that in the latest round of action, 16 special raids were carried out across 16 districts, during which only 2 children were found begging one each from Barnala and Sangrur districts. After due verification of documents, both children were safely restored to their families. This, she said, indicates that the mission is moving steadily towards achieving its objective.

The Minister further revealed that identity verification for DNA testing has been completed in the case of 16 rescued children. Of these, documentation has been finalized for 15 children, and DNA samples have already been collected from 13 of them.

MC Chandigarh seizes 450 kg banned plastic bags from residential units in Sector 56; takes strict action against violators

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30



In a major crackdown against the illegal storage of banned plastic items, the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, in collaboration has recovered a massive 450 kilograms of banned plastic from residential premises in Sector 56.

Following the directions of MC Commissioner Amit Kumar, the operation, conducted by a team of Sanitary Inspectors namely Jagjit Singh (CSI), . Ashish Malik (S.I), Lokesh Meena (S.I) and Gurinder Singh (S.I), resulted in the recovery of plastic waste from House No. 817 and 794, Sector 56. A challan has been issued in the name of Vijay, c/o Usha Devi w/o Hari Ram, resident of House No. 817, Sector 56.

This decisive action aligns with the Municipal Corporation's ongoing efforts to curb the use and storage of prohibited plastic materials within city limits, and to promote eco-friendly waste management practices. The recovered plastic was safely transported and disposed of at the designated dry waste processing plant.

The Commissioner reiterated the zero-tolerance policy of MC Chandigarh towards the violation of plastic ban norms and has warned that further violations will attract stringent penalties and legal action. He urged citizens to cooperate and contribute to keeping Chandigarh clean and sustainable.

The Municipal Corporation remains committed to enforcing environmental regulations and encourages public participation in reporting any such violations to ensure a plastic-free Chandigarh.

Civil Surgeon directs doctors to prescribe generic medicines

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, July 30



Civil surgeon Dr Sangeeta Jain directed government doctors in the district to prescribe only generic medicines. She was addressing a review meeting of Senior Health officials here on Wednesday.

She said that there is no dearth of essential and emergency medicines in government health institutes across the district, therefore no patient should be asked to buy medicines from private chemist shops. She said that if there is a need to buy medicines from the private shop, it is the duty of the In-charge of the institute to buy such medicines for the patient. Dr Jain said that as per the Punjab government scheme, patients should be given free medicines and all medicines under the standard list must be available at the Pharmacy in the hospital.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ASKS SENIOR OFFICIALS TO HAVE ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENT OF MEDICAL OXYGEN AND POWER SUPPLY
- REVIEWS VARIOUS HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SCHEMES IN MEETING

Dr. Jain directed that there must be adequate arrangement for Medical oxygen and power supply in every institute and regular staff should be deputed to run these systems. The Civil Surgeon said that there are free investigation and treatment services for pregnant women. She instructed that the ultrasound tests of pregnant women should be conducted in government hospitals and empanelled private centres. She also reviewed progress of Aam Aadmi Clinics and various national and state health programs and schemes and said that all these programs should be implemented properly and effectively.

District Immunisation officer Dr. Girish Dogra, District Family Welfare Officer Dr. Tamanna and all the senior medical officers were present in the meeting.

Chandigarh students document Tibetans living in exile in Dharamshala



- WRITE ARTICLES AND MAKE A DOCUMENTARY UNDER THE 'CAPSTONE PROJECT'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30

A group of students from Chandigarh spent a week researching the life of Tibetans living in Dharamshala. The students wrote pertinent articles and also made a video documentary to unravel how the Tibetans are trying their best to uphold their rich traditions and civilization after being ousted from Tibet by the repressive Chinese regime. The work of the students was supported by Edu Sensei, an education consultancy, and Kigen Academy, which specializes in project-based learning and examination services.

The project was released in the form of a documentary and booklet called the Capstone Project 'The Enchanting Realm A Dharamshala Documentary'.

It is notable that a Capstone Project is a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual programme for students, undertaken at the end of a research based study.

Punita Vadhera, Founder of Edu Sensei, said, "Collectively, these students have not only gained knowledge but also skills that will empower their future endeavors."

The head of the Capstone Project and the students' Mentor Aashita Singh Vadhera said, "We have unveiled a booklet and documentary wherein the research of the students has been compiled in the form of articles and pictures, film, and voice-overs. The 'Capstone Project; exemplifies a remarkable fusion of creativity and adventure."

She informed that students participating in the Capstone Project embarked on a transformative journey to Dharamshala.

The idea was to explore & understand Dharamshala, which offers a vibrant tapestry of culture and acceptance, mainly because it is home to the Tibetan Government in Exile.

Aashita further said, "We delved into the essence of Tibetan culture, gaining invaluable insights from its resilient people. "

Brahmleen, a Capstone student whose article profoundly explores the Tibetan exile and the unwavering dedication of its people to safeguard their civilization, says, "My work articulates Tibet's sacrifices and determination, guided by the Dalai Lama and supported by the Indian government".

Congress MP dubs Chandigarh as 'Challangarh' with over 11-fold increase in traffic tickets in past 5 years

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30

Chandigarh MP and former Union Minister Manish Tewari has endorsed the public perception that an extractive and extortive paradigm has been institutionalised through the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) in the city.

He was commenting on the reply by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to his question on traffic challans issued in Chandigarh, in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The government has informed the MP that there was over 11-fold rise in the number of challans issued for traffic violations in Chandigarh through the ITMS network during the past five years.

From 78,396 in 2020, the count of automated traffic challans went up to 8,91,979 in 2023 and 8,46,960 in 2024.

"These figures testify to the fact that what people of Chandigarh are saying is absolutely correct that there is an extractive and extortive paradigm that has been institutionalised through this ITMS process," the senior Congress parliamentarian told The Tribune over the phone.

Referring to what he called as the astronomical increase in the number of challans issued between 2022 and 2023 after the AI-enabled system was introduced in Chandigarh, Tewari said, "It perhaps must be more than the number of cars registered in Chandigarh. No wonder people in my erstwhile constituency of Anandpur Sahib that rings around Chandigarh on three sides call it Challangarh."

Replying to the MP's unstarred question, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the total number of traffic challans issued in Chandigarh under 91 different categories of violations during the past five years included 1,81,558 in 2020, 2,42,937 in 2021, 6,03,118 in 2022, 9,93,558 in 2023, and 9,95,797 in 2024.

He disclosed that a total of Rs 221.36-crore fine was imposed on the traffic violators during that period, of which Rs 119.15 crore has already been recovered.

Livasa Hospitals bag award for leading hospital chain in North India

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 29

Livasa Hospitals has been honoured with ET Health Award for leading multi-speciality hospital chain in North India.

A NABH-accredited healthcare network, Livasa Hospitals are Punjab's largest super-speciality hospital chain with hospitals in Mohali, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr, and Khanna.

Dr. Pawan Kumar, CEO of Livasa Hospitals said, "At Livasa, we believe that healthcare should be defined not just by technology or infrastructure, but by the human touch, empathy, and clinical integrity. This award reaffirms our vision to build a healthier North India by making world-class healthcare accessible to all."

The award cements Livasa Hospitals' position as a trusted name in healthcare innovation, clinical excellence, and community well-being across the region.

Schools in UT Chandigarh to observe half-day schedule and special assembly today in honour of Shaheed Udham Singh

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30

In solemn remembrance of the valiant martyrdom of Shaheed Udham Singh, all government, government-aided, Central Government, and private recognized schools in UT Chandigarh will observe a half-day academic schedule on 31st July 2025 (Thursday).

As per the instructions issued by the Education Department, UT Chandigarh, regular classes will conclude early, followed by a one-hour special school assembly dedicated to honoring the life and legacy of Shaheed Udham Singh, who courageously laid down his life in the fight against colonial rule for the freedom of our nation.

Schedule for the day:

- Morning Session Schools: Classes will be held till 11:00 AM, followed by the special assembly from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.
- Evening Session Schools: Classes will be held till 3:00 PM, followed by the special assembly from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The assembly will feature student and teacher participation through speeches, skits, patriotic songs, poems, and reflections on the life of Shaheed Udham Singh. Schools have been encouraged to use this occasion to instill a sense of patriotism, courage, and justice among students.

The Governor of Punjab and Administrator UT Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, stated,

"Shaheed Udham Singh's fearless act of justice serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices that laid the foundation of our nation. On this day, special assemblies will be held across schools to honor his legacy, not only to pay tribute, but to inspire every child with the values of courage, patriotism, and integrity.

Panjab University to host 18th Chandigarh Science Congress in November

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30



Panjab University (PU) will organise the 18th Chandigarh Science Congress (CHASCON-2025) on the theme of "Empowering Humanity: Science, Technology, and Healthcare for All" from November 6–8, 2025.

PU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Renu Vig unveiled the first official poster of CHASCON-2025 in the presence of DUI Prof. Yojna Rawat, Director R&D Cell Prof. Meenakshi Goyal, the CHASCON Coordinator, Prof. Kashmir Singh, Co-coordinators, Prof. Deepak Gupta and Dr. Naveen Gupta, and other senior PU officers.

The prestigious national event will be held under the guidance of Prof. Vig at its Chandigarh campus. It will bring together researchers, faculty, and students from across India – last year's Congress drew roughly 1,200 participants.

CHASCON-2025 aims to provide a platform for young scientists to present their research and contribute to India's emerging leadership in science and technology.

"Technology is continuously evolving and improving quality of life, presenting both challenges and opportunities for the students who will develop future innovations," said Prof. Renu Vig. She noted that the Congress will inspire young researchers to think creatively about solving human and healthcare challenges.

CHASCON is one of North India's largest science gatherings. Organised annually by PU in collaboration with the Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC), the conference features plenary lectures, panels, and an innovation expo.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Roma, D/o Shri Rohit Gaur, R/o H.no. 109, Guru Nanak Nagar, Bhamia Kalan, and Post Office Mundian Kalan, District Ludhiana,have changed my name from Roma to Roma Gaur.

I, Kajal W/o Ricky R/o H.No. B/41/1194/32, Swami Lal Ji Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab-144001 have changed the name of my minor son Dhvansh Kadara aged 03 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Divansh Kumar.

I, Monika Mehta W/o Jatinder Pandey R/o H.No. 222, Jagdambay Gali, Sodal Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name to Monika Pandey after marriage. (Pandey as Surname). All concerned please note.

I, Ankush S/o Kulbhushan Kumar R/o H.No. 1276/5, Atwal Chowk, Adampur Doaba, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab-144102, India have changed my name from Ankush to Ankush Kehar. All concerned please note.

I, Jatinder Kumar S/o Avinash Kumar R/o 222/223, Sodal Nagar Industrial Area, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name to Jatinder Pandey. All concerned please note.

I, Kishor Kumar S/o Satya Paul Kamal R/o 56-A/2, Krishna Nagar, Jalandhar (PB) have changed my minor daughter's name from Ananya to Ananya Manni.

I, Pushpa Kohli W/o Karan Kumar R/o Street No. 04, Gurdwara Baba Jwana Ji, Shiv Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed the name of my minor son from Vivan Kumar to Vedaan Kumar. All concerned please note.

I, hitherto known as Ajay S/o Harjit Singh residing at House No. 1039, Mohalla Islamabad, Basti Mithu, Jalandhar, Punjab-144002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ajay Singh.

I, Jatinder Pal S/o Tilak Raj R/o VPO. Purhiran, Tehsil & District Hoshiarpur-146001, Punjab have changed the name of my minor son from Viren to Viren Kohli. Concerned Note.

I, hitherto known as Sharma S/o Jarnail Singh residing at Village Saido Bholana, PO. Bhulana, Tehsil & District Kapurthala, Punjab-144620 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shamma Singh.

I, Mohit Singla S/o Parveen Singla R/o H.No 16-A/4, Singla House Marya Street, Peeli Sadak, Ragho Majra, Patiala have changed my minor Daughter's Name from Saaviya to Saaviya Singla.

I, Rohit Singla S/o Parveen Singla R/o H.No 16-A/4, Singla House Marya Street, Peeli Sadak, Ragho Majra, Patiala have changed my minor Daughter's Name from Shanaya to Shanaya Singla.

I, Rohit Singla S/o Parveen Singla R/o H.No 16-A/4, Singla House Marya Street, Peeli Sadak, Ragho Majra, Patiala have changed my minor Daughter's Name from Naina to Naina Singla.

I, hitherto known as PREM NATH son of KASHMIRI LAL residing of KOTKAPURA ROAD, STREET. NO. 9, GURU ANGAD NAGAR, SRI MUKTSAR SAHIB - 152026 Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PREM NATH GIRDHAR

I Bhabhiaansh Kalra S/o Sunil Kumar R/o Vill. Shatabgarh, Teh. Samrala (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Bhavi Kalra

I Ishika Goomber W/o Manik Chopra R/o 95 Villa Eldeco Estate, Malhotra Resort, Village Hussainpura, NH 1 (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Ishika Chopra

I Palwinder Singh S/o Harnek Singh R/o V.P.O. Ballowal, (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Palwinder Singh Ubhi

I Sukhwinder Singh S/o Jaswant Singh R/o B-24,1629/1, Gali No. 1, Near Tips Food, Daulat Colony, (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sukhvinder Singh

I Harmanpreet Kaur D/o Jagmohan Singh R/o Vill. Shehzad (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Kaur Harmanpreet

I Sat Pal Alias Satpal Dass S/o Kartar Dass R/o Patti Dalomal, Village Badrukhan Distt Sangrur I have known as both names

I Sikander Singh S/o Gurdial Singh R/o 676 F, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Pakhowal Road (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sikander Singh Aujla

I Sikander Singh Aujla S/o Gurdial Singh R/o 676 F, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Pakhowal Road, (Ludhiana) have changed the name of my adopted minor son Sukhraj Singh to Sukhraj Singh Aujla

I Ritish Son Of Rakesh Kumar Arora R/O H No B-Iv/832 Dasmesh Gali Ward No 8 Barnala District Barnala Changed My Name To Ritish Arora

I Manpreet Kaur Sidhu W/O Harpreet Singh R/O Vpo Pakho Kalan District Barnala Have Changed My Name To Manpreet Kaur

I Karmjeet Singh Alias Karamjit Singh S/o Harchand Singh R/o Dirba District Sangrur I have known as both names

I Gurpreet Singh Tiwana S/O Bhinder Singh R/O H. No. 479 Sohian Road, Rajgarh Basti Sangrur Changed My Name Gurpreet Singh

I, Darshan Singh son of Sukhdev Singh, resident of village Kasba Bhural, Tehsil Ahmedgarh, District Malerkotla, has changed his name to Darshan Singh Sekhon.

I, Rejaina w/o Chamkor Singh R/o V.P.O Khanowal, District Kapurthala, Punjab, India, have changed my name from RAJINA to REJAINA. All concerned may please note.

I, Akashdeep Singh S/o Paramjeet singh R/o Village Thandewala tehsil & district sri muktsar sahib have changed my name to Akashdeep Singh Brar

I, Usha Rani W/o Sushil Kumar R/o H.no. 1929/3D, St.no. 3, Gandhi Nagar (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Usha Rani Dhawan to Usha Rani.

I Sarjan S/o Janku Ram R/o Plot No. 181, St.no. 1, Near Gauri Home, Balaji Colony , Bahamian Kalan, Mundian Kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Sarjan to Sarjan Kumar .

I Richa W/o Nitin Malhotra R/o H.no. 19-B, Rahon Road, Near Punjab National Bank , Jain Nagar, Bhagya Homes , Basti Jodhewal (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Richa to Richa Kathuria.

I Ramesh Kumar S/o Tilak Raj R/o H.no:-10979, St.no:-6, Partap Nagar (Ludhiana) have Changed My Name from Ramesh Kumar to Ramesh.

I Iqbal Kaur D/o Bhag Singh R/o village Ferozepur Kuthala Tehsil and District Malerkotla have changed my name to Sukhwinder Kaur w/o Gurdeep Singh after marriage.

I,Kiranpal Kaur W/o Karnjeet Singh Brar R/o Vpo Sukhna Ablu Tehsil Gidderbaha (Sri Muktsar Sahib) Have Changed My Name From Kiranpal Kaur to Kiranpal Kaur Brar.

I Taranjeet kaur w/o Avtar singh R/o Fatehgarh Panjgrian Tehsil Dhuri (Sangrur) Have Changed our son Name Gurargenpartap Singh to Gurargen Singh please note

I,Sandeep Singh Athwal S/O Didar Singh R/O VPO Devi Dasspura Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Sandeep Singh Athwal to Sandeep Singh.Concerned note.

I Hardeep Singh S/o Kabul Singh H.No 750, Street No.4, New Gobind Nagar, Hoshiarpur have changed my name from Hardeep Singh to Hardeep Singh Saini. Concerned Note.

I,Ranjana Kumari W/O Rajinder Kumar R/O H.No.08, Street No.7, Ajnala Road, A-Block,Guru Amardass, Avenue, Amritsar, Punjab inform that Ranjana Kumari & Suman both names are mine and one and the same person and have equal value.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Kuldeep Kaur W/o Iqbal Singh Schulz R/o VPO. Bhatnura Labana, Jalandhar-144201 Punjab, India declare that Kamalpreet Kaur is my daughter. That she is presently residing in Italy. That she has not been married/engaged anywhere in India or abroad. That she is still unmarried in India or abroad and her marital status is Unmarried/Bachelor. That she is not within the degrees of prohibited relationship the party he wants to marry. That I have no objection If my daughter Kamalpreet Kaur get married with any boy of any caste or creed in Italy.

I, Balbir Singh Lambardar of V.Kot Karar Khan Distt. Kapurthala, Pin-144601, Punjab, India declare that I personally know Sukhvir Singh son of Gurdial Singh resident of Village Kot Karar Khan, PO. Pattar Kalan, Distt. Kapurthala-144601, Punjab, India. That he is presently residing in Italy. That he has not been married/engaged anywhere in India or abroad. That he is still Unmarried in India or abroad and his marital status is Unmarried/Bachelor. That he is not within the degrees of prohibited relationship the party he wants to marry.

I, Nachini Narjinary F/O Service No. 14449317H Rank Hav Name Sukumar Narjnary Of Unit 311 Med. Regt R/O Village Dakshin Satali, District Jalpaiguri Kalchini State West Bengal-735214 Have Declared That In Army Record Of My Son My Name Is Wrongly Written As Nachini Narjinary But My Correct Name Is Nalini Narjinari. All Concerned May Please Note.

I. Service No. 15166221N Rank Hav Name Chougule Ravaso Vitthal Of Unit 311 Med. Regt. Permanent Address R/O Village Agran, Dhulgaon, Pona Office Agran Dhulgaon, District Sangli, State Maharashtra-416411 Have Changed Of My Minor Son Name From Aniket To Aniket Ravaso Chougule. All Concerned May Please Note.

I Sunda Bai Mother Of Service No. 15166221N Rank Hav Name Chougule Ravaso Vitthal Of Unit 311 Med. Regt. Permanent Address R/O Village Agran, Dhulgaon, Post Office Agran Dhulgaon, District Sangli, State Maharashtra-416411 Have Declared That In Army Record Of My Son Chougule Ravaso Vitthal My Name Is Wrongly Written As Sunda Bai But My Correct Name Is Sunda Vitthal Chougule. All Concerned May Please Note.

I Narinder Kumar S/o Wazir Chand R/o K.K Road Gali No 2 Bawa Colony Sri Muktsar Sahib Declared That My Son Harry Garg Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Him From My Moveable & Immovable Property. AnyBody Dealing With Him At His Own Risk. All Concerned Note .

Notice having been given of lost of Policy No.160618017 on the life of Kamaljit Singh issued by b.o.175,unit -1,Bhadaur House Ludhiana Duplicate Policy will be issued unless objection is lodged with us within one month from this date.

I, Harjinder Singh S/o Parkash Singh R/o H No. 231, Ward No. 11, Nandpur, Sahnewal Khurd, Hara Colony, District Ludhiana, hereby disown my son Karan Kumar (married) and his family from my movable and immovable property due to their being in bad company, fighting with me and being Out of my control. The person who deals with this will be responsible for it. I and my family will not be held responsible.

I, Mithilesh Sharma is Legal Mother of No 14931202P Rank Hav Name Ashish Kumar Sharma R/o # 49, Mohalla Arjun Nagar, Tehsil & PO Dataganj, Distt Badaun, State Uttar Pradesh-243635 have changed my Name from Mithilesh Sharma to Mithlesh Sharma & Date of Birth from 01/07/1954 to 07/07/1949 vide affidavit No CA 714244 dated 23/05/2025 before District Court Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

I, RATHOD BILYA NAIK is legally Father of Army No-14862578H, RANK- NK/MT, NAME- MUNI DAS, UNIT-557 ASC BATTALION, (MTN DIV) PIN-905557, C/O 99 APO, I have change my Date of Birth From 05/06/1945 To 01/01/1962, Due to wrong entry in my son army Service Record. My Correct name is RATHOD BILYA NAIK & My Date of Birth is 01/01/1962 Vide Affidavit No. : INPB5 9231125002125X Date 30.07.2025

DISCLAIMER

BRIGHT PUNJAB EXPRESS does not endorse any third party products, merchandise and/or services, nor has **BRIGHT PUNJAB EXPRESS** taken any steps to confirm the accuracy or reliability of, any of the information contained in any third party advertisements. **BRIGHT PUNJAB EXPRESS** strongly encourages readers to conduct whatever investigation they feel necessary or appropriate before proceeding with any transaction with any of these advertisers.

MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

Govt holds high-level meeting regarding 350th Martyrdom Day of 9th Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Sri Anandpur Sahib, July 30



Punjab government has decided to organise four religious yatras and major events on the occasion of the 350th martyrdom day of the Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji.

Punjab Cabinet Minister Harjot Singh Bains, Cabinet Minister Harbhajan Singh, Cabinet Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond and Advisor of Punjab Tourism and Cultural Affairs department Deepak Bali, who attended the first meeting held at Virasat-e-Khalsa today, gave detailed information about the outline of the religious ceremonies to be held.

Advisor of the Tourism Department Deepak Bali and Secretary of the Tourism Department Dr. Abhinav Tarikha were also present with them. They gave detailed information about the entire program to the officers of the district administration and various departments and issued instructions about the arrangements to be made for the convenience of the devotees.

Talking to the media on this occasion, Harjot Singh Bains said that on November 19, a four-day religious pilgrimage will leave for Sri Anandpur Sahib from Sri Nagar and after reaching Sri Anandpur Sahib, this pilgrimage will leave for Delhi.

He said that similarly, yatras from Gurdaspur to Majha and Doaba Yatra, from Malwa, Bathinda and Faridkot will leave for Sri Anandpur Sahib, which will reach Sri Anandpur Sahib via covering almost all the districts and major cities of the state. These yatras will include Mashal-e-Shahadat, a library related to the biography, teachings and martyrdom of Guru Sahib, Gatka, Panj Nishanchi, Panj Pyare, Kirtani Jatha, Kashmiri Pandits and a large number of Sangat along with Kashmiri delegates will also participate in the religious yatra.

Regarding the religious events to be held at Sri Anandpur Sahib, Harjot Singh Bains said that Sri Akhand Path Sahib will be commenced on November 23 at Virasat-e-Khalsa, in which prominent personalities and religious figures from the country and abroad including Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann will be present. On the same day, a digital exhibition depicting the martyrdom of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister at Virasat-e-Khalsa.

State leads way in cancer care with WHO-backed initiative 'Mission Umeed'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30

In a pathbreaking initiative to combat the escalating burden of cancer, the Government of Punjab, in close technical collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) India, has launched a comprehensive and people-centred Cancer Care Pilot Project in the districts of Bathinda, SAS Nagar (Mohali), and Gurdaspur. This transformative project was jointly unveiled by Punjab's Health and Family Welfare Minister, Dr Balbir Singh, and WHO Representative to India, Dr. Roderico H. Ofrin, marking a significant milestone in the state's commitment to strengthening cancer care and ensuring access to early, equitable, and quality treatment for all.

This pioneering initiative is designed to enhance early detection, timely diagnosis, and prompt treatment of oral, breast, and cervical cancers three of the most prevalent and preventable cancers in India — through a decentralised, systems-based approach. It aligns strategically with the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), and aims to seamlessly integrate cancer care into all levels of Punjab's public health system right from Ayushman Arogya Kendras at the grassroots, to advanced tertiary care hospitals. This synergy is aimed at reversing the current trend, where over 60% of cancer cases in Punjab are diagnosed at advanced stages, leaving limited scope for effective intervention.

Addressing the gathering, Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh emphasised, "Cancer does not mean death it is very much curable if diagnosed in time. Early detection is the keystone of cancer care. This initiative is a reflection of our belief in health as a fundamental right, and our resolve to build a resilient and inclusive health system for all. We are leading by example and showing how innovation, backed by strong partnerships, can deliver life-saving outcomes." He further called attention to unhealthy lifestyles and poor dietary habits as critical contributors to rising cancer incidences, advising citizens to adopt a healthier routine that includes at least an hour of daily physical activity and nutritious, home-cooked food.

Dr Roderico H. Ofrin, WHO Representative to India, applauded Punjab's bold public health vision and efforts toward prevention and control of NCDs. He further stated that Mission Umeed with its comprehensive action plan stands out as leader in comprehensive cancer care in the country. He further stated that sustaining these investments and efforts, Punjab is well on track to achieving the NCD targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG-3) by 2030. He concluded saying, "WHO is proud to be a partner in this important initiative, and will continue offering its full technical support to make this model a replicable success across India".

MLAs and Senior Dy Mayor inaugurate newly constructed public toilets and bridge in Namak Mand



YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 30

For facilitating the visitors in the market and residents of the area at large, Ludhiana North MLA Madan Lal Bagga, Ludhiana Central MLA Ashok Prashar Pappi and Senior Deputy Mayor Rakesh Prashar inaugurated the newly constructed public toilets and a puli (bridge) constructed over a drain in Namak Mandi (Gur Mandi- ward number 90) area on Wednesday.

The projects have been taken up at a cost of around Rs 20 lakh.

MLA Bagga, MLA Prashar and Senior Deputy Mayor Prashar said that the purpose of these project is to provide essential facilities to the residents at grassroot level.

They stated that in the coming days, major road construction projects would also be taken up including the projects for reconstruction of Gurdwara Dukhniwaran Sahib road, Gurdwara Kalgidhar Singh Sabha road and Pindi Gali area. Signboards would be installed across ward number 90.

Local residents and traders of the Namak Mandi (Gur Mandi) area were also present during the inauguration ceremony.

MLA Madan Lal Bagga, MLA Ashok Prashar Pappi and Senior Deputy Mayor Rakesh Prashar assured the people that, in the future as well, development work in these areas will continue on a priority basis to ensure further progress.

Sunil Tangri, Kamal Adia, Kuldeep Singh, Amit Sharma, Ramesh Sharma, Gulshan Thukral, Dhiren Agarwal, Happy Vohra, Sherry Takkar, Ramesh Jain, Vijay Singhania, Shanti Taneja, SC Arora, YS Ahuja among others were present during the inauguration ceremony.

MLA Bhullar inaugurates free paediatric heart screening facility in Ferozepur



HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, July 30

Taking another significant step toward improving health infrastructure in the district, a state-of-the-art pediatric cardiac screening machine was inaugurated today at the Civil Hospital, Ferozepur. The inauguration was done by Ferozepur City MLA Ranbir Singh Bhullar under his commitment to provide quality healthcare facilities to the residents.

Expressing gratitude to the Child Heart Foundation, MLA Bhullar stated that earlier, children with suspected congenital heart defects had to travel to Faridkot Medical College or bear high costs at private hospitals for diagnosis. "Now, with this advanced facility installed at the Civil Hospital, residents can avail free heart screening services for children right here in Ferozepur," he said.

Civil Surgeon Dr Rajwinder Kaur and District Immunization Officer Dr. Meenakshi Abrol informed that the machine has been installed by the NGO Child Heart Foundation. This modern cardiac equipment will assist in the early detection of suspected heart conditions in children, significantly improving timely diagnosis and treatment.

Sunita Harkar Shala, Chief Operating Officer of the Child Heart Foundation, shared that the machine was installed with financial support from DGM (HR) Ferdinand. The foundation aims to reduce the mortality rate among children by facilitating early screening and treatment of heart diseases, thereby contributing to a decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

Meet Hayer raises issue of exorbitantly high priced medicines in Parliament

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh/New Delhi, July 30



Member Parliament from Sangrur Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer on Wednesday raised the issue of exorbitantly high prices of medicines during the Zero Hour in Parliament and demanded from the central government to fix a price cap for the same Solution medicines.

Meet Hayer raised an important issue related to health during the Zero Hour and said that under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 law, the prices of some essential medicines are being controlled, but there is no price regulation on medicines which are used more often such as those used for blood pressure, diabetes etc. For the treatment of these ailments, medicines containing the same solution are being manufactured by different companies but the prices of the medicines also vary.

Meet Hayer said that this is a common issue in the entire country where due to the high price of medicines, profits ranging from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1000 are being made from sale of these medicines. For example, a medicine manufactured at a cost of Rs. 3 is being sold by some other company for Rs. 10 and by another for Rs. 50.

24 Punjab Bn NCC, Amritsar conducts 'Vibrant Village Programme' at border village Mehdipur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, July 30



The 24 Punjab Bn NCC, Amritsar under the aegis of NCC Gp Amritsar conducted a "Vibrant Village Programme" in village Mehdipur, in district on Wednesday. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of 52 NCC cadets, 68 school children of Govt Middle School Mehdipur & approx 200 villagers along with ANO, instructors and administrative staff of the Bn. As part of Pgme a rally on "Nasha Mukt Bharat" was carried out in the village giving out the awareness message to the youth. The War Memorial in the village on "Battle of Sehjra- 1971" was cleaned & wreath laid by Col PS RIAR Commanding Officer of 24 Punjab Bn. Various sports competitions like Kabaddi & Kho-Kho were held to make the children & villagers participate.

Sub Gurbachan Singh of the Bn briefed the children & villagers on NCC & its benefits. Earlier in the day Associate NCC Officer Capt Munish Gupta, conducted Yoga class for the students & the villagers. As part of the outreach, "Tree Plantation" and a Medical Camp was also organised. The medical team from CSC Khemkaran carried out medical checkup & distributed medicine to the sick people. Tea along with refreshments was catered for the Ex-servicemen & participants of the Pgme.

MC Suvidha Kendras to remain open today; last day to pay pending tax without penalty

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 30

With July 31, last day to submit pending property tax without any penalty and interest under the One Time Settlement (OTS) policy notified by state government for property tax, Municipal Corporation (MC) has decided to keep its zonal suvidha kendras open on Thursday (July 31).

The Punjab government has declared a public holiday on July 31 to observe the martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed Udham Singh.

However, for facilitating the residents in submitting the pending property tax in time, MC Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal has ordered that the zonal suvidha kendras of MC will remain open on Thursday. (July 31).

Tension on Majitha Road: Man opens fire after parking dispute, one killed, two injured

RAMAN CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, July 30

Panic and outrage gripped the Ganda Singh Walia Chowk area on Majitha Road late on Tuesday night after a shocking shooting incident left one person dead and two others seriously injured.

The violence erupted when a street vendor, who supports his family through his daily earnings, requested a local resident to move his car, which was routinely parked outside the latter's house. Eyewitnesses claim the accused was known for threatening neighbors with violence whenever anyone objected to his illegal parking.

According to local residents, the accused reacted violently when the vendor made a simple request. Enraged, he reportedly opened fire, discharging four to five rounds. Tragically, one of the bullets struck a passerby, killing him on the spot. The street vendor and another bystander were seriously injured and rushed to a nearby hospital.

A local resident said, "We had complained earlier. He always threatened people with a gun. Today, someone just asked him to move his car, and he opened fire without thinking."

Police arrived at the scene shortly after the incident and launched an investigation. A senior police officer stated, "We are taking the matter very seriously. We have identified the accused and efforts are underway to arrest him at the earliest."

The accused remains at large, but the police have assured the public that he will be apprehended soon and strict legal action will follow. Residents are demanding immediate justice and stronger enforcement to prevent such violent behaviour in the future.

As the investigation continues, the city mourns the senseless loss of an innocent life and prays for the recovery of the injured.

Director, PMO reviews PMAY-U; interacts with beneficiaries

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 30



With an aim to ensure maximum benefit to the eligible beneficiaries, Director, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Manmeet Kaur reviewed the progress under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana -Urban (PMAY-U) on Wednesday.

During the review meeting held at Zone D office of Municipal Corporation (MC) on Wednesday, Director PMO Manmeet Kaur took feedback from the concerned officials and issued necessary directions for ensuring maximum benefit to residents.

Municipal Corporation (MC) Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal, ADC Rupinderpal Singh, Assistant Commissioner (UT) Dr Pragati Rani, MC Joint Commissioners Vineet Kumar and Abhishek Sharma, Zonal Commissioners Neeraj Jain, Gurpal Singh and Jasdev Sekhon, Technical Director, Local bodies department Baldeep Singh, Executive Officers (EO) from various municipal councils in Ludhiana district among other officials were present in the meeting.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban is a flagship Mission of Government of India being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The mission addresses urban housing shortage among the EWS/LIG and MIG categories including the slum dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to all eligible urban households.

Woman hurt in brutal attack, attacker caught

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, July 30

In a disturbing incident that has shocked residents of Chahal Nagar, Phagwara, a 30-year-old woman was brutally attacked with a sharp-edged weapon in her home on Tuesday morning. The victim Shimpoo Devi, a mother of two children, was severely injured in the assault.

According to initial reports, the attack occurred shortly after Shimpoo Devi's husband Sunil, a labourer, had left for work. Taking advantage of his absence, the accused allegedly entered the house and launched a vicious assault on the woman using sharp-edged weapons. The brutal nature of the attack left her with multiple deep wounds on her left arm, hand and head. She was rushed to the Civil Hospital, where Medical Officer Dr Naresh Kundra confirmed that she had sustained seven serious injuries. He added that her left thumb had been amputated, indicating the severity of the blows inflicted during the attack.

As the incident unfolded, neighbours responded to the woman's cries and raised the alarm. A nearby Police Control Room team, led by Inspector Aman Kumar Daveshwar, happened to be patrolling the area and reached the spot within minutes. The team managed to apprehend the attacker on the spot before he could escape.

India-Pak matches in Asia Cup should be cancelled: Pawan Dewan

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 30

Former Chairman of the Punjab Large Industrial Development Board and former District Congress President, Pawan Dewan, has demanded the immediate cancellation of the India-Pakistan cricket matches scheduled for the upcoming Asia Cup. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, Dewan also appealed to the Punjab Pradesh Congress (PPCC) President and Ludhiana MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring to raise the matter in the Parliament.

Taking a strong stand on the issue, Dewan said, "In the light of what happened in Pahalgam and subsequent developments, people of the India too are totally opposed to the decision to play with Pakistan. Henceforth, without any second thought, the proposed India-Pakistan cricket matches in Asia Cup during the month of September should not be allowed." He urged Warring and the Central Government to take a firm stand, stating that terrorism and sports cannot go hand in hand.

Dewan further pointed out that there is widespread public outrage over the crucial issue and strong resentment prevails among the countrymen over the mutual agreement between the BCCI and the Pakistan Cricket Board to play these matches.

bright Punjab Express

A costlier affair

The booking of community centres in Chandigarh for social events, which used to be rather within the reach of everybody, has now become a costly affair, thanks to an increase in booking charges approved by the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation at its General House meeting held here the other day.

The hike has come after repeatedly deferring the agenda in the past four meetings. The increase was approved the proposal to revise booking charges for all community centres across the city, but only after significantly trimming down the hike initially suggested by the civic body. Instead of the three-fold increase proposed by the MC, councillors across party lines agreed on a nominal hike of Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000 – depending on the category of the facility– in the booking fee.

Under the revised rates, bookings for Category A community centres will cost 3,000 more, Category B 2,000 more, and Category C 1,000 more per booking. These categories are based on the facilities available at each centre.

The civic body had initially recommended a sharp hike: increasing Category A rates from the current 24,000– 48,000 to a flat 60,000; Category B from 13,000– 24,000 to 40,000; and Category C from 5,000– 22,000 to 15,000–30,000. However, councillors pushed back against the steep escalation.

The final booking charges, as approved by the House, were agreed by the councillors to get implemented from August 4, this year. The House also expanded the scope of free-of-cost bookings. As per the existing policy, families living below the poverty line (BPL) are already entitled to free bookings for weddings, provided their application is verified and recommended by their area councillor. Medical camps, blood donation drives, government events, RWA meetings, and events held by senior citizens' and pensioners' associations were also exempted from charges.

To this list, councillors added new categories. The families of martyrs were granted free use of the facilities for memorial events. Weddings of girls from families receiving direct benefit transfers (DBT) were also exempted from the charges.

However, for memorial and prayer meetings like rasam pagdi and kriya bhog, which were earlier entirely free, residents will have to pay 25% of the booking fee. With councillors raising further suggestions for waivers, including for economically weaker sections (EWS), vendors, labourers, and families with a single girl child, MC commissioner Amit Kumar agreed to allow each councillor to recommend up to 20 free bookings annually, based on verification of the applicant's eligibility.

The hike as come in the wake of an alleged 100-crore community centre booking scam, which the UT's vigilance department is probing. EWS families are entitled for exemption-based booking on the area councillor's recommendation, however, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillors had alleged there was a nexus of middlemen, who with the help of fake councillor endorsements and municipal staff, were manipulating the booking process to illegally charge poor families between 26,000 and 55,000 per booking.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



India's wind energy capacity rises to 51.67 GW, Gujarat, TN & Karnataka lead

The installed wind energy capacity in India has touched the 51.67 GW mark as on June 30 this year, Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi informed the Parliament on Wednesday

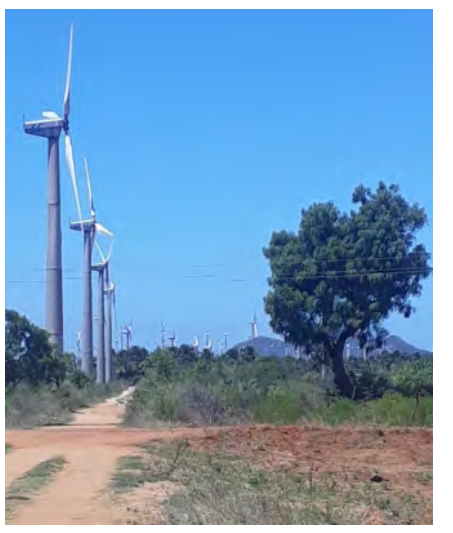
The installed wind energy capacity in India has touched the 51.67 GW mark as on June 30 this year, Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi informed the Parliament on Wednesday.

The addition of wind energy capacity in the country has been increasing steadily in the last three financial years from 2,275.55 MW added in 2023-24 to 3,253.39 MW being added in 2024-25 and 1,637.02 MW of fresh capacity being set up in the April-June quarter of 2025-26 so far, according to data tabled by the minister in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

The top three states contributing the highest share in wind power generation capacity are Gujarat with 13,816.68 MW of installed capacity, followed by Tamil Nadu, which has 11,830.36 MW. Karnataka is ranked third in the country with an installed wind power capacity of 7,714.74 MW.

The minister further stated that the target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel-based power generation by 2030 includes 340 GW of ground-mounted solar and wind. This comprises 110 GW connected to the Intra-State Transmission System (In-STS) and 230 GW to the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS).

He further stated that the government has issued the 'National Repowering & Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects' on December 7, 2023, providing a facilitative framework for the repowering of old wind turbines.



The minister said that the government has taken several steps to develop offshore wind power projects in the country, which include the notification of the 'Offshore Wind Energy Policy' in October 2015 to provide a framework for the development of offshore wind energy in the country.

Besides, for the initial phase of development, potential offshore wind zones off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have been identified through meso-scale studies and installation of a LiDAR by the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) off the coast of Gujarat in November 2017, and collection of two years of wind data has been undertaken. The NIWE has also conducted geophysical/geotechnical studies, a rapid EIA study, and oceanographic studies (wave, tide & current) for a site equivalent to 1 GW capacity off the coast of Gujarat.

A geotechnical study at three borehole locations was also carried out off the Tamil Nadu coast, and 4 LiDARs off the coast were installed for wind resource measurement. The geophysical study for the 500 MW site off the TN coast has also been completed.

The Central Transmission Utility (CTU) has completed the planning for the initial 10 GW offshore transmission capacity of 5 GW each off the Gujarat and Tamil Nadu coasts.

Besides, the government, through Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), has issued the first tender for 'Leasing out Seabed for development of 4 GW of Offshore Wind Power Projects' under captive mode/bilateral agreements/open access mode.1

The minister further stated that the Union Cabinet has approved the 'Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for offshore wind energy projects' on June 19, 2024 at a total outlay of Rs 7,453 crore, including an outlay of Rs 6,853 crore for installation and commissioning of 1 GW of offshore wind energy projects (500 MW each off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu), and grant of Rs 600 crore for upgradation of two ports to meet logistics requirements for offshore wind energy projects. **IANS**

Over 500 nuclear medicine facilities available in govt, private sector: Jitendra Singh

More than 500 nuclear medicine facilities are available in the government and private sectors, Union Minister of State for Department of Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh informed the Parliament on Wednesday.

In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Singh shared information on nuclear energy's potential to be applied in the health sector for advanced treatment of various ailments.

"Nuclear medicine can be practiced in both diagnostics and therapeutics. In India, Single Photon Emission Computerised Tomography (SPECT), Positron Emission Tomography (PET), and Computerised Tomography (CT) are the devices through which diagnostic nuclear medicine is practiced," Singh said.

"These help in staging, restaging, and response evaluation of cancer. There is availability of nuclear medicine facilities in the country in both the government and private sectors. There are more than 500 such facilities available," he added.



Nuclear medicine imaging provides unique information by helping doctors view how organs are functioning, which is different from X-rays or CT scans that show only anatomical structure.

Further, Singh shared that the government has taken several initiatives to augment research and development of nuclear medicine in the country.

"R&D is ongoing in radioisotope production, purification, and development of new technologies to ensure an enhanced and uninterrupted supply of medical radioisotopes in the country," the MoS said.

This includes several indigenously produced radiopharmaceutical products developed at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The products have also been launched for applications like radiation synovectomy, therapy of neuroendocrine tumours, breast cancer, bone pain palliation, liver cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Singh said.

"BARC regularly produces radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals and supplies them through the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) to various nuclear medicine centres across India, enabling broader availability of diagnostic and therapeutic services, including in rural and underserved areas," Singh said.

In addition, Tata Memorial Centre, an aided institute under the aegis of the Department of Atomic Energy, has established P Ramaiah Naidu Shodhika -- an advanced Nuclear Medicine Research and Treatment unit in the Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) in Mumbai.

The facility has 41 hot beds, one of the largest therapeutic nuclear medicine units in the world and was inaugurated in 2023.

It has state-of-the-art facilities for nuclear medicine and basic research.

TMC has also established the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya Cancer Centre at Varanasi, UP. There are 2 PET CT, 1 SPECT CT, High Dose Radioiodine Therapy, and a Theranotic Facility available for the use of nuclear medicine and diagnostic purposes, the Minister informed. **IANS**

Operation Sindoor: Centre issued directions to block over 1,400 fake URLs on digital media

The government issued directions for blocking over 1,400 URLs on digital media during 'Operation Sindoor', as their content included false, misleading, anti-India news content, communally sensitive content -- primarily from Pakistan-based social media accounts, and inciteful content against Indian Armed Forces, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.



Union Railways and Electronics and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha that it was observed that certain social media handles, many operating from outside India, were actively propagating false and potentially harmful information during the Pahalgam terror attack and 'Operation Sindoor.'

"Under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000, the government issued necessary orders to block websites, social media handles and posts in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, and public order," he said.

On April 26, 2025, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had issued an advisory to all media channels to refrain from showing live coverage of defence operations and movement of security forces in the interest of national security.

During 'Operation Sindoor', a centralised Control Room was established for interdisciplinary and inter-departmental coordination. This Control Room functioned 24x7 and facilitated real-time information dissemination to all media stakeholders.

The minister further informed that this Control Room comprised nodal representatives from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, along with officers from various government media units, and officials from the Press Information Bureau (PIB). Social media handles and posts spreading fake news and misinformation were actively identified.

"Fact Check Unit under the PIB actively monitored social media platforms and online news sources in real time to detect fake images, edited videos, misleading narratives, and any manipulated content targeting the operation's objectives, government agencies, or security forces," said Vaishnaw.

The Unit debunked Pakistani propaganda against India and the Indian armed forces and fact-checked many posts countering such content. Additionally, the links related to disinformation or false news concerning 'Operation Sindoor', fact-checked by the FCU, were promptly shared with concerned intermediaries for appropriate action. **IANS**

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in the articles published in these columns are the personal opinions of the authors. The facts and opinions appearing in the articles do not reflect the views of Bright Punjab Express and Bright Punjab Express does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same.

NEWSBRIEFS

6 arrested in Odisha in teacher recruitment paper leak case

BHUBANESWAR: Six people were arrested from different parts of Odisha on Wednesday for their alleged involvement in the paper leak of a teacher recruitment test, police said. The special Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET)-2025 was scheduled to be held on July 20. However, a handwritten question paper with answers went viral on social media a day before, they said. It was found to be the actual copy of the question set prepared by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), DGP (CID-Crime Branch) Vinaytosh Mishra said. The BSE immediately postponed the examination and requested the Crime Branch to investigate the case, he said. **PTI**

Met office forecasts more rains in West Bengal for next seven days

KOLKATA: The Met office on Wednesday forecast heavy rains over Kolkata and districts of south Bengal for the next two days and heavy to very heavy rains in north Bengal districts from Friday onwards. Meanwhile, scattered rains will continue to occur over the south Bengal districts till Sunday. According to the Regional Meteorological Centre in Kolkata's Alipore, at present the low pressure axis is extending from the northeast Arabian Sea over Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Gangetic West Bengal to south Bangladesh. The monsoon axis at present extends to the northeast Bay of Bengal via Sriganganagar, Churu, Gwalior, Khajuraho, Daltonganj, Purulia, and Canning. In addition, a cyclonic circulation is present over the Gangetic West Bengal, resulting in moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal under the influence of the three systems. **PTI**

Operation Sindoor stands for India's new doctrine: JP Nadda contrasts UPA and PM Modi era on terror response

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



In a scathing attack on the Congress-led UPA government, BJP national president and Rajya Sabha MP JP Nadda on Wednesday highlighted what he called a "stark difference" in India's counter-terrorism approach between 2004-2014 and 2014-2025. Speaking during a discussion on Operation Sindoor, Nadda praised the armed forces and security personnel, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "decisive leadership" for transforming India's response to terror.

Comparing two eras of governance, he said, "Between 2004 and 2014, India saw a non-reactive and indecisive government that responded to terror attacks with dossiers, not deterrence," Nadda said, citing a series of high-casualty attacks during the UPA regime - including the 2005 Delhi bombings, 2006 Mumbai train blasts, 2008 Jaipur and Ahmedabad attacks, and the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

He noted that during this phase, despite repeated terror strikes claimed by Pakistan-based outfits like Lashkar-e-Toiba, Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami, and Indian Mujahideen, the then government continued confidence-building measures with Pakistan - opening trade routes, increasing flights, and resuming dialogue. "They served biryani while bullets came from across the border," Nadda remarked. Presenting comparative data, he noted, the country witnessed 7,217 incidents in 2004-2014, while under PM Modi, the terror incidents declined to 2,150 (2015–2025). In civilian deaths, under UPA, the country witnessed the deaths of 1,060 civilians as compared to 542 (under the Modi govt) – a reduction of 49 |per cent. **IANS**

Doctors played important role in nation's development: Murmu

KOLKATA, JULY 30

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday asserted that doctors have played an important role in the nation's development, citing the eradication of many diseases, an increase in life expectancy and progress in the field of vaccination. Murmu, while speaking at the first convocation of AIIMS-Kalyani in Nadia district of West Bengal, also hailed the contributions of the state's second chief minister, Dr B C Roy, who was a medical practitioner himself.

"Doctors, conscious of their social responsibilities, have played an important role in the development of the nation. The average life expectancy, which was only 32 years at the time of Independence, has now more than doubled to about 70 years. There has been extraordinary progress in the field of vaccination in the last few years,"



she said. "Many diseases have been eradicated. For example, India was declared trachoma-free last year. But there are still many challenges in which young doctors will play a decisive role. Doctors have a bigger role than the government and other stakeholders in controlling health problems such as diabetes, heart ailments and obesity," she emphasised.

Highlighting the new changes taking place in the field of medical science every day, the President advised students to be lifelong learners and stay updated on new research and medical methods. The President noted that the foundation stone of the planned city of Kalyani was laid by Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, who, during his long tenure as the chief minister of West Bengal, continued to serve patients free of cost. She urged doctors to follow the example of Dr Roy of providing free medical services to the poor and the deprived. Murmu urged the students, teachers and administrators of AIIMS-Kalyani to make a resolution to make it an institute of national pride.

The President told doctors to adopt such a healthy lifestyle which could be an example for common people to follow. She said that most health problems, other than genetic manifestations, can be prevented or solved to a great extent through proper diet and lifestyle. **PTI**

INDIA Bloc rallies across Bihar post-Raksha Bandhan: Tejashwi

PATNA, JULY 30

Leader of Opposition and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Wednesday announced that the INDIA Bloc will soon launch a state-wide campaign in Bihar, holding rallies across all nine divisions after Raksha Bandhan. The rallies will feature top national leaders, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and representatives from the Left parties.

"We will jointly campaign across all nine divisions of Bihar, with one mega rally in each division. Leaders like Rahul Gandhi and other allies from the INDIA bloc will participate. The rally route plan will be finalised shortly," Tejashwi Yadav stated while addressing the media in Patna after the coordination committee meeting. Highlighting the historical importance of August, Tejashwi remarked, "August is known for revolutions (Kranti). This time, Bihar will witness a new Kranti." The opposition's campaign is set to spotlight a range of issues, including alleged electoral manipulation and large-scale corruption under the current state government led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Yadav targeted the Nitish-led NDA government over the recent CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) report, which flagged that the Bihar government had failed to submit utilisation certificates for Rs 80,000 crore spent by various departments. "These are taxpayers' funds, and there's no accountability for how this massive amount has been used. Nitish Kumar always claims there's zero corruption in his government. Then why hasn't his administration submitted proper records to the CAG?" Yadav asked. **IANS**

Tribal dominated Gadchiroli sets example by creating a record water storage: Maha CM

MUMBAI, JULY 30



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said that tribal dominated Gadchiroli district has set an example for the entire state by creating a record water storage in a short period of time. The district has made unprecedented progress in the field of water conservation under the Silt-Free Dam Silt-Free Shivar Abhiyan. This year, the monsoon started 20 days earlier, which reduced the duration of the work, but the Chief Minister said the district has succeeded in creating a record water storage due to the effective coordination and consistent efforts of the district administration.

The Chief Minister, who reviewed the water storage status in the Gadchiroli district, praised this achievement and said that the success achieved by the district in the field of water conservation is inspiring for the entire Maharashtra. This is a strong step towards water security in rural areas. "Water reservoirs have been constructed in 97 villages of Gadchiroli district, and 64.5 crore litres of water storage capacity has been created in the year 2025-26.

This has ensured the availability of water for thousands of citizens. The special thing is that in this same year, as many as 6,44,601 cubic meters of silt were removed, which is eight times more than the combined performance of the previous two years. Various social organisations and associations have also made important contributions in these works," said the Chief Minister. **IANS**

NISAR to benefit entire world in true spirit of 'Vishwabandhu': Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



Calling the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite a game changer in the precise management of natural disasters, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh, on Wednesday.

NISAR, the first joint Earth observation mission between the ISRO and NASA, combining the expertise and synergies of both agencies, launched aboard the GSLV-F16 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh at 5.40 pm. "Congratulations India! Successful launch of #GSLV-F16 carrying the world's first dual-band radar satellite #NISAR...a game changer in precise management of disasters like cyclones, floods, etc," Singh said in a post on social media platform X.

In about 19 minutes after lift-off, the GSLV-F16 rocket injected the NISAR satellite into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit. It is the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle's (GSLV) first launch into a Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO). Weighing 2,392 kilograms, the satellite will scan the Earth's landmass and ice-covered surfaces every 12 days with high-resolution imagery over a 242-kilometre swath, utilising SweepSAR technology for the first time. "NISAR's capacity to penetrate through fogs, dense clouds, ice layers, etc., makes it a pathbreaking enabler for the aviation and shipping sectors. The inputs from NISAR will benefit the entire world community... in the true spirit of 'Vishwabandhu'," Singh said. He also expressed pride in being "associated with the Department of Space at a time when ISRO is registering one global milestone after the other". NISAR would enable continuous monitoring of disturbances in the ecosystem and help assess natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and landslides. It will track subtle changes in the Earth's crust and surface movement.

The satellite's data will also be used for sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm tracking, crop mapping, and changes in soil moisture. Anil Prakash, DG, SIA-India, hailed the NISAR mission and the collaboration between ISRO and NASA. **IANS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Dinesh Verma S/o Nand Lal Verma, resident of # 19, Friends Colony, Sangrur, do hereby give following public notice:- That I am owner in possession of plot No. 50, Dreamland Colony, Sangrur. I am taking loan against afore-said property from Canara Bank RAH Branch, Bathinda. The previous sale-deed of afore-said plot bearing No. 2211 of dated 12.08.2008 is missing/lost by me on dated 20.07.2025 and after putting lot of efforts, I am unable to find the same. I have registered DDR No. 37 of dated 25.07.2025 with P.S. City Sangrur with respect to same. If anybody/ person find this sale-deed he or she may please deposit the same with Canara Bank Branch RAH Bathinda. If any person has any objection with respect loan to be taken on afore-said property then he or she may give his objection within 03 days and thereafter no objection with respect to the same shall be entertained.

Dinesh Verma S/o Nand Lal Verma

LOST AND FOUND

I, Surendra Kumar Jain S/o Sunderlal Jain, Chief Manager, Bank of India, Moga branch declare that we have lost/misplaced original Transfer Deed bearing wasika No. 808 dated 29.06.2016 in the name of Prabhdeep Singh S/o Jagmel Singh LR No. 614099/ 2025 dt. 29.07.2025 mortgaged with us in home loan account of Prabhdeep Singh (Rode Branch). Any person who finds the same, please contact:
Bank of India, Moga branch within 10 days of publication of this notice.
Chief Manager Surendra Kumar Jain, Mob. No. 6261907809

THE NAKODAR HINDU URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
POST OFFICE ROAD, SABJI MANDI, NAKODAR
CORRIGENDUM
Refer to our E-Action Sale Notice of Mr. Parmod Kumar Bhardwaj S/o Sh. Arjun Dass, published in Bright Punjab Express and Desh Sewak on 17th July, 2025. In this notice kindly read Reserve Price Rs. 77,50,000/-, EMD of Rs. 7,75,000/- and Bid Increase Amount Rs. 50,000/- and Last date & Time of EMD on 07.08.2025 upto 04.00 PM, Date and Time of E-Auction on 11.08.2025, 12.00 Noon to 02.00 PM instead of Reserve Price Rs. 80,75,000/-, EMD Rs. 8,07,500/- and Bid Increase Amount Rs. 50,000/- and Last date & Time of EMD on 30.07.2025 upto 04.00 PM, Date and time of E-auction on 31.07.2025, 12.00 Noon to 02.00 PM. Others will remain the same.
AUTHORISED OFFICER

दी कठाणीआं बहुमंतवी सहिकारी खेतीबाड़ी सेवा सभा लिम: कठाणीआं तहिसील ज़िल्ला अंमृतसर
लोड़ है
सेलज़मैन-कम-कैशीअर दी
उमर : 18 तों 40 साल
योगता : ग्रैजुएशन (दसवीं पंधर ते पंजाबी दी पड़ाई ज़रूरी)
120 घंटे दा कंपिउटर कोरस कीता होवे।
उमीदवार दाइरा कारेबार दा पक्का वसनीक होवे।
दरखासतां दी आखरी मिती :
26-8-2025 सां शाम 4 वजे तक।
छरती दी मिती : 2-9-2025
संपरक करो : प्रधान सभा
मो. नं. 9855120219

DELHI/NCR

HC seeks police's reply on plea against pubs, bars running illegally without proper liquor licence

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought to know about the action taken by police against bars, pubs, clubs and restaurants allegedly operating in the city illegally and serving liquor without a proper licence. A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela issued notices to the Delhi government and the city police and asked them to file their responses containing details of such bars, pubs and restaurants.

"The affidavit by the respondents should also contain the details of action taken in case the bars, pubs and restaurants mentioned in the petition are found violating the provisions of law," the bench said. The court has listed the matter for further hearing on August 27. Petitioner Mahtab Khan has claimed that several restaurants, clubs, pubs and bars in the city are operating illegally, without the L-16 licence, causing loss to the government.

Senior advocate Kirti Uppal and lawyer Sitab Ali Chaudhary, representing the petitioner, submitted that despite pointing out the illegality through a representation, the authorities have failed to take any action and stop these establishments from operating after the permitted time limit. The plea has pointed out that under the Delhi Excise Act and Rules, standalone bars, restaurants, clubs and pubs are prohibited from operating and selling alcohol after 1 am unless they possess the L-16 licence.

Despite this, numerous establishments have been found to be serving alcohol well past the permitted hours, sometimes operating until 7 am, in blatant disregard for the law, it has alleged. "In recent weeks, the petitioner sent some persons to visit the establishments listed in the petition, all of which have been found to operate past the legally permitted time and sell alcohol without the required licences. "The list is only inclusive and not exhaustive, as mentioned in the petition, indicating 21 such bars, pubs, clubs and restaurants, that is, violators. Such places organise events and parties each night which go on till 7 am without the requisite licence and permit," the plea has claimed. **PTI**

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I Kulwinder Singh Ratol Singh Village Saraud (Malerkotla) have changed my name to Kulwinder Singh.

I, SANDEEP MONGIA S/O ASHOK KUMAR MONGIA R/O H.NO 304 B,St.no 9 Satjot Nagar Dhandra road Dugri (Ludhiana) have Changed my minor daughter name from Ananya mongia to Ananya.

I SARBJIT SINGH S/o HARDEV SINGH R/o H.NO 8781, ST.NO 24, KOT MANGAL SINGH (LUDHIANA) have changed my name to SARABJIT SINGH.

I, KULWINDER KAUR W/O SATNAM KUMAR R/O NEAR CHUNGI, GURU RAMDASS NAGAR, BHAMIAN KHURD, (LUDHIANA) have CHANGED my NAME to KULWINDER (GIVEN NAME) KAUR (SURNAME).

I, Jiwan Jyot Singh S/O Tejinder Singh Khanna R/O H. No. 33 Top Floor, Opp. Hotel Imperial Sant Isher Singh Nagar Pakhowal road (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Jiwan jyot Khanna.

I, Tejinder Singh R/O H. No.33 Top Floor, Opp. Hotel Imperial Sant Isher Singh Nagar Pakhowal road (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Tejinder Khanna.

I, Rajni Mittu W/O Kulwant Singh Mittu R/O Plot No. 113 Akash Nagar Near Jalandhar Byepass (Ludhiana) declare that my father was two names Subash Chand and Subhash Chander but his actuall name is Subash chand.

I, Manpreet Singh Aluna S/O Jasvir Singh R/O Village Phallewal, District Ludhiana have changed my name to Manpreet Singh.

I, Amit Gilhotra S/O Gurbax Rai Gilhotra R/O H. No. 9966 St.no 09 Joshi Nagar Haibowal kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Amit Kumar Gilhotra.

I, Palak Chopra W/O Vipan Chopra R/O H. No 7398/2 Mandir Wali Gali Near Shiv Mandir Durgapuri Haibowal kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Palak.

I, Mamta W/O Sunny Masih R/O H.no. 111, St.no 3, Baba Jiwan Nagar Tajpur Road (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Mamta Masih. after marriage.

I, Ranjeet Panjabi W/O Inderjit Singh R/O H.no. 1807 Phase 1, Urban Vihar Dugri (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Ranjeet Arora.

I, Amarjeet S/O Maninder Singh R/O H.no. 12288, St. no 4, Indra colony (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Amarjit.

I Gurwinder Kaur W/O Mandeep Singh R/O H. No. 8702 St.no 6 Near Harsh Vidia Mandir School New Subhash Nagar Basti Jodhewal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Gurvinder Kaur.

I, Gurmit Singh S/o Harnam Singh R/o 7 Aman Bagh, Near Sirhind Road, Patiala, Punjab-147001, Have Changed My Name to Gurmeet Singh to Gurmit Singh.

ਮੋਟਰ ਕੁਨੈਕਸ਼ਨ ਸੂਚਨਾ

ਟਿਊਬਲ ਕੁਨੈਕਸ਼ਨ ਖਾਤਾ ਨੰਬਰ ਏਪੀ 30/192 ਐਚ ਜੋ ਭਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸਵਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਚੱਲ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਗੁਰਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਬਦੀਲੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਇਤਰਾਜ 30 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਪਾਵਰਕਾਮ ਦਿਹਾਤੀ ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਗੁਰਾਇਆਂ ਕੋਲ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Jaswinder Singh S/o Mohinder Singh R/o H.No. 1-A, Punjland, Estate, Nabha Road, Patiala declare that my son Harmanjot Singh and my wife Paramjit Kaur are beyond my control. I Evict them from all my moveable / immoveable properties. Anyone dealing with them shall do so on their own risk, I or my family will not be responsible.

I Suhail Kumar Chandwani S/o Atal Kumar R/o Flat No. A-6, Royal View Homes, Omaxe Royal Residency, Pakhowal Road, Ludhiana declare that my wife Deepa Chandwani D/o Mahesh Kumar Bhurani is out of my control. She does not pay any respect to me and rather she has been creating troubles in my life. I hereby disown and disinherit her from all my movable and immovable properties. Any person dealing with her may do so at his/her own responsibility.

I, RATHOD CHANDRAI BAI is legally Mother of Army No-14862578H ,RANK-NK/MT, NAME- MUNI DAS , UNIT-557 ASC BATTALION, (MTN DIV) PIN-905557, C/O 99 APO, I have change my Date of Birth from 20/05/1962 To 01/01/1967, Due to wrong entry in my son army Service Record. My Correct name RATHOD CHANDRAI BAI & My Date of Birth is 01/01/1967 Vide Affidavit No. : INPB 59231638099383X Date 30.07.2025

I Shashi Kaushal W/o Naresh Kaushal R/o Plot No. 12near Rajan Estate, Joginder Nagar, Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana declare that my son Robin Kaushal and his wife Anjali Kaushal both are quarrel with me always and out of my control. So I disinherit them from my movable-immovable properties. If anybody deals with them then he/she will be responsible from today. All concerned to be noted.

ਮੈਂ, ਸੁਨੀਲ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਓਮ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ: ਬੀ-2-179, ਗਾਂਧੀ ਨਗਰ, ਜਲੰਧਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਸਚਿਨ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਨ ਮਰਜੀ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ ਵਾ ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਅਸੀ ਭਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੁਨਸਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਪਰਮਲਾ ਦੇਵੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਭਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਦੁਲਵਾਂ ਤਹਿ: ਖਮਾਣੋ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਤਿਹਗੜ੍ਹ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਅਸੀ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਸਾਡਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਸੁਖਰਾਜ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਡੇ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਅਸੀ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਅਸੀ ਭਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੁਨਸਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਪਰਮਲਾ ਦੇਵੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਭਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਦੁਲਵਾਂ ਤਹਿ: ਖਮਾਣੋ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਤਿਹਗੜ੍ਹ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਅਸੀ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਸਾਡਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਸੁਖਰਾਜ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਡੇ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਅਸੀ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

LOST AND FOUND

I, Jarnail Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/o H. No. 315, Model Town, Kapurthala have lost the original Sale Deed No. 1528 dated 11.07.2008, attested by Sub Registrar, Kapurthala of House No. 315, Model Town, Kapurthala, measuring approx. 6 Marlas, exexcuted by Gurcharan Singh S/o Himmat Singh S/o Satnam Singh R/o 28-B, Jagatjit Park, Kapurthala General Attorney from Tajinder Singh S/o Ajit Singh S/o Kirpal Singh and Rajinder Kaur w/o Tajinder Singh S/o Ajit Singh residents of Moh. Topkhana, Kapurthala in favor of Kuldeep Kaur w/o Jarnail Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/o V.P.O Pattar Kalan, Teh. Kartarpur, District Jalandhar, has been lost on 10.07.2025. I have lodged missing report in this regard vide GD No. 002 dated 28.07.2025 at P.S. City, Kapurthala. The same is not deposited with any govt./private bank/financial institution. If anybody finds it then please return it. He/she will be suitably rewarded. Contact No. 9888623030

ਬਾਅਦਾਲਤ ਨਾਇਬ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ-ਕਮ-ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕਲੈਕਟਰ ਦਰਜਾ ਅੱਵਲ ਸਬ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ, ਢਿਲਵਾਂ

ਵਿਸ਼ਾ: ਮਾਲ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਾਲਕ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਦਰੁਸਤ ਕਰਨ ਸਬੰਧੀ।

ਨੋਟਿਸ ਬਨਾਮ ਜਨਰਲ ਪਬਲਿਕ

ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਦਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਗੁਰਬਚਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੁ: ਆਮ ਵੱਲੋ ਜਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਨੰਗਲ ਲੁਬਾਣਾ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਭੁਲੱਥ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਕਪੂਰਥਲਾ ਨੇ ਇੱਕ ਦਰਖਾਸਤ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮਾਲ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਾਕਿਆ ਰਕਬਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਨੂਰਪੁਰ ਲੁਬਾਣਾ ਸਬ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਢਿਲਵਾਂ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਕਪੂਰਥਲਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਸਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਜਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸੇਵਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਤਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਲਤ ਚਲਦਾ ਆ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਜਦਕਿ ਉਸਦਾ ਅਸਲ ਨਾਮ ਜਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਉਰਫ ਜਸਬਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸੇਵਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਉਰਫ ਸੇਵਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਤਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਹੈ। ਪ੍ਰਾਰਥੀ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਨਾਮ ਦਰੁਸਤੀ ਲਈ ਦਰਖਾਸਤ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਾਮ ਦੀ ਸੋਧ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਚ ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਅਸਾਲਤਨ ਜਾਂ ਵਕਾਲਤਨ ਸਾਡੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਾਜਰ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਛਪਣ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਮਿਆਦ ਗੁਜਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਸੁਣਿਆ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਨਾਮ ਦੀ ਸੋਧ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਨਾਇਬ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ-ਕਮ-ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਦਰਜਾ ਅੱਵਲ ਸਬ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ, ਢਿਲਵਾਂ।

PUBLIC NOTICE



Before Sh. Naveen, Danics, Assistant Estate Officer (Exercising the powers of the Estate Officer) U.T., Chandigarh
Subject :- Regarding Transfer of ownership in Respect Residential Site 1041, Sector 37-B, Chandigarh to the extent of 20.00% share on the basis of Sale Deed registered at Sr. No 6779, Book No. 1, Vol. No_,Page No._, dated 21.03.2013.
It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Sh. Anand Dhingra is the owner of Residential Site 1041, Sector 37-B, Chandigarh to the extent of 20.00% share.
It has been informed by Sh. Purnanand Sharma that Sh. Anand Dhingra Through GPA/SPA Sunil Nanda and Anil Nanda owner of above said property to the extent of 20.00% share had executed Sale Deed to the extent of 20.00% share in favour of Sh. Purnanand Sharma on 21.03.2013 and same has been registered at Sr. No. 6779, Book No. 1, Vol. No_,Page No._, dated 21.03.2013 in the office of Sub-Registrar, U.T., Chandigarh. Now Sh. Purnanand Sharma has applied for the transfer of 20.00% share of above said property in his favour on the basis of Sale Deed Dated 21.03.2013.
If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicant, he/she/they may furnish the same in writing (supported with affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/Notary) in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiary and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.
Naveen, Danics, Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the powers of Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh

Modi govt has worked to strengthen every sector by formulating inclusive policies: Haryana CM Saini

CHANDIGARH, JULY 30



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday said the BJP-led government at the Centre has worked to strengthen every sector by formulating inclusive policies for all sections of the society and preserving India's rich culture and traditions.

Saini said the country is progressing rapidly towards becoming a developed nation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

"The Central government has worked to strengthen every sector by formulating inclusive policies for all sections of the society and preserving India's rich culture and traditions," he added.

The chief minister said that India has today "emerged as a bright spot on the global stage" under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

"The nation's economy has risen from the 11th to the fourth position and citizens have benefited from a wide range of facilities and services over the past 11 years," Saini, who was on a visit to Kurukshetra district, told reporters in Pehowa.

Commenting on Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, the chief minister said that the Opposition attempted to disrupt and stall parliamentary proceedings merely to gain political mileage.

Prime Minister Modi, however, presented the truth before the nation during the session, he added.

Saini further said Prime Minister Modi is a globally respected leader and added that people have strong faith in his policies. PTI

Assess fire station requirements across state based on population: CM Saini

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that keeping in view the increasing population, the need for fire stations should be assessed across Haryana so that the establishment of new fire stations can be ensured under the requirement.

The Chief Minister chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Chief Minister's announcements here on Tuesday. He said that it is the state government's primary responsibility to ensure the availability of essential services such as roads, electricity and water for residents in hilly regions like Morni.

The CM asserted that even if there is only one household in a remote area, the concerned departments must take appropriate action to provide basic amenities, ensuring that no resident faces any inconvenience.

During the meeting, Nayab Singh Saini directed that a special campaign be launched to make the state free of stray cattle. He instructed the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department to work in mission mode, in coordination with the Urban Local Bodies Department and the Gau Seva Commission, to ensure that all stray cattle are removed from roads and public places and safely relocated to gaushalas within two months.

BJP playing with Ayushman scheme, lives and health of public: Hooda

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 30

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that the BJP government is playing with its own Ayushman scheme, the lives and health of the public. It seems that this government has started the Ayushman scheme and forgotten it.

The government owes Rs 400 crore to private hospitals. The government has not paid it for a long time. Due to this, the Indian Medical Association has refused to treat Ayushman card holders after August 7.

Hooda said that this is not the first time that this has happened. Ever since this scheme started, the payment of private hospitals has been delayed. Due to this, hospitals refuse to treat Ayushman card holders and patients have to wander here and there for treatment. This is directly a deadly tampering with the public.

He said recently, the government cut down the Ayushman scheme and said that private hospitals will not treat 5 diseases. These include cataract operation, uterus operation, gallbladder, vomiting, diarrhoea and respiratory diseases. The Indian Medical Association was surprised at the government's decision. It said that instead of paying the private hospitals on time, the government stopped treating those five diseases which are most common.

The government has completely ruined the health system of the state, said Hooda.



Clouds cover the skyline, in Gurugram on Wednesday. PTI

Haryana BJP appoints party MLAs as incharges of 42 seats it lost in 2024 polls

CHANDIGARH, JULY 30

The Haryana BJP on Tuesday appointed party MLAs, including several ministers, as incharges of 42 assembly seats where its candidates lost in the 2024 state polls, party sources said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the BJP Legislature Party here.

In 2024, the BJP returned to power for a third consecutive term in Haryana, winning 48 of the total 90 seats. The Congress won 37 seats, the INLD two and three seats were won by Independents.

Haryana BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli appointed the incharges of the 42 seats, which are represented by opposition MLAs in the present House.

These seats include Ambala City, Baroda, Julana, Dabwali, Sirsa, Adampur, Hisar, Garhi Sampla Kiloi, Rohtak, Jhajjar, Nuh and Panchkula.

Names of ministers Vipul Goel, Gaurav Gautam, Rao Narbir Singh, Ranbir Gangwa, Mahipal Dhanda, Krishan Kumar Bedi, Arti Singh Rao and Shruti Choudhry figure among the incharges. PTI

13-year-old dies due to electrocution while trying to retrieve kite in Haryana village

YAMUNANAGAR, JUY 30

A 13-year-old boy died due to electrocution while trying to retrieve a kite that got stuck in high-tension electric wires in this Haryana district, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in Dharamkot village on Tuesday, they said, adding that two other boys had a narrow escape.

Police said the victim died due to severe burns caused by an electric shock. PTI

Wanted criminal killed in encounter in Yamunanagar

YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 30

A wanted criminal allegedly involved in several cases, including those of extortion and possession of illegal weapons, was killed in an encounter here on Wednesday, the police said.

Acting on an input that the accused, Bhima, was present on Ratoli road, the police reached the spot, Superintendent of Police, Yamunanagar, Kamal Deep Goyal said.

Bhima allegedly opened fire at the cops and tried to escape, but he was injured in an exchange of fire and was taken to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead, the officer added. Police said a weapon, live cartridges and a motorcycle were allegedly recovered from the spot. PTI

Haryana Human Rights Commission seeks report on Hisar wall collapse that left 4 children dead

CHANDIGARH, JULY 30

The Haryana Human Rights Commission has taken cognisance of the death of four children in a wall collapse incident in Hisar last year and directed the concerned authorities to submit detailed reports before the next hearing scheduled for October.

The incident took place on December 22, 2024, at a brick kiln in Budana village. Three children were injured in the wall collapse.

The matter was brought to the commission's attention through a complaint filed by a human rights activist.

The deceased minors' parents were migrant labourers from Uttar Pradesh working at the brick kiln, observed the bench of the commission comprising chairperson Justice Lalit Batra and Members Kuldip Jain and Deep Bhatia.

Many families of labourers from Uttar Pradesh worked at the kiln in Budana. The children and some labourers were sleeping near one of the walls of the brick kiln when it collapsed on them.

The commission remarked that the workers and their families were living in extremely inhumane and unsafe conditions.

According to the commission, this was a preventable tragedy that occurred due to a lack of legal enforcement and failure to provide basic human necessities, Dr Puneet Arora, Information and Public Relations Officer of the Commission, said.

On preliminary examination, the commission termed the incident a gross violation of human rights and a clear case of administrative failure. It also observed that the circumstances reflected indicators of bonded labour, which is prohibited under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

The commission, under the leadership of Justice Batra, stated that the brick kiln owner had both a moral and statutory duty to provide secure housing, clean drinking water, sanitation facilities, and workplace safety to labourers and their families.

The commission found this to be a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution of India and of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In its order dated July 24, the commission has directed the authorities concerned to submit detailed reports within eight weeks.

The deputy commissioner of the district will be confirming whether any compensation has been granted to the affected families, while the assistant labour commissioner will investigate the existence of bonded labour at the site and initiate appropriate remedial action, the commission noted. PTI

HIMACHAL/J&K

Dispute over cremation of Dalit man resolved after police intervention in Himachal

HAMIRPUR, JULY 30

Residents of two villages in the Barsar area of Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district were involved in a dispute over the cremation of a Dalit man's body, prompting intervention from the local administration and police.

The dispute took place at the Bhevad Saheli crematorium in Kadasai Panchayat on Tuesday, when villagers from Bhevad Saheli and Nanawan confronted each other over the performance of last rites.

The issue began after the designated cremation ground for the Scheduled Caste community of Nanawan village became unusable due to rain and a rapidly flowing ravine.

As a result, the deceased's family turned to the nearby Bhevad Saheli crematorium, which was opposed from the local residents and led into a heated argument between the two groups.

Later, as tensions escalated, the police and local authorities were informed about the matter, and with their intervention, the matter was resolved peacefully, allowing the cremation to proceed.

The dispute arose due to the existence of caste-based cremation grounds. According to the representatives of the Kadasai Panchayat, residents of Nanawan village had earlier sought permission to use the Bhevad Saheli cremation site during the monsoon season.

However, the Panchayat declined the request due to lack of consensus among the villagers. PTI

Himachal Cabinet approves amendments to compassionate job policy, with priority for widows

SHIMLA, JULY 30



The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, presided over by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, on Wednesday, approved amendments to the existing Compassionate Employment Policy, with priority for widows and parentless applicants below 45 years and dependents of government officials who died while performing their duties.

As per the revised policy, the annual income eligibility criterion per family has been enhanced from Rs 2.5 to 3 lakh.

Additionally, in cases where vacancies under the existing five per cent quota for such appointments are unavailable, the Cabinet permitted a one-time relaxation of the quota to ensure eligible applicants are accommodated, an official statement said.

It decided to increase the number of B.Sc. nursing seats at Sister Nivedita Government Nursing College in Shimla from 60 to 100.

The Cabinet approved the establishment of a new B.Sc Nursing College with an annual intake of 60 seats at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College at Tanda in Kangra district, besides the creation and filling of 27 posts of various categories was also sanctioned.

The Cabinet allowed to engaging women workers in shops and commercial establishments to work in night shift from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. to provide them place gender equality.

It was also decided to grant maternity benefits to every woman employee working in such establishments as prescribed under the Maternity Benefit Act of 1961. The Cabinet constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan on the development of Medical Device Park spread over 300 acres in Nalagarh.

The Sub-Committee has been asked to submit its report within two months.

The Cabinet also approved the extension of the pact between the government and Alliance Air Aviation Limited for operating flights on the Shimla-Dharamsala-Shimla route.

It will be effective till June 30, 2026.

It allowed the cancellation of 172 small hydro projects below five megawatts under Himachal Pradesh Energy Development (HIMURJA), where construction work had been stalled for an extended period and cancelled projects will be re-advertised.

It was further decided to apply a uniform free power royalty of 12 per cent along with an additional one per cent for the Local Area Development Fund for all hydro projects up to five MW that will be allotted in the future. PTI

Terrorist OGW arrested with 3 pistols by police in Jammu district

JAMMU, JULY 30



An overground worker (OGW) of terrorists was arrested with three pistols in J&K's Jammu district while he was travelling towards Srinagar in a private vehicle, police said on Wednesday.

The youth, identified as Azan Hameed Gazi, son of Abdul Hameed Gazi of Qamarwari area in Srinagar, was arrested after arms and ammunition were recovered from his possession during a check in the Nagrota area of the district on Tuesday night.

"Based on specific input, a party from the police station Nagrota laid a special 'Naka' (checkpost) at TCP Bypass, Nagrota at around 9.20 p.m. yesterday. During checking, a car, which was heading towards Srinagar from Jammu, was intercepted. During the search of the vehicle, police recovered three pistols, three empty magazines, eight live cartridges, and two empty cartridges from the possession of the driver," a police official said.

The driver was arrested, an FIR under relevant sections of the Arms Act registered at Police Station Nagrota, and further investigation is going on, the official added.

Security forces have intensified their operations against the terrorists, OGWs and terror sympathisers in the hinterland, while the army has been maintaining a 24X7 vigil on the line of control (LoC) to thwart any infiltration from across the border into J&K. PTI

People of Kishtwar receive pucca houses under PMAY, beneficiary thanks govt

KISHTWAR, JULY 30



The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) continues to transform lives across India by providing pucca houses to economically weaker sections, especially in remote and underserved areas. One such beneficiary, Pawan Kumar from Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling his lifelong dream of owning a solid and safe home.

Speaking to IANS, Pawan Kumar said: "I am from Nagseni. We used to live in a kutcha house. Ever since PM Modi launched this scheme, we have hoped for a better future. Today, we have a proper house, and we live in it comfortably. You can see all the fittings and lighting. I thank PM Modi sincerely for giving us this house in my mother's name. Earlier, we used to live in a snowy area, and water would leak into our home. Now, thanks to this pucca house, we are safe and warm. Once again, I express deep gratitude to PM Modi."

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), launched on November 20, 2016, was envisioned to provide housing for all by ensuring pucca homes for the poorest in rural areas. Beneficiaries are identified through a three-tier validation system, including the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011, the Awaas+ (2018) survey, and Gram Sabha approvals, with final selection based on geo-tagging and evidence-based monitoring. IANS

AMARNATH YATRA 2025

Number of pilgrims likely to cross four lakh mark

SRINAGAR, JULY 30



With over 3.93 lakh devotees having 'darshan' so far during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, the figure is likely to cross four lakh within the next two days.

On Wednesday, another batch of 1,339 Yatris left for the Valley from Jammu. The first escorted convoy of 16 vehicles carrying 328 Yatris left at 3.28 a.m. for Baltal base camp, while the second escorted convoy of 42 vehicles carrying 1,017 Yatris left at 3.48 a.m. for Pahalgam base camp.

In addition to this, many devotees are arriving directly for the Yatra, who avail of on-the-spot registration to undertake the journey to the two base camps.

Registration is available at both the base camps for those arriving directly. The Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), which manages the affairs of the Yatra, has been facilitating the pilgrims to undertake the pilgrimage without facing hardships.

On the Nag Panchami occasion on Tuesday, 'Chhari Pujan' was performed at the Amareshwar Temple inside the Dashnami Akhara Building in Srinagar. The prayer was led by the sole custodian of Lord Shiva's holy mace (Chhari Mubarak), Mahant Swami Deependra Giri, accompanied by Sadhus from across the country. IANS

NEWSBRIEFS

Typhoon Co-May makes landfall in China's Zhejiang province

HANGZHOU: Co-May, the eighth typhoon of this year, made landfall in east China's Zhejiang Province at about 4.30 a.m. Wednesday, according to the provincial meteorological observatory. The typhoon, with the maximum wind force near its centre reaching 23 metres per second, churned ashore at Zhoushan City of Zhejiang, Xinhua news agency reported. Zhejiang upgraded the emergency response level for Typhoon Co-May from IV to III at 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, according to the provincial emergency management department. China has a four-tier emergency response system, with Level I being the most severe response. Earlier on July 28, China's Ministry of Water Resources had activated a Level-IV emergency flood response in four provincial-level regions Shanghai, Jiangsu, Anhui and Jiangxi -- in response to Typhoon Co-May, the eighth typhoon of the year. **IANS**

Taiwan reports Chinese military activity near its territory

TAIPEI: Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) has said that 11 Chinese military aircraft and six naval vessels were detected operating near Taiwan until 6 am (local time) on Wednesday. According to Taiwan's MND, 10 out of 11 sorties of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait and entered Taiwan's southwestern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). In response to China's military action, Taiwan's armed forces monitored the situation and deployed aircraft, naval vessels, and coastal-based systems. "11 sorties of PLA aircraft and 6 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 10 out of 11 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly," Taiwan's MND posted on X. **IANS**

At least 46 Palestinians killed by Israeli fire, Gaza hospitals say, as the war drags on

DEIR AL-BALAH, JULY 30



Israeli strikes and gunfire in the Gaza Strip killed at least 46 Palestinians overnight into Wednesday morning, most of them among crowds seeking food, local hospitals said.

The dead include more than 30 people who were killed while seeking humanitarian aid, according to that treated dozens of wounded people.

The Israeli military didn't immediately comment on any of the strikes, but says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, because the group's militants operate in densely populated areas.

The deaths came as the United Kingdom announced that it would recognize a Palestinian state in September, unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, following a similar declaration by France's president. Israel's foreign ministry said that it rejected the British statement.

The Shifa hospital in Gaza City said that it received 12 people who were killed Tuesday night when Israeli forces opened fire towards crowds awaiting aid trucks coming from the Zikim crossing in northwestern Gaza.

Thirteen others were killed in strikes in the Jabaliya refugee camp, and the northern towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, the hospital said.

In the southern city of Khan Younis, the Nasser hospital said it received the bodies of 16 people who it says were killed Tuesday evening while waiting for aid trucks close to the newly-built Morag corridor, which separates Khan Younis from the southernmost city of Rafah.

The hospital received another body for a man killed in a strike on a tent in Khan Younis, it said.

The Awda hospital in the urban Nuseirat refugee camp said that it received the bodies of four Palestinians who it says were killed Wednesday by Israeli fire close to an aid distribution site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, or GHF, in the Netzarim corridor area, south of the Wadi Gaza.

In addtion, seven Palestinians, including a child, have died of malnutrition-related causes in the Gaza Strip in the past 24 hours, the territory's health ministry said on Wednesday. A total of 89 children have died of malnutrition since the war began in Gaza.

The ministry said that 65 Palestinian adults have also died of malnutrition-related causes across Gaza since late June, when it started counting deaths among adults.

Hamas started the war with a militant-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, in which around 1,200 people and abducted 251 others. They still hold 50 hostages, though Israel believes that more than half the remaining hostages are dead. Most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals. **AP**

Netanyahu slams UK's plan to recognise the state of Palestine

TEL AVIV, JULY 30



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sharply criticised UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer over his plan to recognise the State of Palestine, accusing him of rewarding "monstrous terrorism" of Hamas.

"Starmer rewards Hamas's monstrous terrorism & punishes its victims. A jihadist state on Israel's border TODAY will threaten Britain TOMORROW. Appeasement towards jihadist terrorists always fails. It will fail you too. It will not happen," the Office of the PM of Israel posted on X on Wednesday.

Meanwhile the Foreign Ministry of Israel also dismissed the decision, stating that such a move by the British government would undermine efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza and secure the release of hostages.

"Israel rejects the statement by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The shift in the British government's position at this time, following the French move and internal political pressures, constitutes a reward for Hamas and harms efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza and a framework for the release of hostages," the Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a post on X.

The remarks came after Starmer issued a statement on Tuesday saying that the British government would recognise the State of Palestine in September, during the United Nations General Assembly, to "protect the viability of the two-state solution."

"I can confirm the UK will recognise the state of Palestine by the United Nations General Assembly in September unless the Israeli government takes substantive steps to end the appalling situation in Gaza, agree to a ceasefire and commit to a long-term, sustainable peace, reviving the prospect of a Two State Solution,"

read a statement issued by British PM office.

"And this includes allowing the UN to restart the supply of aid, and making clear there will be no annexations in the West Bank. Meanwhile, our message to the terrorists of Hamas is unchanged and unequivocal. They must immediately release all the hostages, sign up to a ceasefire, disarm and accept that they will play no part in the government of Gaza. We will make an assessment in September on how far the parties have met these steps," the statement added. **IANS**

Japanese PM reaffirms intent to keep good Seoul-Tokyo ties

TOKYO, JULY 30



South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun met with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Wednesday, during which the Japanese leader reaffirmed his intent to maintain and further develop good relations with Seoul.

made the remarks during his 15-minute meeting with Cho at the prime minister's residence earlier in the day, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said during a press briefing.

"While maintaining and building on the favorable momentum in South Korea-Japan relations, I also intend to advance cooperation among South Korea, the US and Japan," Ishiba was quoted as saying.

Hayashi said he believes the two countries have been communicating closely since the Lee Jae Myung administration took office, describing South Korea and Japan as "important neighbors and partners" on many international issues.

Cho arrived in Tokyo on his first overseas trip since taking office last week. Cho is scheduled to fly directly to Washington for talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Thursday (US time).

Cho held talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya the previous day, during which he highlighted South Korea's efforts to bolster ties with "friendly nations" under the Lee government, signaling an intent to maintain the thaw in bilateral relations with Japan.

In a subsequent meeting with South Korean correspondents in Tokyo, the South Korean foreign minister said he has emphasised to Japanese officials the need to develop bilateral ties in a future-oriented manner, Yonhap news agency reported.

Cho said he is confident that the first step in South Korea-Japan relations has been successfully taken amid rapidly shifting international circumstances.

"Both sides shared an understanding of the necessity of South Korea-US-Japan cooperation, although further details need to be fleshed out," the minister noted.

In Washington, Cho said he plans to discuss trilateral cooperation and propose detailed Seoul-Washington collaboration on technology, including artificial intelligence, as part of efforts to reach a tariff deal.

"I will work toward reaching a deal smoothly," he said. A senior foreign ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there have been no "missteps or snags" in the ongoing tariff negotiations between Seoul and Washington, adding a final deal could be reached before the Aug. 1 deadline, when reciprocal US duties are set to take effect. **IANS**

Australia to include YouTube in under-16 social media ban

CANBERRA, JULY 30

Australia will include YouTube in its world-first social media ban for children younger than 16 after initially granting the platform an exemption, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced on Wednesday. Albanese and Anika Wells, the minister for communications, said at a press conference in Canberra that the federal government has accepted a recommendation from its online safety regulator, the eSafety Commissioner, to include YouTube in the social media ban.

YouTube was initially granted an exemption from the ban, which will come into effect from December 10, due to its education and health content, but eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said in formal advice to the government in June that the platform exposes children to harmful content, Xinhua news agency reported.

Albanese said on Wednesday that the government is prepared to "take action" against social media platforms that cause social harm. "We know this is not the only solution, and there's more to do. But it will make a difference," he said. Wells said that the decision to include YouTube in the ban was about "prioritising parents ahead of platforms."

The announcement comes after YouTube, and parent company Google, earlier in July, threatened legal action on constitutional grounds against any move by the government to remove the platform's exemption.

Wells said on Wednesday that the government would not be intimidated by technology companies. **IANS**

South Africa says work underway to reach deal with US over tariff issues

JOHANNESBURG, JULY 30



South Africa is working to reach an agreement with the United States, with the deadline for the 30 per cent tariff imposed by Washington on South Africa set to come into effect in three days, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition said in a statement.

According to the statement, "the intersection of geopolitical, domestic and trade issues" defines the current impasse between South Africa and the United States, Xinhua news agency reported. "We remain committed to the cause as we await substantive feedback from our US counterparts on the final status of our Framework deal," said the South African trade department.

It further noted that "intense" negotiations have been underway with the United States. "We have signed a condition precedent document and have readied our inputs for entry into the template, which is to follow from the US," it said.

"Despite the challenges that have been presented by this period, we have put our best foot forward, bringing together the subject specialists within our ranks that have dug deep to ensure that our country is adequately prepared for a number of potential scenarios. We have planned for these scenarios and have not sat idle," the department said.

It also rejected any plan to "decouple" from the United States, noting that South Africa "took the decision not to retaliate" to the tariffs announced by Washington. **IANS**

Majority of Australians doubt that AUKUS pact will deliver submarines

CANBERRA, JULY 30

A majority of Australians doubt that the country will ever receive nuclear-powered submarines under the AUKUS security agreement, a survey has found. The survey conducted by independent market research firm Essential Research as part of its fortnightly polling on Australian issues, found that 60 per cent of respondents believe it is "not that likely" or "not likely at all" that the US will ever deliver submarines to Australia under AUKUS.

Six per cent of respondents to the survey, which is published by the Australian online edition of UK-based newspaper The Guardian, said they believe it is "very likely" that the AUKUS pact will deliver nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, and 34 per cent said it is "quite likely," Xinhua news agency reported. A majority of respondents, among all age groups and genders, said they believe it is unlikely that Australia will receive the submarines. Respondents aged 55 and above were the most doubtful, with 65 per cent saying the delivery of the submarines is "not that likely" or Y"not likely at all." **IANS**

Russian missiles hit Ukrainian army training ground, killing at least 3 soldiers

KYIV, JULY 30



A Russian missile hit a Ukrainian army training ground, killing three soldiers and wounding 18 others, authorities said, in the latest attack to embarrass military officials as they struggle to make up a severe manpower shortage in the nearly three-and-a-half-year war.

The Russian Defence Ministry said that the strike killed or wounded about 200 Ukrainian troops. The ministry said that Ukraine's 169th training centre near Honcharivske in the Chernihiv region was hit with two Iskander missiles, one armed with multiple submunitions and another with high explosives.

Meanwhile, Russia continued its stepped-up aerial campaign against Ukrainian civilian targets, launching 78 attack drones overnight, including up to eight newly developed jet-powered drones, Ukraine's air force said Wednesday. At least five people were wounded.

Civilian casualties

The UN mission in Ukraine says there has been a worsening trend in civilian casualties from Russian attacks this year, with 6,754 civilians killed or injured in the first half of 2025 — representing a 54 per cent increase from the same period in 2024.

Since Russia launched an all-out invasion of neighbouring Ukraine on February 24, 2022, at least 13,580 Ukrainian civilians, including 716 children, have been killed, according to the UN.

In an effort to stop that, US President Donald Trump said Tuesday he's giving Russian President Vladimir Putin until August 8 for peace efforts to make progress or Washington will impose punitive sanctions and tariffs.

Western leaders have accused Putin of dragging his feet in US-led peace efforts in an attempt to capture more Ukrainian land.

Recent attacks under investigation Ukrainian forces are mostly hanging on against a grinding summer push by Russia's bigger army, though the Russian Defence Ministry has claimed some recent small advances at places along the 1,000-kilometre front line.

Ukrainian ground forces acknowledged that a Russian strike hit a military training ground in the Chernihiv region of northern Ukraine, but its casualty report differed widely from one issued by Moscow.

A Russian Defence Ministry video showed multiple small explosions apparently caused by a missile with a shrapnel warhead followed by one big blast, apparently from the other one armed with a high-explosive warhead. **AP**

Indonesia warns of possible minor tsunami in coastal areas after Russia quake

JAKARTA, JULY 30



Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) on Wednesday issued a warning of a possible tsunami of less than 0.5 metres following a powerful earthquake in Russia.

The agency said the possible tsunami could affect several coastal areas across Indonesia, with varying arrival times starting from midday."Coastal communities in the potentially affected areas are advised to remain calm and temporarily stay away from the shoreline," said Daryono, head of BMKG's earthquake and tsunami mitigation division.

The affected areas may include parts of Gorontalo, North Maluku, North Sulawesi, West Papua, Papua, and Southwest Papua provinces, such as Gorontalo City, North Halmahera, Talaud Islands, Sorong, Supiori, Manokwari, Jayapura, Biak Numfor, Sarmi, and Raja Ampat.

Daryono also urged the public to rely solely on official information from BMKG, available through its verified communication channels, Yonhap news agency reported. **IANS**

18 countries apply for EU billions as Europe seeks to provide for its own security without the US

BRUSSELS, JULY 30

Eighteen European Union countries have applied for billions of euros from a new defence fund aimed at helping Europe provide for its own security, the bloc's executive branch said Wednesday, with Poland seeking more than a third of the money.

The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) fund is a 150-billion-euro (USD 173 billion) programme of cheap loans that member countries, Ukraine and outsiders with an EU security agreement, like Britain, can use to buy military equipment together.The fund was launched after the Trump administration signalled that Europe is no longer a US security priority. It's for buying key equipment like air and missile defence systems, artillery, ammunition, drones and "strategic enablers" like air-to-air refuelling.

European Commission said that Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain had applied for money so far.

They have requested at least 127 billion euros (USD 147 billion) in total, it said.Polish Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said on Tuesday that his government has identified defence projects worth around 45 billion euros (USD 52 billion), but that the amount it receives will depend on how the commission allocates funds. **IANS**

lifestyle



Sidharth

on 'Pardesiya': It's been one of my personal favourite love songs to shoot

After announcing the release date and unveiling the motion poster of "Param Sundari", the makers have finally dropped the first song titled "Pardesiya", which actor Sidharth Malhotra says has been one of his personal favourite love songs to shoot. Sidharth said: "Pardesiya isn't just a song, it's a feeling that stays with you long after it ends. Sachin–Jigar and Amitabh have yet again created pure magic. The moment I heard the track, I knew it had something special."

He added: "Sonu sir's voice brings a timeless emotion to it, and lip syncing to his voice for a love song is truly special. Shooting alongside Janhvi was effortless. It's been one of my personal favourite love songs to shoot...." Pardesiya is the first track from Param Sundari and is sung by Sonu Nigam and Krishnakali Saha. Composed by Sachin–Jigar, written by Amitabh Bhattacharya, Pardesiya captures the ache of longing, the pause before the first touch, the unsaid emotion between two hearts. The music is under the label Universal Music.

Actress Janhvi Kapoor shared that she was very excited for this one. "I have always had a soft corner for love songs and Pardesiya is one of the best that I have worked on. Having Sonu Nigam's voice elevate the emotion makes it truly unforgettable. I'm sure the audience will love it," said the actress.

Talking about the song, Sonu Nigam said that it's always a joy to lend his voice to heartfelt love songs. "And Pardesiya from Param Sundari is truly special. People poured so much love on the first look that I was already very excited for the full song. Watching Sidharth and Janhvi bring that chemistry to life on screen makes it even more magical. Their pairing is fresh and electric, and I'm sure audiences are going to fall in love with them—and the song." Set in the serene backwaters of Kerala, and featuring the fresh and electric pairing of Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor, the song sets the emotional tone for the story of Param and Sundari.

The makers of "Param Sundari" on Wednesday also unveiled the motion poster of the upcoming film and announced that the cross cultural romance movie will hit the big screen on August 29.

Janhvi, Sidharth and Maddock in a collaborative post on Instagram unveiled the motion poster featuring the two stars. In the poster, Sidharth is seen looking handsome in a shirt paired with jeans along with a bag on his shoulder. The actress looks every inch an Indian beauty as she does a classical dance form dressed in a saree. In the motion poster the two can be seen crossing paths. **IANS**



Twinkle Khanna

calls out her pet dog's unimpressed attitude in playful post

Former actress and author Twinkle Khanna took to social media to share a lighthearted post featuring her pet dog. In a post on Instagram, she reflected on how her furry companion remains the most unimpressed co-star she's ever had. With a mix of humor and charm, Twinkle gave a glimpse into her everyday life with her four-legged friend. On Tuesday, the Mela actress posted her two images, where she is seen posing holding her pet dog in her arms. For the caption, the Mrs Funnybones author wrote, "I've shared the spotlight with humans, egos posing as humans, and even a python once. But this one is by far the least impressed-with me, the camera, or life in general. When does your dog make you feel like you're the pet?."

Notably, Twinkle Khanna often shares glimpses of her bond with her pet dog on social media. Back in April, she posted heartwarming images of herself cuddling him and affectionately referred to him as the "lightbulb in all our hearts." "The lightbulb in all our hearts. Are you a dog person? Tell me the cutest thing your furry friend does in the comments below," Khanna wrote as the caption.

Meanwhile, Twinkle Khanna recently grabbed attention with the announcement of her upcoming chat show alongside actress Kajol. Titled "Two Much with Kajol and Twinkle," the show will be co-hosted and directed by the duo. **IANS**

Lara Dutta

ends July with a heart full of 'love and gratitude'

Actress Lara Dutta decided to conclude the month of July 'with a heart full of love and gratitude'. The former Miss Universe took to her official Instagram handle and dropped a couple of pictures with her husband, Mahesh Bhupathi, and daughter Saira from their recent getaway.

The first photo showed Lara and Mahesh lovingly looking into each other's eyes. This was followed by a perfect family photograph of the two lovebirds with their daughter posing amidst a beautiful backdrop. The post further showed the 'Partner' actress posing on a sofa in a beautiful hall. She was also seen enjoying her coffee in a cute cafe.

Lara also gave us a glimpse of a beautiful table, filled with an appetizing cake and complimentary flowers. "Nearing the end of July with a heart full of love and gratitude..... for life..... family.....friends like family," she captioned the post.

In another update, Lara's father, retired wing commander LK Dutta, passed away in Mumbai on May 31st at the age of 84.

Recalling some fond memories with her late father, Lara penned a heartfelt note on social media saying, "Some moments with my father are etched into my bones forever..... my dad hoisting a 3 year old me up on his shoulders to look at the stars at night and call out all the constellations..... the feet that I stood on as a five year old to learn to waltz.....the hand that I held as I scampered as fast as I could beside him to match his stride as we walked through eucalyptus groves and planned how I would study under Carl Sagan..... the lap I sat on while I air played an imaginary piano to the sound of his favourite Richard Clayderman tape....."

Work-wise, Lara will be seen in the latest instalment of the 'Welcome' franchise, "Welcome to the Jungle".

Made under the direction of Ahmed Khan, the project boasts an ensemble cast featuring Akshay Kumar, Raveena Tandon, Suniel Shetty, Disha Patani, Aftab Shivdasani, Jacqueline Fernandez, Arshad Warsi, and Tusshar Kapoor, along with others. **IANS**

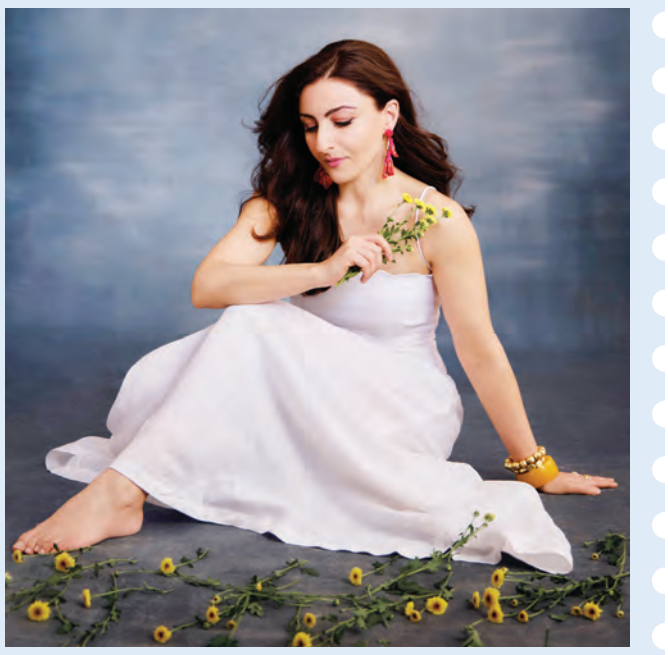


Soha Ali Khan reveals why she starts her morning with 'raw garlic'

Actress Soha Ali Khan revealed that since the past four weeks, she has started her morning with a "little bite" of "raw garlic". Soha took to Instagram, where she shared a reel video. In the clip, the actress is seen having a clove of garlic.

For the caption, she wrote: "So for the past four weeks I have been starting my mornings with a little bite of raw garlic Why? Because this tiny clove is a powerhouse for immunity, gut health, inflammation, and overall balance. It's ancient wisdom that still holds strong." The actress then shared that she starts her morning wellness routine with raw garlic.

"I take one raw clove on an empty stomach, chew for as long as I can to activate the magic compound allicin (tell me your best time!) and then swallow with water. If you are not brave enough to chew you can crush it and let it rest for ten minutes," added Soha. She warned that "raw garlic" is not everyone's cup of tea. "It's not for everyone — if you're on blood thinners, have tummy sensitivity, or planning surgery, always check with your doc first! PS: Yes, the garlic breath is real but so are the benefits - so I suggest a good brushing of the teeth and a healthy dose of mouthwash after #WellnessRituals #MorningHabits #HolisticHealth #GarlicGlowUp." **IANS**



Sonam Kapoor

wishes hubby Anand on b'day: Find me in every lifetime

On her husband's birthday on Wednesday, actress and fashionista Sonam Kapoor penned a heartfelt note for Anand Ahuja and lovingly asked him to find her in "every lifetime". Sonam took to Instagram, where she shared a motley of pictures featuring Anand and their toddler son Vayu.

"My July Leo... Your name, Anand, is the most beautiful name in the world because it means joy , bliss and that's exactly what you bring into my life every single day," Sonam wrote in the caption. She added that Anand is the most "loving" person she knows. "You are the most thoughtful, kind, and loving person I know, and life is so much better because you're in it. Even though we're both imperfect, God made us perfect for each other," Sonam added. The actress added a romantic note in the end and said: "Love you to the moon and back and then some. Happy happy birthday my baby. Find me in every lifetime, because I'll always be looking for you."

It was in May 2018, when Sonam and Anand got married after years of dating. They welcomed their son, Vayu, in August 2022.

Earlier in the day, Sonam's father and veteran star Anil Kapoor wished his son-in-law Anand. The Bollywood star said that he is not just his daughter Sonam's "better half", but truly the "heart" of their family. Anil took to Instagram, where he shared a picture featuring him and Anand. In the image, the two are seen twinning in black outfits and sunglasses. The two are seen looking into the camera and smiling as they posed for a photograph.

"Happy Birthday, Anand! From being the coolest sneakerhead to the most hands-on dad — you somehow manage it all without missing a beat (or dropping the ball)! You're not just Sonam's better half, but truly the heart of our family. The love, calm, and chaos you bring is something we all cherish," Anil wrote as the caption. He added: "Here's to more hugs, dad drives, walks and all the adventures you have with vayu, your business wins, and family brunches! We love you and are lucky to call you ours @anandahuja." **IANS**

NEWSBRIEFS

Samsung and Startup India sign MoU

CHANDIGARH: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Startup India, a flagship initiative of the Government of India, to empower young innovators from remote corners of India and strengthen the country's startup ecosystem with Samsung Solve for Tomorrow. The MoU was signed in New Delhi and brings together Samsung's flagship nationwide innovation contest, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, and Startup India's robust national ecosystem of incubation, mentorship, and policy support. **BPE**

Toyota Kirloskar Motor signs MoU with Govt of Maharashtra

CHANDIGARH: In line with its enduring commitment to sustainable social impact and holistic community development, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Zilla Parishad to support the comprehensive infrastructure development of Zilla Parishad Kendriya Prathamik School (ZPKPS) in Bidkin, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. **BPE**

Tata Motors launches Ace Pro

JALANDHAR: Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, creating a new milestone in cargo mobility with the launch of the all-new Tata Ace Pro, heralding a transformative era in small cargo mobility. With an unbeatable starting price of just Rs. 3.99 lakh, the Tata Ace Pro is India's most affordable four-wheel mini truck, delivering exceptional efficiency, unmatched versatility, and superior value. **BPE**

IFAT Delhi 2026 poised to transform North India's environmental tech landscape

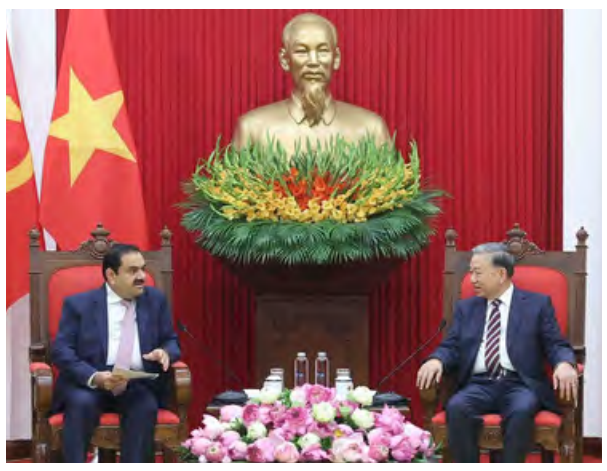
CHANDIGARH: India's rapid growth across industries and infrastructure sectors have also put the spotlight on the environment impact of this growth. Against this backdrop, IFAT Delhi is set to debut in the nation's capital from April 22-24, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, marking a new chapter in India's sustainability movement. For almost 60 years, IFAT has served as the global launchpad for environmental innovation, and in India, its legacy is well established. 11 successful editions in Mumbai have proven that when the right people come together-technology experts, policymakers, municipal leaders-real, lasting change can follow. Now, Messe Muenchen India is bringing that momentum to Delhi. **BPE**

Dr Mittal seeks answers on impact of inflation on affordable housing

CHANDIGARH: Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP and Founder-Chancellor of Lovely Professional University, Dr Ashok Kumar Mittal carrying forward his commitment to raise people-centric issues sought clear answers from the Union Government on the inflationary pressures affecting India's affordable housing sector. In an opportunity via a starred question during the Monsoon Session today, Dr Mittal asked the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry about rising housing prices, the impact of interest rate cuts on affordability, why developers are exiting affordable projects, and what measures exist to lower land costs and support first-time homebuyers. Replying to Dr Mittal's targeted questions, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Shri Manohar Lal acknowledged that the Centre does not maintain data on housing prices or rent trends, despite concerns over affordability rising nationwide. Interestingly, while the Housing Price Index has grown 5.3% annually since 2018, key support measures like tax exemptions and concessional GST rates have expired by 2022. **BPE**

Look forward to enabling deeper Vietnam–India economic partnerships: Adani

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, on Wednesday met To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, saying that he looks forward to enabling deeper Vietnam–India economic partnerships.

In a post on social media platform X, Gautam Adani hailed Lam's bold reforms and visionary agenda to position Vietnam as a regional leader across sectors, including ports and energy.

"It was a privilege to meet H.E. To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam. His bold reforms and visionary agenda to position Vietnam as a regional leader in energy, logistics, ports and aviation reflect exceptional strategic foresight," said the billionaire industrialist.

Gautam Adani further added that "We look forward to contributing to this transformative journey and enabling deeper Vietnam–India economic partnerships".

India and Vietnam have longstanding trade and economic relations. According to official data for FY25, bilateral trade reached $15.76 billion, registering an increase of 6.40 per cent year-on-year. India's exports to Vietnam amounted to $5.43 billion, while Indian imports from Vietnam amounted to $10.33 billion.

In FY 2024-2025, Vietnam was India's 20th largest trading partner and 15th largest export destination globally.Last week, India's Ambassador to Vietnam, Sandeeep Arya, visited Tien Sa Port as Indian Naval Ships Delhi, Shakti, and Kiltan made a port call in Vietnam's Da Nang, highlighting efforts to deepen maritime ties and advance maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

The deployment aligns with India's vision of 'MAHASAGAR' and underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to being a preferred partner. The visit to Vietnam marks another milestone in strengthening the India-Vietnam strategic partnership and advancing a rules-based, inclusive maritime order in the Indo-Pacific.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh on the sidelines of the 2025 BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Vietnam became a participant in the BRICS in January this year.

India and Vietnam share traditionally close and warm bilateral relations that are denominated as a comprehensive strategic partnership. India-Vietnam relations were elevated in 2016 to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Vietnam. Notably, earlier, the relations were designated as a 'Strategic Partnership'. **IANS**

4,557 EV public charging stations installed on highways and expressways: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



A total of 4,557 electric vehicle (EV) public charging stations (PCSs) have been installed across a length of 146,342 km on the state, National Highways, and Expressways in the country, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

Uttar Pradesh leads with 507 public EV charging stations, followed by Karnataka at 489, Maharashtra at 459, Tamil Nadu at 456 and Rajasthan at 424, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

"As per information available with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a total of 4,557 EV Public Charging Stations (PCSs) have been installed on the state/National Highways/ expressways in the country," he said.

The minister further stated that there is no scheme for providing incentives to the Charging Point Operators (CPOs).Meanwhile, 4,625 EV charging stations are currently operational in tier 2 cities in the country (as on April 1, 2025).

The government recently said that with a financial outlay of Rs 2,000 crore, the PM E-Drive scheme will support the installation of approximately 72,000 EV public charging stations across the country.

These stations will be strategically deployed along 50 National Highway corridors, within high-traffic destinations such as metro cities, toll plazas, railway stations, airports, fuel outlets, and state highways, the Ministry of Heavy Industries had said in a statement.

The PM E-DRIVE scheme was launched in October 2024 to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) through demand incentives and expand EV charging infrastructure nationwide. The Centre has allocated Rs 10,900 crore for subsidies to EVs under this scheme.z

The Centre has also allocated Rs 873.50 crore towards the installation of 8,932 Electric Vehicle Public Charging Stations (EVPCS) by the three oil marketing companies (OMCs), namely IOCL, BPCL and HPCL, under the FAME-II Scheme. **IANS**

India's affordable housing finance sector AUM to reach ₹2.5 lakh crore by FY28

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



Retail mortgage-backed loans offered by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) in the country are projected to expand to Rs 20 lakh crore by FY28, from Rs 13 lakh crore as of March 2025, to which the share of affordable housing finance companies (AHFCs) would rise to Rs 2.5 lakh crore from Rs 1.4 lakh crore, a report said on Wednesday.

Mortgage loans by the NBFCs and the AHFCs are expected to expand at a CAGR of 17-19 per cent and 20-22 per cent, respectively, by FY28, credit rating agency ICRA said in its report.

"Over the next three years, retail mortgage loan growth will be driven by robust demand and the restricted availability of alternative credit options due to ongoing issues with unsecured lending," said A.M. Karthik, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head-Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA Limited.

This sector has traditionally demonstrated strong performance, marked by low loan losses and healthy business returns, he added.

The housing finance companies (HFCs) accounted for about two-thirds of these overall mortgage loans, and within this, AHFCs constituted 11 per cent of the overall AUM (Rs 13 lakh crore) as of March 2025.

According to the report, the AHFCs have a higher share of self-employed borrowers and loans against property in their portfolio compared to other large HFCs focused on the prime borrower segments (prime HFCs). The AHFCs have a sizeable share of smaller ticket loans, and their AUM growth has been quite steep in the recent past, resulting in low portfolio seasoning.

Some leading AHFCs, accounting for close to 70 per cent of the AHFC industry AUM, non-performing assets (NPAs) have remained under control at 1.1-1.3 per cent over the last three years, with average credit cost as a proportion of average managed assets being around 0.3 per cent over this period, the report stated. As per the report, the AHFCs have an average LTV of around 55 per cent and have a sizeable share of loans extended for self-construction of homes (around 40 per cent of AUM), which is expected to keep their credit quality under control. **IANS**

India to host AI impact summit 2026, leading global dialogue on democratising AI

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

India is set to host the AI Impact Summit in February 2026, reinforcing its commitment to democratising Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the public good, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

This landmark event aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making technology accessible to all and leveraging AI to tackle real-world challenges across healthcare, education, agriculture, climate, and governance, Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav told the Lok Sabha.The IndiaAI mission, which prioritises accountability, safety, equity, and the defence of privacy and human rights, is at the core of India's AI strategy.

According to the statement, one of the main highlights is the creation of native Large and Small Language Models using Indian datasets.

Currently, startups such as Sarvam AI, Soket AI, Gnani AI, and Gan AI are developing foundational models that are suited to the linguistic and cultural diversity of India.

According to the statement, these models will be open-source, allowing other startups to create locally tailored applications. **IANS**

IndiGo's Q1 net profit slumps 29 per cent sequentially, revenue falls nearly 7.5 pc

MUMBAI, JULY 30

InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of budget airline IndiGo, on Wednesday reported a 29 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 2,176 crore for the June 2025 quarter (Q1 FY26) from Rs 3,067 crore in the January–March quarter of FY25.

On year-on-year (YoY) basis, the airline posted a 20.26 per cent drop in its profit from Rs 2,729 crore in the same period previous year (Q1 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing.



Revenue from operations declined 7.47 per cent to Rs 20,496 crore in the April–June quarter, from Rs 22,152 crore in the preceding quarter.However, on YoY basis, it rose 5 per cent from Rs 19,570 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

The company's expenses rose 10 per cent in the June quarter to Rs 19,232 crore, up from Rs 17,445 crore in the same period previous year, which affected its profit growth.

However, compared to the previous quarter, expenses remained almost unchanged, coming in at Rs 19,928 crore, the company stated in its regulatory filing.

Commenting on the results, Pieter Elbers, CEO, said, "The June quarter was shaped by significant external challenges that created headwinds for the entire aviation sector." **IANS**

Microsoft restores services to Russian oil firm Nayara Energy after court case

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

Tech giant Microsoft on Wednesday informed that services were restored to the Russia-backed oil exploration and marketing company Nayara Energy, two days after Nayara alleged that Microsoft had abruptly cut off access to its data and services.

In a statement, the company said it is "committed to supporting all its customers in India and worldwide and has restored services for Nayara Energy". "We are engaged in ongoing discussions with the European Union towards service continuity for the organisation," said a company.

Nayara Energy, which operates fuel retail outlets in India, is primarily owned by Russia's Rosneft, which owns nearly 49 per cent of the company. Trafigura and UCP Investment Group, both foreign companies, jointly own the majority of the remaining stake via an Indian consortium.

Earlier this week, Nayara Energy filed a petition in the Delhi High Court, alleging that the US-based technology firm abruptly and unilaterally suspended essential services without notice.

Nayara sought immediate restoration of services to protect its rights and ensure continued access to important digital systems.

According to Nayara, Microsoft blocked access to the data and services due to sanctions announced by the EU against Russian companies earlier this week, in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **IANS**

Stock markets advance for 2nd day on buying in L&T; Sensex gains 144 pts

MUMBAI, JULY 30



Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Wednesday driven by heavy buying in infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro.

Rising for the second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 143.91 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at 81,481.86. During the day, the barometer moved in a narrow range and rose by 281.01 points or 0.34 per cent to hit a high of 81,618.96.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 33.95 points or 0.14 per cent to close at 24,855.05.

US trade deal uncertainty and foreign fund outflows restricted the gains to a large extent, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro jumped 4.87 per cent after the infrastructure major reported a 29.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,617.19 crore during the June quarter, driven by strong overseas order growth.

Sun Pharma, NTPC, Maruti, Bharti Airtel, Trent and Axis Bank were also among the gainers.

Tata Motors was the biggest loser among Sensex stocks, dropping by 3.47 per cent amid reports that the auto maker was in advanced talks to acquire the truck division of an Italian company in a USD 4.5 billion deal.

Stock exchanges have sought clarification from the company related to the reports.

"Tata Motors is down amid concerns linked to its acquisition of an Italian company," Gaurav Garg, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

However, Tata Motors, Power Grid, Eternal, Bajaj Finserv and Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards.

"The domestic market ended the session marginally positive after a range-bound trade, despite ongoing uncertainty around the delayed India-US trade agreement and mixed earnings.

"The investors turned more stock/sector specific based on the Q1 results; the industrial segment gained momentum after robust earnings from L&T. The auto sector underperformed, largely due to tariff-related pressures. Investors are now focusing on the US Fed's policy meeting, as its stance on rates and inflation could shape global sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,636.60 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

US President Donald Trump has said the trade deal with India is not finalised, as he stressed that India imposes more tariffs than almost any other country. Trump spoke to reporters on Tuesday on Air Force One on his way back to Washington from Scotland and was asked about the trade deal with India.

"No, it's not," Trump said when asked if the deal with India is finalised. He was also asked about reports that India is preparing to face higher US tariffs between 20-25 per cent, to which he replied, "I think so."

"Markets traded in a tight range and ended marginally higher amid mixed cues. After a flat start, the Nifty oscillated within a narrow band throughout the session and finally settled at 24,855.05. **IANS**

PARTHIV PATEL
"I DON'T THINK INDIA WILL MAKE ANY CHANGES THERE. KL RAHUL AND JAISWAL HAVE PROVIDED SOLID STARTS THROUGHOUT THE SERIES, SO THERE'S NO REASON TO ALTER THAT COMBINATION."

AMID DISSENT BY SEVERAL OPPN MPS

Chance for upbeat India to land knockout punch on Stokes-less England

LONDON, JULY 30



India's prospects of signing off the UK tour with some serious bragging rights brightened by a few notches on the eve of fifth Test with England's talismanic skipper Ben Stokes and pacer Jofra Archer rendered unavailable for the game starting Thursday.

Stokes, the inspirational skipper who pushed the limits of his body while bowling in the last two Tests, was ruled out with a muscle tear on his right shoulder while comeback man Archer was rested after the workload of playing in back-to-back matches.

Pacer Brydon Carse and left-arm spinner Liam Dawson have also been rested.

There are players whose mere presence makes a difference and the England skipper, a world class all-rounder with 304 runs and 17 wickets in the series, is one such character.

What the English team will miss most at The Oval is his inspirational presence when the chips are down and showing the way how it is done.

Stand-in captain Ollie Pope will have his task cut out as the Indian team, even without Jasprit Bumrah, is expected to go for the kill.

The series, played in front of packed crowds, has also been a perfect advert for Test cricket with all four games stretching to the final session on day five. Not to forget the skirmishes along the way that have spiced it up enough for the fans of the game's traditional format.

From Shubman Gill's tirade against Zak Crawley for "deliberately" wasting time at Lord's to Ravindra Jadeja refusing to call off proceedings on the final day at Old Trafford, things couldn't have gotten hotter before the series entered the final phase in sweltering London.

Gautam Gambhir, who is always up for a scrap, has only intensified it with his altercation with Oval curator Lee Fortis two days before the game.

In this backdrop, expect the series finale to go down to the wire as India under the ever-improving Gill has a chance to land a killer blow on an English team whose bowling attack will undergo a sea-change with no specialist spinner in the playing XI.

Gus Atkinson and Jamie Overton, the two Surrey players, who know The Oval track like the back of their palms, will be joining forces with Chris Woakes and Josh Tongue to make it a four-pronged attack. With Woakes being the only bowler who has remained constant from first to fifth Test, England are giving indications of continuing with their Bazball way, having inducted a specialist heavy duty hitter in Jacob Bethell.

In his first series as captain of a team undergoing a major transition, Gill has led from the front and with 722 runs so far, he is only 52 shy off Sunil Gavaskar's record of most runs by an Indian in a single rubber.

He needs another 11 runs to surpass Gavaskar's record of most runs (732) by an Indian captain in a Test series (1978-79 vs West Indies).

The 25-year-old has come of age with four hundreds thus far including a double century and a match-saving 103 in the previous Test at Old Trafford. After low returns in three innings, Gill played the most defining knock of his career in Manchester to enhance his reputation, not just as a batter but also as a captain.

Having played a massive role in earning a famous draw from an almost hopeless situation, Gill and his team go into the match with momentum on their side but gaps to fill.

With 511 runs, K L Rahul has been a model of consistency at the top of the order but more will be expected from Yashasvi Jaiswal and number three Sai Sudharsan on what is generally a decent batting surface. In injured Rishabh Pant's absence, Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja are expected to round up the top six following unbeaten hundreds, which denied England a victory in the fourth Test. **PTI**

TEAMS:
Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope (c), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Jamie Overton, Josh Tongue.
INDIA (FROM): Shubman Gill (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav, Anshul Kamboj, Arshdeep Singh, N Jagadeesan (WK).
Match starts at 3:30 pm IST.

Really hope Gill delivers another big contribution in crucial final Test, says Patel

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



Former wicketkeeper-batter Parthiv Patel said he is hopeful of skipper Shubman Gill delivering another huge contribution with the bat in the upcoming fifth Test against England, starting at The Oval on Thursday.

In four matches played so far, Gill has amassed 722 runs, including hitting four centuries at an average of 90.25. The right-handed batter is also 11 runs shy of surpassing Sunil Gavaskar's record of the most runs scored in a Test series as an Indian captain.

"Everyone would want him to maintain the kind of form he has shown. There were a lot of questions raised earlier in this series about his struggles in overseas conditions, where he wasn't getting runs or converting starts. But he has answered all those questions brilliantly. Hopefully, he continues this momentum.

"Even before this fifth Test match, people were talking, and that too after he had already scored 600 runs in the series. One bad Test at Lord's, and questions started coming up again. So, I really hope Shubman Gill delivers another big contribution in this crucial final Test," said Patel, who saw Gill as Gujarat Titans' assistant coach in IPL 2025, to JioHotstar.

> **"Even before this fifth Test match, people were talking, and that too after he had already scored 600 runs in the series. One bad Test at Lord's, and questions started coming up again. So, I really hope Shubman Gill delivers another big contribution in this crucial final Test,"**

Apart from Gill, senior opener KL Rahul has been a consistent run-scorer for India by making 511 runs at an average of 63.87. "I think the way KL Rahul has batted throughout this series has been impressive. In the past, we've often seen him start a series well but struggle to maintain that form.

"This time, however, he has shown remarkable consistency and batted with great responsibility. He also enjoys batting at The Oval remember, in 2018, he scored a brilliant hundred there alongside Rishabh Pant. So, I'm sure there's more to come from KL Rahul," added Patel.

With Rishabh Pant ruled out due to a fractured right foot, Patel has backed Dhruv Jurel to be in the playing eleven as wicketkeeper-batter. Whenever Pant was absent from keeping duties due to injuries, Jurel stepped in admirably as a substitute keeper.

"I don't think India will make any changes there. KL Rahul and Jaiswal have provided solid starts throughout the series, so there's no reason to alter that combination. I believe Dhruv Jurel will be the designated wicketkeeper. The only question is, at what number will he bat? But I'm certain we'll see him in the playing XI," concluded Patel. **IANS**

No Stokes, Archer; Ollie Pope to lead England in fifth Test against India

LONDON, JULY 30



Injured skipper Ben Stokes and lead pacer Jofra Archer will not be part of the fifth and final Test against India, starting here from Thursday, as England made three changes to their playing XI for the series-deciding game.

The hosts lead the series 2-1 after four intensely fought Test matches that has also had its fair share of controversies.

Ollie Pope will lead the side in Stokes' absence.

Stokes, who has led the team from the front and has claimed 17 wickets while scoring some vital runs with bat, will miss out on the game at The Oval due to a shoulder injury, while Archer has been rested after having made his return to Test cricket following a long gap of four years.

Pacer Brydon Carse will also miss the final Test, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a press release on Wednesday.

> **"Captain Ben Stokes is unavailable due to a right shoulder injury. Also missing out are spinner Liam Dawson and pace bowlers Jofra Archer and Brydon Carse.**

"Captain Ben Stokes is unavailable due to a right shoulder injury. Also missing out are spinner Liam Dawson and pace bowlers Jofra Archer and Brydon Carse.

"England have included Jacob Bethell, who will bat at No.6. Surrey bowlers Gus Atkinson and Jamie Overton come into the side, along with Nottinghamshire quick Josh Tongue," the ECB said. **PTI**

India Champions refuse to play Pakistan in WCL semifinal: Sources

NEW DELHI, JULY 30



India Champions have declined to participate in the World Championship of Legends semifinal against Pakistan, scheduled for Thursday, maintaining their previous stance of not engaging in competitive fixtures against their arch-rivals.

India Champions entered the semifinals of the ongoing World Championship of Legends after defeating West Indies Champions in just 13.2 overs in their last group match on Tuesday.

"Indian players have refused to play against Pakistan in the WCL semifinal scheduled for Thursday," sources told IANS on Wednesday.

Earlier, the league stage game between the two nations was officially called off, following strong objections from Indian players and a principal tournament sponsor, which was follwed by public declarations from former India cricketers, including Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan, who stated they would not participate in the match.

Earlier on Wednesday, WCL's one of the main sponsors, EaseMyTrip, pulled out of the India-Pakistan WCL semifinal, reaffirming its longstanding policy of non-participation in any match involving Pakistan.

"We applaud Team India @India_Champions for their outstanding performance in the World Championship of Legends, you've made the nation proud. However, the upcoming semi-final against Pakistan is not just another game, Terror and cricket cannot go hand in hand. @EaseMyTrip, we stand with India. We cannot support any event that attempts to normalise relations with a country that promotes terrorism. **IANS**

Coach has every right to look at pitch: Gill on Gambhir's tiff with Oval curator

LONDON, JULY 30



Captain Shubman Gill threw his weight behind Gautam Gambhir following his fiery exchange with The Oval's chief curator Lee Fortis, firmly asserting that the Indian coach is well within his rights to inspect the square.

During India's training session on Tuesday, Fortis reportedly asked the Indian coaching staff to stay 2.5 metres away from the main pitch square, despite them wearing joggers or rubber spiked shoes, prompting frustration from the Indian camp. Gambhir was heard saying "You don't tell any of us what we need to do... you have no right to tell us. You are just a groundsman, nothing beyond."

When Gill was asked about the tiff on the eve of the final Test, the skipper replied "What happened yesterday was unnecessary."

"Coach has every right to look at the wicket. Don't understand why curator won't allow that. As long you are wearing rubber spike or are bare feet (it should not be a problem) ....don't know why he said no. There was no such issue in the last four games," he added. Incidentally on the day, leading English players like batting mainstay Joe Root and strand-in skipper Ollie Pope were found standing on the match pitch doing shadow batting. **PTI**

Bayern Munich signs Liverpool forward Luis Diaz on 4-year deal

MUNICH, JULY 30



Bayern Munich signed Liverpool winger Luis Díaz to a four-year contract on Wednesday in the German champion's biggest deal of the offseason so far.

The move balances out Liverpool's heavy spending with a fee reported at 75 million euros ($87 million) by German media, while Bayern dips into the millions it earned at the Club World Cup, a competition Liverpool didn't qualify for.

Díaz had been with Liverpool since 2022 and scored 17 goals in 50 games across all competitions last season as the club won the Premier League title.

"From today on I'm part of this lovely family," Diaz said in Spanish in a video message posted on Bayern's social media accounts.

Liverpool had dismissed talk of the 28-year-old Colombia winger leaving but its approach shifted when he was left out of the squad for a preseason friendly loss to AC Milan on Saturday.

Diaz's departure comes in an offseason where Liverpool has spent heavily strengthening a team that won a record-equaling 20th English league title last term.

Coach Arne Slot has focused on his attack with the signings of Florian Wirtz and Hugo Ekitike. Liverpool's total spend is around $342 million and there could be more arrivals before the transfer window shuts on Sept. 1. Bayern's offer appears to have been too good to refuse and could heighten speculation that the Premier League champion will move for Newcastle forward Alexandar Isak.

Diaz joined Liverpool from Porto for an initial 45 million euros ($50 million) in 2022 replacing Sadio Mané, who went to Bayern and won the Premier League, FA Cup and two English League Cups in his time at Anfield. **AP**

Ex-Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka signs three-year deal at Sunderland

TYNE AND WEAR, JULY 30



Former Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka has returned to the Premier League by signing for newly-promoted Sunderland from German side Bayer Leverkusen for a reported fee of 17 million Pounds.

Xhaka, who spent seven years at Arsenal after joining from Borussia Monchengladbach in 2016, has agreed a three-year deal with Sunderland.

The 32-year-old Switzerland international becomes the Black Cats' seventh signing of a busy summer transfer window as Regis Le Bris' side, who won promotion via the Championship playoffs, look forward to their first top-flight campaign since 2016/17.

Upon arrival, Xhaka said, "I'm very proud to be here. When I spoke to the Club, I was excited and I felt the energy, and the mentality that all the people and players have. It's exactly what I wanted, and I have a very good feeling. We are back to where this Club needs to be, and we want to stay here to write our own history. I feel that I'm ready to help the team with my experience but with quality as well. We need to find ourselves on the pitch, but I don't think this will be a big problem. It's been a long time to wait, but I'm here now and I'm looking forward to it."

Xhaka started his career with FC Concordia Basel before joining FC Basel in 2002, aged 10.

After rising through the ranks he progressed into the senior team under Thorsten Fink ahead of the 2020-11 season. He made his debut in a UEFA Champions League tie against Debreceni VSC and scored within four minutes, with his first league appearance following soon after. After winning back-to-back Swiss titles, Xhaka joined Borussia Mönchengladbach in May 2012, and he was named in the Bundesliga Team of the Season for the 2014-15 campaign.

A seven-year association with Arsenal started in May 2016 and included two Emirates FA Cup successes, two FA Community Shield wins, and 297 appearances.Xhaka scored 23 goals and contributed 29 assists in North London, cementing his place as a fan favourite at the Emirates Stadium before exiting to join Leverkusen in July 2023. **IANS**

Printer, Publisher & Owner: Dr Tejinder Pal Singh. Printed at IE Press, C-5, Institutional Area, Sector 6, Panchkula-134108 and published at SCO 118-119 (First Floor), Sector 8-C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh-160009. Managing Editor-cum-Managing Director: M.P.S. Pali.
Editor-in-Chief: A.S.Prashar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act, 1867) All Rights Reserved. Reproduction of any manner, electronics or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior permission prohibited.
Editorial and Advertising Offices: Head office: SCO 46 G, BRS Nagar, Ludhiana-141012 Phone 0161-2464630. Chandigarh Office: SCO 118-119, (First Floor), Sector 8-C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh-160009 Phones: 0172-5016121, 4087118, E-mail: brightpunjab.desk@gmail.com