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Deep space exploration next, prepare for it: Modi to scientists on National Space Day

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked space scientists to prepare for a deep space exploration mission to unravel the secrets that brighten the future of humanity.

In a video address on the National Space Day, Modi announced that India was preparing to set up a pool of astronauts for future missions and urged the youth to be part of this group.

"We have reached the moon and Mars. Now, we have to peek into deep space, where several secrets that would benefit the future of humanity lie hidden," Modi said.

Achieving one milestone after another in the space sector has now become a natural trait of India and its scientists, Modi said.

"Beyond galaxies lies our horizons, The endless universe tells us that no frontier is the final frontier and in the space sector too, at the policy level, there should be no final frontier," the prime minister told a gathering of space scientists, students, and policymakers from across the country.

He said India was making advances in breakthrough technologies such as electric propulsion and semi-cryogenic engines.

"Soon, thanks to the hard work of you, scientists, India will launch the Gaganyaan mission and will also build its own space station," he said.

The prime minister also asked the private players whether five startups can become unicorns in the next five years.

"I would like the private sector to come forward ... can we reach a point where we can launch 50 rockets every year?" he asked space scientists and engineers.

Modi said his government possesses both the intent and the willpower to implement the next-generation reforms required to achieve this vision.

He said India viewed space technology not only as a tool for scientific exploration but also as a means to enhance ease of living.

"Space-tech is increasingly becoming an integral part of governance in India," he said, and cited satellite-based assessment in crop insurance schemes, satellite-enabled information and safety for fishermen, disaster management applications, and the use of geospatial data in the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

Modi said three days ago he met Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who unfurled the national flag at the International Space Station and filled every Indian with pride.

He said that when Shukla showed him the tricolour, he was touched beyond words.

Modi said that in his interaction with the astronaut, he witnessed the boundless courage and infinite dreams of the youth of New India. PTI

PM Modi on 2-day visit to Gujarat from August 25

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate houses built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and lay foundation stones for a host of projects of Rs 5,477 crore during his two-day visit to Gujarat, starting August 25. The prime minister will take part in a 3-km roadshow from Naroda to the Nikol area after arriving at the Ahmedabad airport on the evening of August 25, said State Health Minister and government spokesperson Rushikesh Patel. He said nearly one lakh people will remain present on the roadshow route and at the event venue in Nikol, from where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for various central and state government projects of Rs 5,477 crore. PTI

Centre conspiring to stop free ration of 55 lakh Punjabis: CM Mann

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for their anti-people stance aimed at depriving 55 lakh citizens of state from free food grains under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Addressing media persons here, the Chief Minister said that out of total 1.53 crore ration cards in the state, the BJP led government has conspired to discontinue free ration being given to 55 lakh poor. He said that making an excuse of not having KYC the centre had already stopped free ration for 23 lakh poor in July this year and now they have threatened to discontinue this benefit from 32 lakh more individuals from September 30 onwards. However, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the centre government will not succeed in its evil motives and he will not allow them to struck off even a single card.

The Chief Minister said that while the BJP claims to be pro-people and boasts of providing food grains to 80 crore people through the PDS, it is now attempting to cancel 8,02,493 ration cards in Punjab. This, he said, would effectively deprive around 32 lakh people of their entitlement to free rations. Bhagwant Singh Mann accused the BJP of shifting from "vote theft" to "ration theft," asserting that it is especially unjust to target Punjab—a state that produces food grains to make the country self-reliant.

The Chief Minister criticized the rationale being used to delete ration cards, which includes ownership of four-wheelers, government jobs, small landholdings, and income. He pointed out the absurdity of penalizing entire families when just one member may fulfill one of these criteria. Bhagwant Singh Mann categorically stated that as long as he is the Chief Minister, not a single ration card will be deleted. In the state adding he dared BJP leaders to showcase this "achievement" during their ongoing mass outreach programs.

The Chief Minister also ridiculed the contradictory nature of central government schemes one offering gas connections to the poor while another withdraws benefits on the same basis. Bhagwant Singh Mann said the BJP's anti-poor agenda has been exposed, and reiterated that he has urged the Prime Minister and other central leaders to reconsider the exclusionary criteria. He emphasized the need to relax these conditions so that the maximum number of economically weaker and underprivileged people can benefit.

CM to be chief guest at Tamil Nadu govt's expansion of Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann will attend a prestigious function in Chennai as the chief guest to mark the expansion of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme by the Tamil Nadu government. Rajya Sabha MP from Tamil Nadu, Wilson, called on Chief Minister Mann on Saturday and formally extended an invitation on behalf of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. The function, scheduled for August 26, will mark the expansion of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme to all government-aided schools in urban areas.

Jaishankar slams US tariffs, says India will not compromise on farmers' interests

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23



External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Saturday said that the India-US trade negotiations are still underway but "we have some red lines", as the country stared at steep 50 per cent tariffs from August 27.

Speaking at the 'Economic Times World Leaders Forum 2025' here, EAM Jaishankar shared that negotiations with the US are underway.

"What we are concerned about is that the red lines are primarily the interests of our farmers and, to some extent, of our small producers. We, as a government, are committed to defending the interests of our farmers and our small producers. We are very determined on that. That's not something that we can compromise on," the EAM told the gathering.

The EAM further said that US President Donald Trump's way of dealing with the world, even dealing with his own country, "is a very major departure from the traditional orthodox manner of doing so".

Earlier, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said at the same event that the government's approach in trade negotiations for free trade agreements with other countries will be guided by national interest and the priorities of Indian industry.

"I've always held a very clear vision. When we do trade deals, I have to protect national interests. We usually now work with different countries with the pre-understanding, before even getting into negotiations: you respect my sensitivities, I respect your sensitivities. There are areas of concern in every country in the world," the Commerce Minister said at the event on Friday. PTI

Mortal remains of Punjabi actor Jaswinder Bhalla consigned to flames in Mohali

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, August 23

Several Punjabi actors, singers and politicians cutting across party lines on Saturday bid a tearful adieu to acclaimed actor Jaswinder Bhalla, who passed away on Friday.

The mortal remains of Bhalla were consigned to flames at a cremation ground in Mohali.

Bhalla (65), who captivated the Punjabi audience worldwide with his performances in the satirical series "Chhankata" and movies like "Carry on Jatta" and "Jatt and Juliet, among many others, died on Friday morning at a private hospital in Mohali.

He was undergoing treatment after suffering a brain haemorrhage.

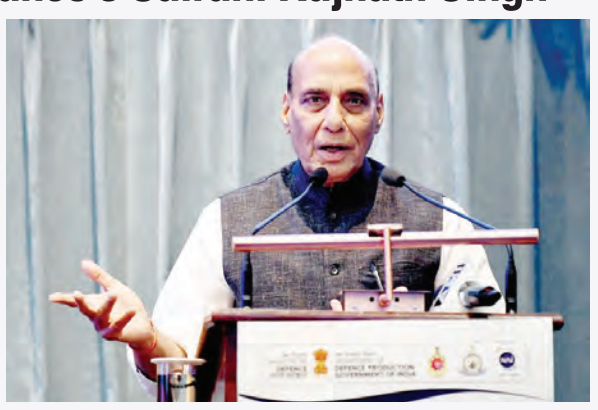
"He (Bhalla) gave new directions to Punjabi comedy," Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, who was also a comedian before joining politics, said on Friday, adding that Bhalla made an outstanding contribution for the promotion of Punjabi art and culture.

Actors and singers, including Gippy Grewal, Binnu Dhillon and Neeru Bajwa, visited Bhalla's residence in Mohali and expressed grief with his family members. Mourners, including Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema, assembled at the residence of Bhalla to pay their last respect to the noted actor.

SEE ALSO PAGE 3

India to manufacture 5th-gen fighter jet engines with France's Safran: Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that India will begin manufacturing engines for fifth-generation fighter aircraft in partnership with French aerospace giant Safran.

The Union Minister said the move marks a major step in India's efforts to strengthen its indigenous defence and aerospace capabilities.

"Today, we have taken another step forward towards building fifth-generation fighter aircraft. We are now moving towards manufacturing their engines in India itself, in collaboration with the French company Safran," Singh said during an event organised by The Economic Times in the national capital.

Rajnath Singh also invited global firms to participate in India's expanding defence manufacturing sector, assuring them of government support.

The minister appealed to foreign companies and investors to invest in India's vibrant defence manufacturing ecosystem. "We will provide all necessary clearances and extend hand-holding support," Singh said. PTI

CBI books Anil Ambani, RCom in ₹2,929 crore 'bank fraud' case; searches his residence

MUMBAI, AUGUST 23



The CBI searched the Mumbai residence of Reliance Communication Ltd. (RCOM) Director Anil Ambani on Saturday after recently registering a case over the alleged defrauding of State Bank of India of Rs 2929.05 crore, officials said. Teams of CBI conducted the searches at two locations in Mumbai on Saturday -- the official premises of Reliance Communication Ltd., and residential premises of Anil D Ambani, the agency said in a statement. The action took place after the CBI registered an FIR on Thursday against Reliance Communication Ltd (RCom), Mumbai, its Director Anil D. Ambani, unknown public servants and unknown others on the basis of a complaint from the SBI, it said. The searches took place at Ambani's residence 'Sea Wind' at Cuffe Parade in Mumbai, sources said.

According to the SBI complaint, now part of the FIR, the company had an outstanding of over Rs 40,000 crore to various lenders with the public sector bank alone facing a loss of Rs 2929.05 crore, according to 2018 figures.

The agency has booked Ambani and RCom for allegedly committing offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal breach of trust, the CBI has said. "It is alleged that the accused persons, in criminal conspiracy, misrepresented and got sanctioned credit facilities from SBI in favour of Reliance Communication Ltd," the CBI Spokesperson said.

She said it was also alleged that there was misutilisation and diversion of loan funds, potential routing of loan funds, inter-company loan transactions, misutilisation of sales invoice financing, discounting of bills of RCom by Reliance Infratel Ltd., movement of funds through inter-company deposits, among others. PTI

Sanitation worker who complained of mass rapes, burials in Karnataka's Dharmasthala arrested

MANGALURU (KARNATAKA), AUGUST 23

The complainant, who had alleged multiple murders, rapes, and burials in Dharmasthala over the past two decades, was arrested on Saturday by the SIT probing the charges, officials said.

The complainant, who had so far appeared before the probe panel wearing a mask, has been identified as C N Chinnaiah, they said.

He was produced before Judicial First Class Magistrate Vijayendra, and the SIT sought 10 days' custody for further investigation. The court granted the request, officials added. The SIT, led by Pranab Mohanty, had questioned Chinnaiah late into Friday night. PTI

Postal services to US temporarily suspended amid lack of clarity on American customs rules

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

Postal services to the US have been temporarily suspended as the US-bound air carriers have denied carrying shipments due to lack of clarity in new norms issued by the American customs department, Ministry of Communications said on Saturday. However, services will continue for letters, documents and gift items up to USD 100. Under an Executive Order issued by the US administration on July 30, 2025, goods valued above USD 100 will be subject to customs duties in America with effect from August 29 onwards. As per the Executive Order, transport carriers delivering shipments through the international postal network, or other "qualified parties" approved by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), are required to collect and remit duties on postal shipments. PTI

ED raids 'illegal' call centre operatives in NCR who duped US nationals of ₹130 cr

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has conducted searches against some persons based in the National Capital Region (NCR), who allegedly duped US nationals through an "illegal" call centre to the tune of about Rs 130 crore. "The accused persons live in luxury houses allegedly purchased using illegally earned money through a cyber scam. They also acquired numerous assets valued at more than Rs 100 crore from the proceeds of crime," the federal probe agency said in a statement. The ED raided the premises linked to the accused in Delhi and Gurugram on August 20, the statement said. The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR that said the accused, in a criminal conspiracy with each other, operated illegal call centres in Delhi and adjoining areas with the intent of targeting mainly US nationals and subjecting them to a "tech fraud" between November 2022 and April 2024. PTI

Flood situation remains grim as Beas river swells to 1.25 lakh cusecs

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Kapurthala, August 23



The flood situation in the Mand area of Sultanpur Lodhi remains alarming as the water level in the swollen Beas River rose again to 1.25 lakh cusecs, causing damage and erosion at five vulnerable points along the advance Dhussi Bundh near the worst-affected villages of Ahli Kalan, Karmuwala Pattan, and Ahli Khurd, according to official sources.

In a major relief effort, Rajya Sabha MP Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, along with his supporters and local farmers, worked tirelessly to reinforce a 1,000-foot-long stretch of the Dhussi Bundh at Ahli Kalan by placing 15,000 sandbags. The bundh had weakened significantly due to continuous soil erosion caused by the floodwaters of the Beas.

Seechewal stated that efforts are ongoing tostrengthen four more weak points along the bundh, with the active support of local farmers. "We are confident that the vulnerable sections will be secured soon," he said.

Meanwhile, Pong Dam authorities released 75,000 cusecs of water into the Beas today, which further contributed to the rising water levels. Amarinder Singh Pandher, Superintending Engineer of the Drainage Department, noted that the situation is being closely monitored.

He expressed hope that conditions in the flood-hit villages would improve in the coming days, provided rainfall ceases in the hill regions. "The dhussi bundh is currently intact, and there is no immediate danger," he reassured.

Authorities and local volunteers continue to remain on high alert as they work to prevent further damage and ensure the safety of residents in the affected areas.

BSF extends flood relief support to border villages in Ferozepur

HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, August 23



Border Security Force (BSF) personnel have intensified relief operations in flood-affected villages along the international border as rising water levels in the Sutlej River continue to cause extensive waterlogging in the region.

The swollen Sutlej has severely disrupted daily life in several border villages and adjoining areas, making it difficult for residents to move freely or carry out routine activities. Despite these challenging conditions, BSF jawans are performing their duties with unwavering dedication and high morale along the international frontier.

BSF personnel are actively assisting residents in crossing flooded areas and navigating through waterlogged stretches safely. The force has also established medical camps in flood-affected villages, providing essential healthcare services, medicines, and support to the local population.

"Our jawans are not only safeguarding the nation's frontiers but also extending assistance to affected villagers in this hour of need," said a BSF spokesperson.

The force is coordinating closely with civil administration to ensure comprehensive assistance and the safety and well-being of villagers in the affected areas.The resilience and commitment of BSF jawans in these adverse conditions demonstrates their unwavering spirit of service, functioning not only as defenders of the nation but also as protectors and supporters of local communities living in difficult border areas.

The BSF continues to monitor the flood situation while maintaining vigilance along the international border and providing relief to affected communities.

DMCH study reveals rising obesity crisis among rural community of Ludhiana

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23

A recent community-based study conducted by the Department of Community Medicine, DMC&H Ludhiana has raised concern over a growing health crisis obesity is no longer confined to urban populations but is now silently spreading into rural Punjab.

The cross-sectional survey was carried out among 610 housewives randomly selected from a rural population of 30,000 across 15 villages in Ludhiana district. Findings revealed that nearly 70% of rural housewives were overweight (43 pc) or obese (27 pc). Alarmingly, obesity was most prevalent in the age group of 30–39 years, where almost every third woman was obese.

More than half of the women had abdominal obesity (waist circumference 80 cm), and 78 pc reported inadequate physical activity.

Bipin Gupta, Secretary, DMC&H Managing Society, said,

"This study shows that health problems in our villages are changing fast. People's involvement, regular awareness, and healthy lifestyle habits are very important.

As an institution, DMC&H is committed to keep our community healthy by spreading awareness among general public.

Dr Gurpreet Singh Wander, Principal and Cardiologist, DMC&H, stated that "The rising prevalence of obesity, hypertension, and diabetes in rural areas is a matter of serious concern.

The adoption of urban lifestyle patterns—including reduced physical activity, increased social media use, and dietary shifts towards processed foods—is leading to a convergence of disease risk factors between rural and urban populations."

Adding further, Dr Anurag Chaudhary, Professor & Head, Department of Community Medicine, explained "Traditionally, rural women were considered physically active due to agricultural work and household chores.

However, mechanization, easy access to calorie-dense packaged foods, and sedentary routines has made obesity an emerging public health challenge in these communities."

The study also identified social, demographic, and behavioral factors associated with obesity. Women from higher-income rural households, with limited physical activity, preference for fried and processed foods, and prolonged screen time, were found to be at higher risk.

ED uncovers ₹ 95 crore land scam linked to Phagwara Sugar Mill

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, August 23

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has unearthed financial irregularities amounting to nearly Rs 95 crore in connection with the illegal sale and mortgaging of land originally allotted in 1933 for the operation of a sugar mill in Phagwara.

ED officials from the Jalandhar Zonal Office conducted searches at eight locations across Punjab earlier this week. The raids resulted in the seizure of numerous incriminating documents, which are expected to be key in tracing the financial trail behind the alleged scam.

The case revolves around land in Phagwara that was leased nearly a century ago by Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala for a 99-year term, intended exclusively for running a sugar mill. Investigators suspect that directors and promoters of Golden Sandhar Mills (formerly Wahid Sandhar Sugar Mills) violated the lease terms by illegally selling and mortgaging the property, thereby generating proceeds considered being the proceeds of crime under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED probe stems from a Punjab Vigilance Bureau FIR filed in September 2023, which named a co-owner of the mill, members of his family, and others under sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The investigation is now focused on tracing the property transfers, financial benefits, and involvement of alleged proxy directors.

Among the key documents recovered were a copy of the original 1933 lease agreement and later contracts that investigators believe expose a network of front men managing company operations. Raids were conducted not only at the mill premises in Phagwara but also at residential properties in Khurampur village and a gym in Phagwara, allegedly owned by a former co-owner.

That individual reportedly ran the mill in partnership with a UK-based NRI who has not returned to India since the vigilance case was filed.

Officials said the seized material is crucial for mapping out the structure of the transactions and understanding the modus operandi behind the alleged fraud.

The ED stated that its investigation is ongoing to determine the full extent of the money trail and identify those responsible.

13 AYUSH camps benefit 5,298 patients in Ferozepur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, August 23



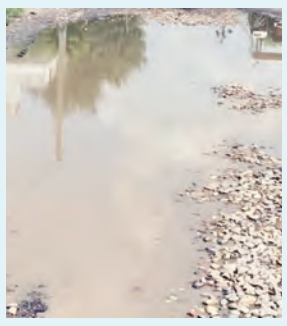
The 13th AYUSH Medical Camp was organised on Saturday at Baharwala Gurdwara Sahib, Kot Karor Kalan, Ferozepur, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Deepshikha Sharma and the guidance of Director of Ayurveda Dr Ravi Kumar Doomra, District Ayurvedic and Unani Officer Dr Rupinderdeep Kaur Gill, and District Homeopathic Officer Dr Rahman Asad.

District Ayurvedic and Unani Officer Dr Rupinderdeep Kaur Gill informed that during the 13th camp, 419 patients were examined and provided with free medicines. She added that since the launch of these AYUSH medical camps on July 29, a total of 5,298 patients have availed free check-ups and medicines. In all, 15 camps are to be organised in the district.

Doctors and staff from both Ayurvedic and Homeopathic departments, including Dr Praveen Rana, Dr Suman Dhanju, Kinder Kaur (Upvaid), Raghu Raja (Upvaid), Balwinder Singh, Tarsem Singh (Yoga Instructor), Dr Satnam Singh Gill, Baljit Singh, Vikas Kumar (Dispenser), and others rendered their services during the camp.

Dilapidated Rihana Jattan-Dumeli link road poses serious accident risk

ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, August 23



The link road connecting the villages of Rihana Jattan and Dumeli near Phagwara has become a serious hazard for commuters due to its severely deteriorated condition. The situation has worsened during the ongoing monsoon season, with large potholes filled with rainwater becoming nearly invisible to motorists and pedestrians, significantly increasing the risk of accidents.

Local shopkeepers, residents, and vehicle owners have expressed deep frustration, highlighting the stark contrast between government claims of comprehensive rural development and the reality of neglected infrastructure.

According to them, vehicles frequently get trapped in the broken stretches, especially at night when poor visibility further adds to the danger. Concerned villagers warned that if immediate action is not taken, the deep potholes could turn into deadly traps.

Residents also criticized the temporary "patchwork repairs" often carried out on rural roads, stating that such measures fail to withstand even a single spell of heavy rain and leave the road in an even worse condition. They urged the state government to undertake a full reconstruction of the road, citing the high volume of daily traffic.

When contacted, Public Works Department (PWD) Sub-Divisional Officer Rajiv Uppal stated that repair work on several link roads has already been completed. However, due to ongoing monsoon rains, work on the Rihana Jattan–Dumeli road has been temporarily halted. "As soon as the rains subside, repairs on this stretch will be undertaken," he assured.

Vet Varsity observes 'Anti-Ragging Week'



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23

Directorate of Students' Welfare of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana observed an 'Anti-Ragging Week'. On the concluding day a session on Anti-Ragging Law was organised.
Dr Aman Amrit Cheema, Professor-of-Laws Panjab University Regional Centre, Ludhiana was the resource person. It was attended by students and faculty members of Anti Ragging Committees and Anti Ragging Squad.

Dr Cheema said that Anti-ragging warnings should be prominently displayed in the institution's prospectus, website and all the buildings and hostels. She sensitized the students about the ill-effects of ragging and the penalties involved.

She informed students about the stringent laws against ragging and shared a telephone number of the National Anti-Ragging Helpline.

Commenting on the event Dr Jatinder Paul Singh Gill, Vice-Chancellor said that keeping the university ragging free is our priority.

He said that the university is an extended family of teachers and students, hence it is our responsibility to maintain the physical and mental health of the students by providing them with a healthy and fearless environment.

Batala resident booked for outraging religious sentiments on social media

NAKODAR, AUGUST 23

The Nakodar Sadar police have registered a case against a Batala resident for allegedly outraging religious feelings by making derogatory remarks on social media.

Investigating Officer (IO) Balvir Singh stated that the accused has been identified as Sukhveer Singh, a resident of Ajnala Road in Fatehgarh Churrian town, Batala.

The complaint was filed by Dharmindar, a resident of Nagal Jiwan village, who alleged that the accused used defamatory language against Bhagwan Valmik Ji in a social media post, thereby hurting the religious sentiments of the Valmiki community.

The IO added that a zero FIR under Section 298 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) relating to acts intended to insult the religious beliefs of a community has been registered. BPE

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Six booked for assault, snatching ₹1,900 and smartphone in Mehatpur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, August 23

The Mehatpur police have booked six individuals on charges of assault, snatching, and criminal intimidation following a violent incident reported on August 15.

Investigating Officer (IO) Puran Singh said the accused have been identified as Lov, Sonu, and Jagga — all residents of Aadramaan village and Deepa, Billu, and Harman of Mehatpur.

According to the complaint filed by Sandeep, a resident of Aadramaan village, the accused allegedly waylaid him, assaulted him with weapons, snatched Rs 1,900 in cash along with his smartphone, and issued threats.

The IO added that a case has been registered under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including: Section 304(2) Snatching,Section 115(2) Voluntarily causing hurt, Section 351(3) Criminal intimidation, Section 191(3), Rioting Section 190, Unlawful assembly, Section 324(4), Mischief.

Further investigation is underway, said the officer.

Drug peddler arrested with intoxicant tablets in Nakodar

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, August 23

The Nakodar Sadar police have arrested a drug peddler on charges of possessing and selling intoxicant tablets, in violation of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Investigating Officer (IO) Kulwinder Singh said that 23 loose intoxicant tablets were recovered from the possession of the accused, identified as Santokh Singh alias Sukha, a resident of Rahimpur village.

Unidentified driver booked for rash driving, causing injury to police personnel

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, August 23

The Mehatpur police have registered a case against an unidentified driver for rash and negligent driving, which resulted in injuries to a traffic police official and damage to his vehicle.

According to the complaint filed by Amarjit Singh, a resident of Mohalla Ravidaspura, Nakodar, and a member of the Jalandhar (Rural) Traffic Police, the incident occurred when the unidentified driver was driving at high speed and in a reckless manner. The vehicle hit Amarjit Singh's car, leaving him seriously injured and causing significant damage to his vehicle.

Investigating Officer Kashmir Singh confirmed that a case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including the following sections:Section 281 Rash driving on a public highway, Section 125(a) & 125(b) Causing grievous hurt by endangering life or personal safety of others Section 324(4) Mischief.

The police are working to identify and trace the accused driver. Further investigation is underway.

HOMI BHABHA CANCER CONCLAVE 2025

Governor Kataria inaugurates Robotic-Assisted Cancer Surgery at HBCH&RC Punjab

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23



On the second day of the three-day Homi Bhabha Cancer Conclave (HBCC) 2025, Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, inaugurated the state-of-the-art Robotic-Assisted Cancer Surgery facility at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (HBCH&RC), Punjab.

The prestigious conclave, being held at the campus of Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Chandigarh, has brought together leading oncologists, researchers, and healthcare experts from across the country to deliberate on the latest innovations in cancer treatment, care, and prevention.

The ceremony was graced by Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, as the chief guest. During the event, he inaugurated Robotic-Assisted Cancer Surgery at HBCH&RC Punjab. Commending the hospital's contributions to cancer care in the region, the Governor said, "Over the past 80 years, Tata Memorial Centre has carved out a unique identity in the field of cancer treatment worldwide. With the alarming rise in the number of cancer patients in our country, the expansion of TMC has become a necessity. Today, there are nine centers established across India, two of which are in Punjab—a region that was in dire need of such advanced facilities."

The second edition of Homi Bhabha Cancer Conclave witnessed participation from distinguished medical leaders including Dr Shripad D Banavali, Director (Academics), Tata Memorial Centre; Dr. A.K. Attri, Director Principal, GMCH-32 Chandigarh, Dr Satyajit Pradhan, Director, HBCH & MPMMCC Varanasi, and Dr Umesh Mahantshetty, Director, HBCH&RC Vizag.

Health Minister and Agriculture Minister review flood relief arrangements in Fazilka district

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Fazilka, August 23



Punjab Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh and Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian on Friday held a meeting with officials at the District Administrative Complex, Fazilka, to review flood relief and management arrangements in the district. Both ministers emphasized that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab government is committed not only to providing immediate relief to flood-affected people but also to ensuring a permanent solution to this recurring problem.

Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh informed that the Health Department has deployed 323 mobile medical teams, 450 Rapid Response Teams, and 170 ambulance services across the flood-affected areas in the state. Special wards have been set up in hospitals, and arrangements have been made to ensure safe deliveries for pregnant women. He assured that there is no shortage of medicines or doctors, and new recruitments are also being carried out.

Providing details about Fazilka district, Dr Balbir Singh said that 8 villages have been affected, where 8 medical teams and 3 ambulances are deployed. Isolation wards with 10 beds at Fazilka Civil Hospital and 5 beds at Abohar Hospital have been established. Chlorine tablets have been distributed, and water samples collected to ensure safe drinking water for the 10,700 residents of these villages. He added that 45 pregnant women have been identified to provide timely medical care, while 856 people have already been given medicines. No cases of diarrhoea or dengue have been reported so far in flood affected area.

LPG tanker fire incident: Death toll rises to 3

- CM announces financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each for the families of those who died in the incident

DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, August 23



The death toll in the LPG tanker fire incident rose to three after one more person succumbed to burn injuries, police said on Saturday. Earlier, two people were killed and 21 others injured when an LPG tanker exploded after another vehicle collided with it around 10 pm on Friday near Mandiala Adda on the Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road.

According to police, the blaze spread rapidly, engulfing nearly 15 shops and four to five residential houses in the vicinity.

Hoshiarpur Superintendent of Police (Investigation) Mukesh Kumar said Dharminder Verma (28), a resident of Mandiala village, died while being shifted to a hospital in Amritsar. Civil Surgeon Dr Pawan Kumar said Verma, who had sustained severe burn injuries, was referred to the Government Medical College, Amritsar, but he succumbed on the way.

Sub-Inspector Maninder Singh, Station House Officer of Bullowal Police Station, said the two others who died in the incident were tanker driver Sukhjeet Singh of Dehlon in Ludhiana district and Balwant Rai of Mandiala village.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday announced financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each for the families of those who died in the incident and free medical treatment for the injured.

Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria expressed grief over the explosion. In his message, the Governor said, "I am deeply pained to learn about the tragedy that has taken away innocent lives and caused injuries to many. My heartfelt condolences go out to the families who have lost their loved ones in this devastating mishap."

Earlier in the day, several residents of Mandiala and adjoining villages staged a dharna and blocked vehicular traffic for over three-and-a-half hours on both sides of the Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road, demanding compensation and action against those responsible.

The protest was lifted only after Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gursimranjeet Kaur reached the spot and assured agitators that compensation would be provided and action would be taken against those found responsible.

Sond, PAU V-C and DC Mittal pay homage to comedian Jaswinder Bhalla



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, August 23

Punjab's Minister for Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Tarunpreet Singh Sond, on Saturday paid rich tributes to renowned comedian Jaswinder Bhalla, describing him as an exceptional human being and a true pride of Punjab. He said that Bhalla brought endless smiles to the faces of people and will always be remembered for his legendary role as Chacha Chatar Singh. "Your words, your performances, and your unique acting will remain alive in our memories forever," the Minister said.

Attending the last rites, Minister Sond remarked that Jaswinder Bhalla dedicated over 40 years of his life to Punjabi culture, and his departure has left a void that can never be filled. "Wherever Punjabis are in the world, there is a wave of grief today," he said, adding that Bhalla's trio with Bal Mukund Sharma and Neelu in popular comedy video series will remain evergreen in people's hearts.

Vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Dr Satbir Singh Gosal, while paying his respects, said that PAU will always be proud of its alumnus and former faculty member who created a distinctive global identity through his satire and comedy. "Although Jaswinder Bhalla has physically departed, his creative work will continue to keep his memories alive," he said.

Dr Baljit Kaur issues directions to all dept heads; exempts differently-abled employees from night duty

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23



Taking a considerate step towards the welfare of differently-abled employees, the Punjab government has decided to exempt them from night duties. Disclosing this, Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister, Dr Baljit Kaur, said that clear instructions have been issued to all departmental heads not to assign night duty to visually impaired and physically challenged employees.

Sharing further details, Dr Baljit Kaur informed that during recent meetings with associations of differently-abled employees, it was strongly highlighted that night duty poses serious challenges for visually impaired and physically disabled staff, particularly in terms of safety and commuting. She said this decision has been taken keeping in view humanitarian concern and the overall well-being of the employees.

The Minister further stated that as per Section 3 and Section 20 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, directions have already been issued earlier to ensure a barrier-free environment in government offices so that differently-abled employees may work in a convenient and accessible atmosphere.

Dr Baljit Kaur reiterated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab government is fully committed to safeguarding the rights of differently-abled persons and providing them with all possible facilities in government service.

Continuous efforts are being made to ensure their welfare and empowerment.

Punjab's Torch March marks National Sports Day, reaches Tarn Taran ahead of 'Khedan Watan Punjab 2025'

INDER PAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, August 23

In a significant initiative to uplift the standard of sports in Punjab, the Punjab government's Sports Department is organising a statewide Torch March in honour of National Sports Day, celebrated on the birth anniversary of Hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. The march is part of the preparations for the 'Khedan Watan Punjab 2025' games.

As the Torch March reached Tarn Taran district, it was warmly welcomed by the entire district administration.

District Sports Officer (DSO) Tarn Taran, Satwant Kaur, stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab government is committed to promoting sports at the grassroots level.

She urged the youth to actively participate in various sports events, thereby bringing pride to both Tarn Taran and Punjab on national and international platforms.

SKILL REVOLUTION

State leaps forward with 50 per cent increase in ITI seats and 814 new trades

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23



In a bold move to revolutionise vocational training and enhance employability in the state, Punjab Technical Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains has announced a significant expansion in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) capacity, increasing seats from 35,000 to 52,000, paving the way for a more skilled and employable generation.

Harjot Singh Bains informed that Punjab's ITI seats have witnessed a remarkable surge, growing from 25,000 in 2023 to 35,000 the next year, and now to 52,000, marking a significant 50 pc increase in seats. The expansion is fuelled by the introduction of 814 new trades, meticulously designed to meet industry needs and driven by market demand. Following extensive consultations with industry partners, Industrial Management Committees (IMCs), and the Punjab Development Commission, these trades have been carefully curated to equip students with in-demand skills, thereby enhancing their employability and job readiness. The Education Minister emphasised that the new trades and courses are tailored to equip students with cutting-edge skills and knowledge, focusing on modern technologies and employability, to empower them with the skills needed to thrive in today's competitive job market.

IAF holds session for Rayat Bahra students

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, August 23

Rayat Bahra Professional University, Hoshiarpur, recently hosted a special information session by the Indian Air Force (IAF) for its students.

The programme was conducted by the Directorate of Induction and Selection in Holistic Approach (DISHA) to provide students with detailed insights into the recruitment process, career opportunities and guidance for becoming an officer in the Indian Air Force.

The session began with acting vice-chancellor Dr Chander Mohan welcoming the dignitaries. Wing Commander Anshuman Samajpati explained the role of officers, training process and career development opportunities in the Indian Air Force.

YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH

On day 175, Punjab Police conduct raids at 470 sites; 134 drug smugglers held

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 175th day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 470 locations on Saturday leading to the arrest of 134 drug smugglers after registration of 95 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 27,039 in 175 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 2.9 kg heroin, 9 kg poppy husk, 963 intoxicant tablets/capsules and Rs 12,420 from the possession of arrested drug smugglers.

The operation was conducted on the directions of Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav simultaneously in all 28 Police districts of the state. Notably, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann has asked the Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendent of Police to make Punjab drug free state. The Punjab government has also constituted a 5-member Cabinet Sub Committee led by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema to monitor the war against drugs.

Divulging details, Special DGP Law and Order Arpit Shukla informed that over 150 Police teams, comprising over 1400 police personnel, under the supervision of 82 gazetted officers have conducted raids across the state.

Tree Plantation Drive organised

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23

On Saturday, the 3 PB (G) BN NCC Ludhiana organised a Tree Plantation Drive in village Ghuman, promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. The event witnessed active participation from 40 NCC cadets of GHG Khalsa College, Gurusar, Sudhar. The cadets enthusiastically planted saplings and pledged to protect the environment, spreading awareness about ecological responsibility among the local residents.

The drive was held in the gracious presence of Sarpanch Bhupinder Singh, who appreciated the efforts of the NCC in fostering environmental values in youth. The Permanent Instructor (PI) staff played a key role in organizing and supporting the event, including Hav Manjit Singh, Hav Ganesh Mane, who ensured smooth coordination on ground.

Fish auction on Sirhind Canal branches under Doraha Sub-Division to be held on Sept 2

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23

Doraha Sub-Divisional Officer Avldeep Singh Gill informed that the annual auction for fishing rights in the Sirhind Canal and its branches under Doraha Sub-Division of Ropar Head Works Division will be held on September 2, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the office of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Doraha. The lease period will run from September 1 to August 31.

He stated that the auction will cover several stretches, including: Sirhind Canal (Burji 1,30,000 to 1,94,000), Patiala Branch (Burji 500 to 3,000), Combined Branch (Burji 500 to 10,000), Abohar Branch (Burji 500 to 1,04,000), Bathinda Branch (Burji 500 to 1,08,000), Sidhwan Branch (Burji 500 to 2,000).

The press note further mentioned that the authority to accept the bid rests with the Executive Engineer, Head Works Division, Ropar. Successful bidders will have to deposit the bid amount immediately on the spot; otherwise, the bid will be considered cancelled.

As per rules, the winning bidder will have the exclusive right to fish only in the allotted stretch. Fishing is prohibited during July and August.

Swift action by administration saves life of 78-year-old farmer in flood-hit village

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, August 23



The district administration's flood rescue teams displayed remarkable efficiency and commitment by saving the life of a 78-year-old farmer, Balwinder Singh, in flood-affected Mand Bhandu Kadaam village on Saturday.

The elderly farmer reportedly experienced chest pain and uneasiness amid the ongoing flood conditions, prompting an urgent distress call at around 7 am. The administration responded immediately, deploying a rescue team to evacuate him from the inundated area.

He was swiftly transported by ambulance to a medical camp in Lakh Variya village, where he received initial treatment for high blood pressure and related symptoms. He was later referred to Sultanpur Lodhi Civil Hospital for further care.

According to Civil Surgeon Dr Harpal Singh, Balwinder Singh is now in a stable condition, and his health is steadily improving.

His son, Gurdas Singh, expressed deep gratitude, stating: "The quick help provided by the rescue teams saved my father's life. Our family is truly thankful for their efforts."

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Alka Kalia emphasized the importance of the prompt response, noting that an alert was immediately sounded upon receiving the distress call, allowing timely intervention.

Governor Kataria inaugurates 'Eat Right Walkathon & Mela' at Mohali

- CALLS IT A VITAL STEP TOWARDS BUILDING A HEALTHY INDIA

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, August 23



The Governor of Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria, on Saturday inaugurated the "Eat Right Walkathon and Mela" at GD Goenka Public School, Mohali. The event was jointly organised by GD Goenka Public School and The Red Carpet Ventures under the guidance of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Punjab Food and Drug Administration, with support from Herbalife.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor said that India's youth can become the true strength of the nation only if they are nurtured with safe, nutritious and balanced food. He called Eat Right not merely a slogan but a movement that must be adopted by every citizen in daily life.

He noted that despite the progress in health and nutrition, lifestyle diseases like diabetes, obesity and hypertension are increasing due to poor dietary choices and sedentary routines. He urged people to return to traditional food wisdom, adopt millets in daily diet and make responsible food consumption a culture.

"Balanced diet, safe drinking water, sanitation and regular physical activity are essential not only to prevent diseases but also to ensure physical, mental, social and emotional well-being," the Governor said. He also appreciated the Government of India's decision to declare 2018 as the National Year of Millets and 2023 as the International Year of Millets, terming it a forward-looking step for both health and environmental sustainability.

The Governor lauded FSSAI's Eat Right India Movement and initiatives like Blissful Hygiene Rating which, he said, are helping create awareness about safe and sustainable food practices across both urban and rural India.

The Walkathon and Mela witnessed participation of health experts, nutritionists, fitness enthusiasts, school students and members of the public. The Walkathon symbolised the collective resolve to adopt a healthy lifestyle, while the Mela offered engaging and informative displays on balanced and safe food options.

The Governor congratulated the organisers and extended best wishes for the success of the event, expressing hope that such initiatives will continue to inspire people towards healthier eating and regular physical activity, thereby helping to build a stronger and healthier India.

Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal, SDM Mohali Damandeep Kaur, Director Food and Drug Administration Ravneet Sidhu, School Management and representatives of supporting orgainsations were present on this occasion.

'0001' sold for ₹36 lakh in auction of vehicle registration numbers in Chandigarh

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23

The much sought-after '0001' special vehicle registration number has received the highest ever bid of Rs 36.43 lakh in Chandigarh. The Registering and Licensing Authority (RLA), Chandigarh, conducted the e-auction of new series "CH01-DA" from vehicle numbers 0001 to 9999 along with some leftover fancy/special registration numbers of previous series from August 19 to 22.

With the auction of a total of 577 registration numbers, the RLA fetched the highest-ever revenue of Rs 4.08 crore.

Earlier, the RLA received the second highest bid of Rs 31 lakh in May this year.

Meanwhile, the number CH01DA0003 received the second highest bid of 17,84,000 in this auction, followed by CH01DA0009 which drew ₹16,82,000.

The number CH01DA0005 was sold for 16,51,000, CH01DA0007 fetched ₹16,50,000, CH01DA0002 ₹13,80,000, and CH01DA9999 was let go for ₹10,25,000.

Pradhuman Singh, Director, Transport Department, Chandigarh, said that all seven numbers received the highest ever bids so far and also earned a record profit of Rs 4.08 crore received in any auction so far.

Chandigarh association's Charanjit Singh Virk elected member of Boxing Federation of India

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23



The Chandigarh Amateur Boxing Association (CABA) felicitated its secretary general Charanjit Singh Virk for being elected the executive committee member of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI). Virk secured 36 votes out of the total 66 polled during the election and AGM of the BFI held in Delhi NCR.

Charanjit Singh became Secretary General of CABA in September 2023 and had represented the country in international boxing. He was a recipient of several medals during early 1980. He won gold in All India Inter Universities Boxing Championships during his college days. He represented the BFI as one of the delegates in Paris Olympics 2024.

"It's after several years the CABA is getting an elected position in the national federation," said Dr C K Jerath, Chairman, Chandigarh Amateur Boxing Association.

Adl Secy & Mission Director, DDWS reviews JJM and SBM-G) works in Mohali

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, August 23

Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NJJM & SBM), Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, visited Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) District on Saturday for field inspections and review of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swatchh Bharat Mission (SBM-G) works.

During his visit, Soan first inspected the Liquid Waste Management (Thapar Model) project at Village Nangal Garhian, Block Majri, District SAS Nagar. He interacted with officials and community members and took note of the innovative efforts being undertaken for sustainable wastewater treatment at the village level. Present on the occasion were the Chief Engineer (South); J J Goyal Director Sanitation, DWSS Punjab; Manoj Malhotra, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rural Development), SAS Nagar; Sonam Chaudhary and SDM Kharar Divya P and Executive Engineer, Division No. 3, Mohali; Ramanpreet Singh.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sonia Dhand W/oVineet Kumar R/o H.no B-34/2415, Rajesh Nagar, Haibowal Kalan, (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Sonia Dhand to Sonia Thapar.

I Davinder Singh S/o Gurcharan Singh R/o Bambiha bhai have changed my name Davinder Singh to Davinder singh Sidhu.

I, Vicky Singh S/O Jasvir Singh R/O Patti Ballo ki ,Dhaliwal Bet, District Kapurthala declares that I have changed my name from Vicky to Vicky Singh.

I, Vipan S/o Radhe Kishan R/o H.No. ES-79, Makhdoom Pura, Dhobi Mohalla, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Vipan to Vipan Kumar. All concerned please note.

I Kawaljeet Kaur W/o Baljit Singh R/o House no. 2621, Street No. 1, Partap Colony, Mundian Kalan, Ludhiana have changed my name from Kawaljit Kaur to Kawaljeet Kaur.

I, SUNIL KUMAR Son of Ravi Kumar, R/o Jalandhar Road, H.No. 51, Aman Nagar, Kapurthala, Punjab, declare that NIKITA is my real daughter. I want to change her name from NITIKA to NIKITA, on her adhaar Card. According to her birth certificate her correct name is "NIKITA". All Noted.

I Kumar Bansal S/o tirath ram R/o Baghapurana (Moga) have changed my name to ram kumar..

I, Vineet Kumar Dhand S/o Virender Kumar R/o H.no B-34/2415, Rajesh Nagar, Haibowal Kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Vineet Kumar Dhand to Vineet Kumar.

I, No. 14611910F Rank-EX-Hav Ashok kumar R/O H.N- 933 sector 19 Panchkula that i changed my son name Lalit (aadhar 875842810403) to Lalit Vashisht (unique disability UD ID HR0120919970004190 issued by Govt. Of India.

I Shahnawaz Alam S/O Alam Ansari R/O 1054/19, Street No -3 Shishu Model School, Bal Singh Nagar, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana have changed my name from Shahnawaz Alam to Sehne Waz.

I Meenkant Goyal s/o Ram pal R/o Near New Telephone Exchange gidderbaha Have changed my name to Meen kant.

I Aarti goyal w/o Meen kant R/o Near New Telephone Exchange Gidderbaha Have changed My Name to Aarti

I Mohamad Rajwan S/o Mohammad Ramjan R/o VPO Alamgir Distt. Ludhiana (Punjab) 141116 have changed my name Mohamad Rajwan to Mohammad Rizwan.

I Mohamad Ramjani S/o Bandu R/o VPO Alamgir Distt. Ludhiana (Punjab) 141116 have changed my name Mohamad Ramjani to Mohammad Ramjani.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Santokh Singh S/O Tarlok Singh R/O 230, Nimla Avenue, Opp S.c Pawan Public School, Naraingarh, Chheharta, Amritsar Punjab 143105 Have Declared That My Son Maninder Pal Singh And His Wife Jagjit Kaur Both Are Out Of My Control. I Disinherit Both Of Them From All My Moveable And Immoveable Property. Anybody Deals In Future With Them For Act And Conduct Is Responsible At His/ Her Own Risk. Me And My Other Family Members Are Not Responsible For Their Any Act In Future With Anybody.

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MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ajit Singh S/o Sh. Sahib Singh R/o Dr. Takkar Hospital Street, Jalalabad, Tehsil Jalalabad(w), District Fazilka is owner of Land\Property measuring 8.50 Marlas approx (31'6" X 75') i.e 17/2934 Share of Land Measuring 73 Kanal 07 Marlas in Khewat No. 2128, Which is Bound by the boundaries as East: Street, West: Asha Rani Etc., North Surinder Pal, South Street, Jamabandi for the year 2013-14, situated at Madaan Colony, Jalalabad(w), Tehsil Jalalabad(w), District Fazilka, Previous original sale deed no. 5758 Dated 13-03-2008 relating to the above said land was not available/misplace/ untraceable. Above said sale deed was lost on 30-06-2025 at Railway Bazaar, Jalalabad, Tehsil Jalalabad, District Fazilka, which is not mortgaged by any one. . I, shall be responsible for any loss occurred to anybody if my above land found to be encumbered later on with any financial institution. Ajit Singh S/o Sh. Sahib Singh is going to Mortgage the said property in Canara Bank, Branch Jalalabad. If Anyone have Objection then contact Branch Manager Canara Bank, Branch Jalalabad, Within 7 Days from Today.

DR. KARAM SINGH MEMORIAL MULTISPECIALITY HOSPITAL

16-A, Circular Road, Amritsar

PUBLIC NOTICE

The hospital will be discarding the indoor records as per MCI guidelines for period of 01.04.2021 to 31.08.2022. Anyone who wishes to take their indoor records can approach the medical records department with identity proof within 30 days of this advertisement for taking copy of the record. (M) 9501108805

Authorized Signatory
Dr. Karam Singh Memorial Multispeciality Hospital

JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

JM FINANCIAL

Corporate identify Number : U67190MH2007PLC74287
Registered Office Address : 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025
T: +91 22 6630 3030 F: +911 22 6630 3223 www. Jmfinancialarc.com

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (erstwhile Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand notice calling upon to the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with interest at contractual rate and expenses, cost, charges etc.due thereon till the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Subsequently, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (erstwhile Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited) assigned the financial assets pertaining to Borrower(s) together with the underlying security interest created therefor along with all rights, title and interest thereon in favour of JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, acting in its capacity as trustee of Aranya – Trust (hereinafter referred to as "JMFARC") under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act vide an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as "Assignment Agreement"). The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned, being the Authorised officer of JMFARC has taken possession of the property described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of JMFARC for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon till the date of repayment. The borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower's, Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Date of Possession
1.	(Loan Code No- 13500000777), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Navdeep Singh (Borrower) Aarti Bharti (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat N0- 416, Tower 8, 4th Floor NA Fashion Technology Park Fashion Technology Park Mohali Rupnagar Chandigarh IN 160055	**17-05-2021 for Rs. 1751598** (Seventeen lakh Fifty One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Eight Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
2.	(Loan Code No- 13500007445), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Arvind Vij (Borrower) Prerna Wo Arvind Vij (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat No 303, Tower 3, Gf NA Palm Hights, Palm Hights, Haibatpur Road, Derabassi, Mohali Punjab IN 140507	**30-01-2025 for Rs. 3809049** (Thirty Eight lakh Nine Thousand Forty Nine Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
3.	(Loan Code No- 13500008008), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Rashpal Singh (Borrower) Rupinder Jit (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Plot No 32 , Shivalik Enclave NA Chahal Chahal Near Khatgarh Busstand Mohali Punjab IN 140507	**25-01-2019 for Rs. 830163** (Eight lakh Thirty Thousand One Hundred Sixty Three Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
4.	(Loan Code No- 13500008011), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Jatinder Singh (Borrower) Mandeep Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Plot No 31, Shivalik Enclave NA Chahal Chahal Near Khatgarh Bus Stand Mohali Punjab IN 140507	**26-11-2018 for Rs. 851349** (Eight lakh Fifty One Thousand Three Hundred Forty Nine Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
5.	(Loan Code No- 13500008108), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Shammi Kumar Sonu (Borrower) Sandeep Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Plot No.-29 NA Shivalik Enclave ,. Vill chahal Shivalik Enclave ,. Vill chahal Near Khatgarh Bus Stand Rupnagar Punjab IN 140001	**27-12-2018 for Rs. 991394** (Nine lakh Ninety One Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Four Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
6.	(Loan Code No- 13500008380), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Ram Gulam (Borrower) Kumari Devi (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Plot No 62 NA Shivalik Enclave Shivalik Enclave Near Khatgarh Bus Stand Nawanshahr Punjab IN 144521	**26-11-2018 for Rs. 1034399** (Ten lakh Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
7.	(Loan Code No- 13500008383), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Bahadar Singh Gill (Borrower) Maninder Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Plot No 59 , Shivalik Vihar NA Vill Chahal Balachour Vill Chahal Balachour . Nawanshahr Punjab IN 144521	**27-12-2018 for Rs. 1823321** (Eighteen lakh Twenty Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
8.	(Loan Code No- 13500008526), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Ved Ram (Borrower) Dhanbai Kurre (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Plot No 79 NA Shivalik Enclave Shivalik Enclave Near Khatgarh Bus Stand Nawanshahr Punjab IN 144521	**26-11-2018 for Rs. 1102694** (Eleven lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Four Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
9.	(Loan Code No- 19100041308), (Branch - Chandigarh - Elante), Santosh Kumar (Borrower) Minta M (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat No. 147 Second Floor NA Baba Apartments Baba Apartments Block No 6 Kharar Rupnagar Punjab IN 140301	**30-01-2025 for Rs. 5041727** (Fifty lakh Forty One Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Seven Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
10.	(Loan Code No- 19100041326), (Branch - Chandigarh - Elante), Harish Kumar (Borrower) Maya Devi (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat No 100, Second Floor NA Baba Apartment Baba Apartment Shivjot Enclave Rupnagar Punjab IN 140301	**30-01-2025 for Rs. 4811997** (Forty Eight lakh Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Seven Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
11.	(Loan Code No- 19100041337), (Branch - Chandigarh - Elante), Sanjay Kumar (Borrower) Jaya Balodi (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat No. 101 NA 2 Bhk,2nd Floor 2 Bhk,2nd Floor Baba Apartment,shivjot Enclave Rupnagar Punjab IN 140301	**30-01-2025 for Rs. 3870880** (Thirty Eight lakh Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
12.	(Loan Code No- 19100041470), (Branch - Chandigarh - Elante), Gagandeep G (Borrower) Ichhia Devi (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat No.101, Top Floor NA Block 4,shivjot Enclave Block 4,shivjot Enclave Baba Apartment Unit Of Shivjot Rupnagar Punjab IN 140301	**30-01-2025 for Rs. 4305416** (Forty Three lakh Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
13.	(Loan Code No- 19100041617), (Branch - Chandigarh - Elante), Shabab Alam (Borrower) Saba Siddiqui (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat No. 146 NA Baba Appartment, Nr. Anees School Baba Appartment, Nr. Anees School Shivjot Enclave Rupnagar Punjab IN 140301	**30-01-2025 for Rs. 3678477** (Thirty Six lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Seven Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
14.	(Loan Code No- 24500000804), (Branch - Bathinda), Swaran Singh (Borrower) Ramanjit Singh (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Vpo Aulakh, NA Guru Nanak Basti Guru Nanak Basti Adjoining Government School , Faridkot Punjab IN 151208	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 576941** (Five lakh Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Forty One Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
15.	(Loan Code No- 24500001639), (Branch - Bathinda), Nandan Singh (Borrower) Janki Devi (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- H. No.-765, Sector No. 9, Ward No. 11, NA Street No.4, Suraj Nagri, Near Kalgidhar Street No.4, Suraj Nagri, Near Kalgidhar Dabwali Road, Malout. Muktsar Punjab IN 152107	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 1062749** (Ten lakh Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Nine Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
16.	(Loan Code No- 24500001640), (Branch - Bathinda), Balvir Singh (Borrower) Manjeet Singh Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Plot No. A-16 ,royal Enclave ,killa No.1 NA Sq.no.13 Chack- 4 G Badi , , Kalyan Sq.no.13 Chack- 4 G Badi , , Kalyan Sri Ganganagar , Rajasthan Ganganagar Rajasthan IN 335001	**20-02-2020 for Rs. 533370** (Five lakh Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
17.	(Loan Code No- 24500001966), (Branch - Bathinda), Pardeep Singh (Borrower) Gurucharan Singh (Co-Borrower)	c All the Part & Parcel of Property- Village Kanpur, Patel Nagar , Firozepur, Punjab Bhatinda, Punjab 152002	**27-12-2022 for Rs. 2101320** (Twenty One lakh One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
18.	(Loan Code No- 24500002087), (Branch - Bathinda), Binder Singh (Borrower) Sukhwinder Pal (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- H. No. 88, Ambey Valley,opp Cold Store, NA Near Shanti Vidya Mandir School, Moga- Near Shanti Vidya Mandir School, Moga- -zira By-pass Rd,vill-satiyewa Firozpur Punjab IN 152002	**23-04-2024 for Rs. 1980611** (Nineteen lakh Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Eleven Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
19.	(Loan Code No- 24500002401), (Branch - Bathinda), Ramandeep Singh (Borrower) Kiranpal Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Ward No.8 Near Dharamshala NA Krishan Singh Sarpanch Wali Gali Krishan Singh Sarpanch Wali Gali Vill. Chak Kharak Singh Wala Bathinda Pb. IN 151401	**19-09-2024 for Rs. 525094** (Five lakh Twenty Five Thousand Ninety Four Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
20.	(Loan Code No- 24500002491), (Branch - Bathinda), Anand Bhatti (Borrower) Anju Bhatti (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Near Chungi No. 8, Partap Nagar, NA Faridkot Road,Nwa Purba,Vill Satyie wala Faridkot Road,Nwa Purba,Vill Satyie wala Distt. Ferozepur Firozpur Punjab IN 152005	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 2150354** (Twenty One lakh Fifty Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Four Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
21.	(Loan Code No- 24500002514), (Branch - Bathinda), Jaswant Singh (Borrower) Shinder Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Near Patwar Khana, Kotkapura-muktsar Rd NA Vill. Khara, Teh. Kotkapura Vill. Khara, Teh. Kotkapura Distt. Faridkot Muktsar Punjab IN 152025	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 769259** (Seven lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Nine Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
22.	(Loan Code No- 13500002806), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Ashish Chitra (Borrower) Ritu Raj (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat No -202 block -h , Second Floor NA Parkwood Glade Parkwood Glade Mohali Rupnagar Chandigarh IN 160055	**30-01-2025 for Rs. 8634513** (Eighty Six lakh Thirty Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
23.	(Loan Code No- 13500002869), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Manjinder Pal Singh (Borrower) Jagdeep Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat No -204 block -h , Second Floor NA Parkwood Glade Parkwood Glade Kharar- Landran Road Rupnagar Punjab IN 140301	**30-01-2025 for Rs. 6552451** (Sixty Five lakh Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty One Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
24.	(Loan Code No- 13600002314), (Branch - Ludhiana), Asirul . (Borrower) Joshina (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Sanyas Nagar, Near Deep Vihar NA St No-6, Bahadur Ke Road St No-6, Bahadur Ke Road Near Gaushala Chownk Ludhiana Punjab IN 141001	**29-08-2023 for Rs. 1458308** (Fourteen lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eight Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
25.	(Loan Code No- 13600002595), (Branch - Ludhiana), Bhisham Kumar (Borrower) Amrita (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Ganpati Colony, Vill Dhrood NA Sahnewal,dehlon Road, Sahnewal,dehlon Road, Opp. Sri Guru Har Rai Sahib Pa Ludhiana Punjab IN 141120	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 1381496** (Thirteen lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Six Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
26.	(Loan Code No- 13600002691), (Branch - Ludhiana), Hardeep Singh (Borrower) Satwant Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Basant Vihar Norwala Road NA P.no. Scf 15-16, Wakia Kakowal P.no. Scf 15-16, Wakia Kakowal Near Water Tank Ludhiana Punjab IN 141007	**13-06-2023 for Rs. 3121325** (Thirty One lakh Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Five Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
27.	(Loan Code No- 13600002802), (Branch - Ludhiana), Guddu G (Borrower) Arti A (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Sunder Nagar, NA Lohara, Lohara, Ludhiana, Ludhiana Punjab IN 141003	**23-05-2022 for Rs. 876659** (Eight lakh Seventy Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Nine Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
28.	(Loan Code No- 13600002941), (Branch - Ludhiana), Parminder Singh (Borrower) Jaswinder Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- street No-2, Dhuri Line Road , NA Park & Railway Crossing , Manohar Nagar, Park & Railway Crossing , Manohar Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab IN 141001	**21-05-2022 for Rs. 3432180** (Thirty Four lakh Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
29.	(Loan Code No- 13600002971), (Branch - Ludhiana), Balvinder Modgill (Borrower) Kiran Modgil (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Mc No-b-33/3581-a , street No-9 , NA Gagandeep Colony Near Mangala Gagandeep Colony Near Mangala Karyana Store Ludhiana Punjab IN 141001	**26-07-2019 for Rs. 213889** (Two lakh Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Nine Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
30.	(Loan Code No- 13600003015), (Branch - Ludhiana), Kala Ram (Borrower) Rani R (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- B-34-8844/23, Wakia Mouja Haibowal, NA New Vijay Nagar, Street No 1, New Vijay Nagar, Street No 1, Churpur Road, Ludhiana. Punjab IN 141001	**20-07-2021 for Rs. 1288185** (Twelve lakh Eighty Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
31.	(Loan Code No- 13600003429), (Branch - Ludhiana), Gurmeet Singh (Borrower) Dharamvir Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Vill Samgarh, Hadbast No 128, NA The Samrala,khasra No-12//11/2 Teh Samrala,khasra No-12//11/2 Near Chd Road,bhagwanpura Road Ludhiana 141114	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 1850301** (Eighteen lakh Fifty Thousand Three Hundred One Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
32.	(Loan Code No- 13600003953), (Branch - Ludhiana), Amit Kumar (Borrower) Kiran Devi (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- House No. 47, Sachdeva Colony NA Village Baranhara Near Water Village Baranhara Near Water Treatment Plant Ludhiana Punjab IN 141001	**29-08-2023 for Rs. 1043815** (Ten lakh Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifteen Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
33.	(Loan Code No- 16500000102), (Branch - Jalandhar), Rajesh Kumar (Borrower) Kailash Rani (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Amrik Nagar Ajit Nagar NA Near Lovely Public School Near Lovely Public School Jalandhar Jalandhar Punjab IN 144003	**20-05-2019 for Rs. 625987** (Six lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Seven Rupees)	21/08/2025 (Symbolic)
34.	(Loan Code No- 16500001139), (Branch - Jalandhar), Anu Bhalla (Borrower) Raman Bhalla (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Garden Colony NA Mission Road Mission Road Near Bhinder Hospital Gurdaspur Punjab IN 145001	**21-10-2021 for Rs. 7647281** (Seventy Six lakh Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty One Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
35.	(Loan Code No- 16500001452), (Branch - Jalandhar), Sudesh Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Rajani Sudesh Kumar (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- B-ix-359..... Kh No-11 R NA Mohalla Rampura, Shastri Nagar, Mohalla Rampura, Shastri Nagar, Nr Nirmal Beauty Parlour, Gurdaspur Punjab IN 145001	**29-03-2018 for Rs. 5727269** (Fifty Seven lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Nine Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
36.	(Loan Code No- 16500001898), (Branch - Jalandhar), Rohit Verma (Borrower) Neelam N (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Kh No 1160,3469/1269 NA Vill Chak Hussain Vill Chak Hussain Lamba Pind Jalandhar Punjab IN 144001	**26-11-2018 for Rs. 928079** (Nine lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Seventy Nine Rupees)	21/08/2025 (Symbolic)
37.	(Loan Code No- 16500004031), (Branch - Jalandhar), Ashu So Madan Lal (Borrower) Palvi Wo Ashu (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Abadi Makhdoompura , House No NA Bxxxx-33/1 Bxxxx-33/1 Jalandhar Jalandhar Punjab IN 144001	**18-02-2019 for Rs. 1212517** (Twelve lakh Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Seventeen Rupees)	21/08/2025 (Symbolic)
38.	(Loan Code No- 16500004188), (Branch - Jalandhar), Barinder Iqbal (Borrower) Karambir Singh (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Hd No 113 Village Khera Kotli NA Dasuya Dasuya Hoshiarpur Punjab IN 144205	**14-06-2021 for Rs. 4484221** (Forty Four lakh Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
39.	(Loan Code No- 29000000506), (Branch - Amritsar), Pawan Kumar (Borrower) Kavita K (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Pvt Plot No-238,bharariwal NA Urban Abadi, Anand Vihar, Phase-2 Urban Abadi, Anand Vihar, Phase-2 Ward No 59 Opp Dream City Amritsar Punjab IN 143001	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 4066467** (Forty lakh Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Seven Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
40.	(Loan Code No- 17800000848), (Branch - Patiala), Babu Ram (Borrower) Nisha Rani (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Khasra No. 112//1/2/1(2-5) NA Khalsa Colony Khalsa Colony Near Budha Dal School, Patran Patiala Punjab IN 147101	**24-09-2021 for Rs. 1621680** (Sixteen lakh Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
41	(Loan Code No- 17800000999), (Branch - Patiala), Darshan Singh (Borrower) Daljit Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Khasra No. 1609/693/2-14 NA Vikas Nagar, Vill Seona Vikas Nagar, Vill Seona Over Drain Patiala Punjab IN 147001	**25-02-2023 for Rs. 520031** (Five lakh Twenty Thousand Thirty One Rupees)	19/08/2025 (Symbolic)
42.	(Loan Code No- 17800004710), (Branch - Patiala), Jaspal Singh (Borrower) Ravinder Singh (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Sas Nagar, Street No. 3, New Bus Stand R NA Near Dadu Autos Near Dadu Autos Barnala Barnala Punjab IN 148101	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 589619** (Five lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
43.	(Loan Code No- 17800005649), (Branch - Patiala), Pandeep Dhaliwal (Borrower) Barinder Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- House No.11-a/p NA Punjabi Bagh Near Punjabi Bagh Near Sanjeevni Hospital Patiala Punjab IN 147001	**20-02-2024 for Rs. 26685639.58** (Two Crore Sixty Six lakh Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Nine Rupees and Fifty Eight Paise)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
44.	(Loan Code No- 17800005912), (Branch - Patiala), Maninderjit Kaur (Borrower) Jasbir Singh (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Guruteg Bahadur Nagar NA Near Mala Pg Near Mala Pg Punjab, Barnala Punjab IN 148101	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 268943** (Two lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Three Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
45.	(Loan Code No- 17800006930), (Branch - Patiala), Amrik Singh (Borrower) Jaspal Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Village: Tibba, Tehsil: Dhuri NA Near Gurudwara Sahib Dhuri Sangrur Punjab IN 148025	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 1872903** (Eighteen Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Three Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
46.	(Loan Code No- 30900000112), (Branch - Sangrur), Jagan Nath (Borrower) Sukhwinder Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- DR AMBEDKAR NAGAR MANSA NA OLD SABJI MANDI OLD SABJI MANDI MANSA Mansa Pb IN 151505	**21-03-2022 for Rs. 906562** (Nine lakh Six Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Two Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
47.	(Loan Code No- 30900000211), (Branch - Sangrur), Chander Mohan Verma (Borrower) Rano Rani (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- VILLAGE :DHURI NA NEAR RAILWAY QUARTERS NEAR RAILWAY QUARTERS SANGRUR Sangrur Punjab IN 148024	**01-11-2023 for Rs. 1565651** (Fifteen lakh Sixty Five Thousand Six Hundred Fifty One Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
48.	(Loan Code No- 13500002654), (Branch - Chandigarh - Sector 22), Gurpreet Singh Tagore (Borrower) Mandeep Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Plot No. 2 Chajjumajra Near K soni Flats, Khara , Mohali Punjab 140301	**21-10-2021 for Rs. 986080** (Nine lakh Eighty Six Thousand Eighty Rupees)	20/08/2025 (Symbolic)
49.	(Loan Code No- 13500002654), (Branch - Noida - Sector 2), Kritika Arora (Borrower) Jyoti Arora (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Property- Flat No. 504 , Fifth Floor Tower - B 5 , Surya Tower Vip Road Zirakpur Zirakpur Punjab Punjab :- 140603	**13/06/2023 for Rs. 56,89,296** (Fifty Six Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Six Rupees)	21/08/2025 (Symbolic)

Place : Punjab
Dated: 24.08.2025

(Authorised Officer)
JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, acting in its capacity as trustee of Aranya – Trust

Ludhiana DC issues strict orders to curb defacement

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23



Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain on Friday issued stringent directives to address the incidents of defacement across Ludhiana, violating the Punjab Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 1997. He ordered immediate action to restore the city's aesthetics and uphold public order.

The order mandates the Municipal corporation office to ensure the prompt removal of all unauthorized defacement, including posters, graffiti, banners, and wall writings. A dedicated team under a nodal officer will be constituted within 48 hours to undertake ward-wise monitoring and cleaning operations. Weekly status reports detailing cleaned locations, new cases identified, and actions taken must be submitted every Monday. Any failure to comply will attract action against the nodal officer.

The police has been directed to enforce the Punjab Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 1997, and initiate legal action against offenders under relevant sections. FIRs will be registered against individuals or organizations responsible for such defacement. Adequate patrolling and surveillance measures, especially near public infrastructure, government offices, flyovers, and high-visibility areas, are to be intensified. Police stations must maintain records of defacement cases and submit weekly compliance reports.

The community engagement and awareness drives will be launched in schools, colleges, marketplaces, and other public areas.

Jain also stated that defacement tarnishes the city's beauty and disrupts public order. He urged citizens to co-operate and report violations.

MC Commissioner takes strict action on cleanliness lapses

SANITARY SUPERVISOR SUSPENDED; SHOW-CAUSE NOTICES TO CSI AND LAMBARDAR

INDERJIT SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23



With the Municipal Corporation (MC) Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal taking strict stance over cleanliness, a sanitary supervisor has been suspended, while show cause notices have been issued to a Chief Sanitary Inspector (CSI) and Lambardar over lack of cleanliness.

Action has been taken against the concerned staffers/officials after lack of cleanliness was witnessed in their respective areas during inspection.

Sanitary Supervisor Vijay Chauhan has been suspended over lack of cleanliness in the area allocated to him on Chandigarh road (Veer palace to Fortis hospital).

Further, show cause notice has been issued to CSI Surinder Dogra and Lambardar Pramod Kumar over lack of cleanliness on the road leading to Civil Surgeon office from Dandi swami chowk (old DMC hospital road).

The inspections in their respective areas were conducted on Friday.

MC Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal stated that strict directions have been issued to the officials/employees of health branch to ensure cleanliness in their respective areas. As these employees failed to perform their duties, action has been taken against them.

Dachalwal further stated inspections are being conducted across the city on a regular basis and if any employee/official fails to perform their duties to ensure cleanliness, they will face the music.

It is pertinent here to tell that earlier too in the month of July, a sweeper was suspended over his failure to stop open dumping of garbage and ensure cleanliness on 100-feet road that falls under Zone B of MC.

Meanwhile, MC Commissioner Dachalwal appealed to the residents to stop dumping waste in open and support the authorities in keeping the city clean.

AVOID QUEUES, BOOK SMART

Railway promotes UTS on mobile app for unreserved ticketing, 13,000+ tickets booked daily



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, August 23

Indian Railways has made booking unreserved (general) tickets easier and more convenient through the UTS on mobile app, eliminating the hassle of standing in long queues at ticket counters. The app allows passengers to book unreserved tickets, season tickets, and platform tickets anytime, anywhere, directly from their mobile phones.

Under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar and the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Paramdeep Singh Saini, Ferozepur Division has been running continuous awareness campaigns to encourage maximum use of the digital ticketing system. At all major stations, passengers are being informed and guided about using the app. Presently, more than 13,000 tickets are being booked daily through the UTS on Mobile app in the Ferozepur Division.

Highlighting its benefits, SDCM Paramdeep Singh Saini urged passengers to make greater use of the app, as it not only saves time but also provides a 3% bonus on ticket booking. He added that the UTS on Mobile app is a smart, safe, and cashless ticketing solution, contributing to both Digital India and enhanced passenger convenience.

International Senior Citizens Day celebrated



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23

Ludhiana First Club organized a special program at the Sutlej Club to mark International Senior Citizens Day. On this occasion, former PSIDC Chairman Krishan Kumar Bawa and Executive Secretary Ashwani Arora felicitated several distinguished personalities for their contributions to society.

Those honoured included Dr Ashish Ahuja, General Secretary of Sutlej Club; Major Bhamb (89 years old and still remarkably fit); Vir Chakra awardee Colonel H.S Kahlon; Principal Satish Sharma; industrialist Mahinder Singh Eros; Col. I.S Sandhu; Col. Sidhu; Retd. Chief Engineer and Justice R.S Khokhar; Bar Secretary Bhupinder Dev; S.S Bedi; and Chief Engineer Manpreet Chahal.

Former General Secretary Gurinder Khero was also specially honoured by Bawa and Mukesh Sood during the ceremony.

Golden chance to pay property tax without penalty; MC offices open today

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23



Giving a golden chance to residents for submitting their pending property tax without any penalty and interest, Municipal Corporation (MC) would be keeping its zonal suvidha kendras open on Sunday (August 24) too.

The decision has been taken to help the residents in availing the benefit of One Time Settlement (OTS) policy floated by state government wherein residents can submit the pending property tax without penalty and interest by August 31.

Earlier on Friday, Municipal Corporation (MC) Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal ordered that apart from the normal working days, the zonal suvidha kendras of MC will remain open on Saturdays (August 23 and 30) and Sundays (August 24 and 31) too during the office working hours.

The officials stated that the property tax has to be paid on a self assessment basis every year. If the property owner fails to pay the property tax, a 20 percent penalty and 18 percent annual interest on the pending amount is charged by the civic body.

Police seize truck with 600 bags of urea

RAMAN CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, August 23

The police have confiscated a truck carrying around 600 bags of urea fertiliser, amid its acute shortage.

The bags of urea which were released to a cooperative society in Bhittewad village, were allegedly being siphoned off and unloaded at a private godown.

However, the police got wind of it and a raid was immediately conducted at the spot in a joint operation with officials of the cooperative society.

Following preliminary investigations, the police have booked Davinder Singh, secretary of the cooperative society at Bhittewad village, on charges of cheating and criminal conspiracy. He was yet to be arrested.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Dr Sheetal Singh said that the Vallah police received a tip-off that a truck bearing the registration number Punjab-02-BL-9877, carrying urea, was illegally unloading it at a private godown. The urea was meant to be transferred to the cooperative society in Bhittewad village for further distribution to farmers at subsidised rates.

He said police teams swung into action and recovered the truck which had unloaded around 64 bags weighing around 45 kg each at the private godown. When the police reached the spot, the accused Davinder Singh slipped away from the scene and the driver also escaped with the truck.

"Immediately, a PCR team chased the truck and intercepted it on Ram Tirath Road," he said.

In the receipt produced by the truck driver, Davinder Singh has signed the documents for receiving the urea which clearly indicate his intention to siphon off the government fertiliser meant for farmers of Bhittewad village.

SCD Govt College English PG students shine with 98.13 pc pass rate in MA exams



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23

For Semester II university results in MA English, Harneet Kaur shone brightly with an impressive 75.5 pc, clinching the third spot on the university merit list. Within the college, Harneet stood first, Vanita Jain stood second with 72 pc marks, while Pranav Sood secured third position with 69.5 pc marks.

Semester IV university results proved just as impressive. Jatin Anand secured the third place in the university merit list with a remarkable 70.56 pc, while Harjot Singh followed with a commendable 69.93%, earning the sixth position in the university. At the college level, Jatin Anand and Harjot Singh were followed by Ankita Singh who secured the third position with 68.27% marks.

The Department's winning streak continued, with students racking up remarkable victories in the UGC NET examinations. In June 2024, Shabnam (Batch 2022–23) qualified for Assistant Professor and PhD admission. Manjot Kaur (Batch 2020–21) and Damanpreet Kaur (Batch 2022–23) celebrated success in December 2024. By June 2025, Arshnoor Singh (Batch 2022–23) also earned qualifications for Assistant Professor and PhD admission.

MLA inaugurates road construction project connecting Wards 35 and 43

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23



Rajinderpal Kaur Chhina, MLA from Ludhiana South, inaugurated the construction work of the main road connecting Ward No. 35 and Ward No. 43.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Chhina informed that the road is being built with 10-inch RMC and an estimated cost of Rs 89 lakh will be incurred under this project.

She stated that previous governments had neglected the road infrastructure of this area, but now the long-pending demand of the residents has been fulfilled.

Chhina added that with the construction of this main road, commuting will become easier, and residents will be relieved of the difficulties they usually faced during the rainy season. She further emphasized that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab government is carrying out extensive development works across the state to ensure that people are not deprived of basic facilities.

On this occasion, BC Wing President Jagdev Dhunna, Councillor Prabhpreet Kaur Dhunna, "Youth Against Drugs" Halqa Coordinator Lakhwinder Zora, Ward President Ranjit Grewal, Sukhdev Garcha, and Renu Masih were also present.

MLA launches road construction works in Ward No 87



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23

MLA Chaudhary Madan Lal Bagga inaugurated the construction of long streets along Karabar Road in Ward No. 87.

On the occasion, Councillor Aman Bagga, Councillor Harjinder Bali, Jaspal Singh Boni, Vikram Chopra, Bittu Rana, and several local residents were present. Speaking at the event, MLA Bagga said that under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the state government is committed to providing quality education, healthcare, and basic amenities to the people, and concrete steps are being taken in this direction. He added that continuous development works are being carried out in his constituency, and promises made to residents are being fulfilled one by one.

Highlighting the poor condition of Karabar Road's streets, Bagga said that during the rainy season, it was extremely difficult for pedestrians and commuters to pass through. With the construction of these streets, smooth transportation will be ensured and the path for further development will be strengthened.

29 farmers complete training in nursery raising of horticultural crops at PAU

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 22



A total of 29 farmers underwent a five-day rigorous training in the nursery raising of horticultural crops at Skill Development Centre, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU). The course which concluded on Saturday was held under the guidance of Dr MS Bhullar, Director of Extension Education, PAU.

Dr Rupinder Kaur, Associate Director (Skill Development), pointed to the slump in economy in light of rising cost of living and meager returns. Horticulture was a profitable venture, an answer to collective challenges of water, climate and soil health crises via diversification, water conservation, reduced expenses, and increased sustainable income, she added.

The Assistant Home Scientist Dr Kulvir Kaur highlighted the contours of the training course, paving way for enriched horticulture cultivation, productivity, salability and profitability.

The PAU experts Dr JS Brar, Dr Anirudh Tiwari, Dr Mandeep Singh Gill, Dr KK Kang, Dr RK Sandhu, Dr Amarinder Kaur, Dr Tarina Adhikahri, Dr Sangeet Ranguwal, Dr Ruma Devi, Dr Dilpreet Talwar, Dr RK Gill, Dr Prerna Thakur, Dr Sukhjit Kaur, Dr Jiffnir Singh, Dr Madhu Sharma, Dr Barinder Kaur, Dr Sailesh Jindal, Dr Simrat Singh, Dr Madhu Bala, Dr Rishu Sharma, and Dr Ranjit Singh focused on fruit, vegetable and flower cultivation.

LPU Baseball Team clinches All India Inter University Championship 2025

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Kapurthala, August 22

Lovely Professional University (LPU) has once again reaffirmed its sporting dominance as its Baseball Team emerged champions at the All India Inter University Baseball Championship held in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. Competing against top talent from 80+ universities across the country, the 16-member LPU squad, led by Head Coach Rakesh, delivered a spectacular performance throughout the tournament to secure the coveted gold medal. Remarkably, several players from the team also represent India at the international level, bringing invaluable experience and skill to the field.

The team displayed extraordinary skill, discipline, and resilience throughout the tournament. From intense matchups to remarkable defensive plays, every game reflected the squad's commitment to excellence and competitive spirit.

Malwa Cultural Forum mourns demise of Jaswinder Bhalla

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, August 23

The Malwa Cultural Forum expressed deep grief over the passing away of renowned Punjabi personality Jaswinder Bhalla. Paying tribute, Forum President Krishan Kumar Bawa, Chairman Rana Jhade, Women Wing President Simmi Kwatra, and noted writer Deep Ludhianvi recalled his immense contribution to Punjabi culture and cinema.

Bawa shared that around two decades ago, the Forum had felicitated Bhalla with a gold medal at a Lohri Mela held at Punjabi Bhawan, Ludhiana. He described Bhalla as "the pride of Punjab and Ludhiana" and remembered him as a versatile personality who left an indelible mark on society.

The Forum members further said that Jaswinder Bhalla was a shining star of the Punjabi film industry, a true gem who elevated Punjabi cinema to great heights.

Real-Money Games ban affects: Payment gateways may face ₹30, 000 crore hit in transaction volumes

The annual revenue growth of payment gateway firms operating in India is expected to dip by as much as 15 per cent following the suspension of real-money gaming (RMG) operations post the government brought new laws barring e-sports companies from offering such games



The annual revenue growth of payment gateway firms operating in India is expected to dip by as much as 15 per cent following the suspension of real-money gaming (RMG) operations post the government brought new laws barring e-sports companies from offering such games.

Following the development, the digital transaction volumes in the country may shrink by at least Rs 30,000 crore this year.

According to media reports, the sharpest impact will be felt by smaller, gaming-focused payment players, while larger gateways may see only a partial dent thanks to their diversified portfolios. Nearly 80 per cent of the impacted transactions would have been processed via the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in any other scenario.

According to a business executive with knowledge of the situation, this directly affects UPI's monthly transaction volumes by about 2 per cent and its total value by about 0.5 per cent.

The scope of digital payments linked to gaming is demonstrated by data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

According to reports, 35.1 crore payments, or 2.8 per cent of the platform's total volume, were made in digital Goods. Games category in July alone, totalling Rs 10,077 crore in transactions, or 1.38 per cent of UPI's monthly value.

It is anticipated that UPI will lose approximately 25 crore transactions each month, valued at approximately Rs 5,040 crore, as a result of the ban. Major payment gateways with exposure to the RMG industry, including Razorpay, PayU, and Cashfree, would see pressure on their earnings.

However, compared to niche companies that only serve the gaming industry, the fallout is probably going to be less severe because of their substantial presence in other industries.

With an estimated value of $25 billion, India's online real-money gaming sector brings in over Rs 31,000 crore annually and pays nearly Rs 20,000 crore in taxes. As a result, the regulatory crackdown has broad ramifications for the entire digital payments ecosystem in addition to gaming companies. Meanwhile, the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, which imposes extensive limitations on money-based online gaming platforms in India, was approved by President Droupadi Murmu, a day after the Parliament passed it.

Those who provide such services face severe penalties under the new law, which include fines of up to Rs 1 crore and imprisonment of up to three years. Promoting or advertising on such platforms can also result in fines of Rs 50 lakh and a two-year jail sentence. **IANS**

ICMR to share tools with South Asian countries to support health research systems

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will share tools and training to support emerging health research systems in South Asian countries, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Saturday



The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will share tools and training to support emerging health research systems in South Asian countries, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Saturday.

At the high-level regional dialogue on strengthening health research systems, health officials from the ICMR and Department of Health Research (DHR) fostered collaboration across South and Southeast Asia to ensure that health research directly informs policy, addresses regional priorities, and builds sustainable systems for the future.

The meeting convened representatives from Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and India at the national capital.

"ICMR offered to share its tools and resources, including common ethics review forms and free online training courses, so that countries at nascent stages of building research systems can adapt them without having to start from scratch," the Ministry said.

"Looking ahead, countries agreed to establish structured mechanisms for collaboration, including annual/biannual convenings, exchange visits, and joint capacity-building programmes in research methods, ethics, grant writing, and science communications," it added.

Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary, DHR & Director-General, ICMR, highlighted the importance of collaboration amongst South Asian countries to strengthen global health systems.

"Global partnerships and science diplomacy have always been central to India's strategy. South–South collaboration remains a priority through joint projects and capacity building to ensure that the region benefits from each other's expertise. Above all, science and research must serve people directly," said Bahl.

The countries agreed that regional cooperation is essential to tackle common challenges such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and One Health. They also identified joint efforts in medical technology innovation, field epidemiology training, ethics, and quality assurance as priority areas.

Further, the participants committed to formal mechanisms for research–policy dialogue, ensuring that scientific evidence is translated into effective programmes.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to move from knowledge-sharing to joint action, with each country exploring opportunities to lead on specific thematic areas such as One Health, Pandemic Preparedness, Infectious Diseases, Vector Borne Diseases, Non-communicable diseases, maternal health, and medical innovation ensuring that health research across the region directly responds to regional needs and priorities. **IANS**

India laying foundations to emerge as global medtech hub: Govt



India is laying the foundations to emerge as a global medtech hub, said the Union government on Saturday.

At a two-day Southeast and South Asia regional meet, Amit Agrawal, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, emphasised the need to strengthen the medical device sector ecosystem.

Beyond "technology and skilled manpower," there is also a need to establish "internationally accredited laboratories, adopt globally harmonised standards, and support clinical investigations for innovative devices to achieve economies of scale but aggregate demand beyond national borders".

"With the ongoing development of medical device parks in India and ICMR's MedTech Mitra and Patent Mitra initiatives, clinical trial support schemes and strengthened research platforms, India is systematically laying the foundation to emerge as a significant MedTech innovation hub," he added.

Underscoring that "health knows no boundaries", he observed that the Covid-19 pandemic has shown the critical need for collaboration across borders, between sectors, and among government departments and public health agencies in creating resilient and strong healthcare systems.

The Secretary also highlighted the contributions of the National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) in developing skilled human capital.

Specialised courses in medical devices are now being offered across seven NIPERs, and these have been opened to foreign nationals as well.

Medical technologies will increasingly move beyond hospitals into households through digitalisation, thereby making healthcare more accessible and affordable, according to Agrawal.

He also highlighted the importance of Academia to Industry: The Discovery Marketplace platform developed by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, which aims to enable connections between industry, startups, academic and research institutes, and other stakeholders in the pharma-MedTech sector for partnerships, collaborations, and tie-ups for innovative products and promote breakthroughs for both commercial and public good.

The meeting is part of the Regional Enabler for South and Southeast Asia Research for Health (RESEARCH) Platform, which aims to foster solidarity, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among participating countries. It was organised by the Department of Health Research and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in the national capital.

The session brought together senior health functionaries from the governments and public health agencies from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Timor-Leste to deliberate on strengthening health research systems, facilitate exchange of good practices, and promote cross-border collaboration in South and Southeast Asia. **IANS**

India showcases leadership in quality, safety benchmarks for herbal medicines



India showcased its leadership in herbal medicines at an event here, reinforcing its commitment to supporting the global acceptance of herbal medicines by combining traditional knowledge with modern quality protocols, an official statement said on Friday.

The four-day regional workshop on WHO Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Herbal Medicines was jointly organised by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization – South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO-SEARO) at the RRAP-Central Ayurveda Research Institute here.

The workshop saw participation from 19 international delegates representing South-East Asian countries including Bhutan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, along with leading Indian experts.

The event provided a dynamic platform for training and knowledge exchange to strengthen global herbal drug quality standards.

Addressing the workshop, Professor Rabinarayan Acharya, DG, CCRAS, stressed India's commitment to supporting the global acceptance of herbal medicines by combining traditional knowledge with modern quality protocols.

Dr Pavan Godatwar, WHO-SEARO, highlighted India's leading role in establishing quality and safety benchmarks for herbal medicines.

The workshop marked a significant step towards strengthening regional collaboration and capacity for implementing WHO-GMP, GHPP, and GACP guidelines.

Participants were trained through 11 technical sessions led by leading experts from India's herbal drug and pharmaceutical sector.

Key topics included WHO-GMP guidelines, Quality Management Systems, Good Herbal Processing Practices (GHPP), Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP), and modern quality control protocols.

As part of the hands-on training, delegates visited Emami's WHO-GMP-certified manufacturing plant and Zandu Foundation for Healthcare farms, gaining practical exposure to quality benchmarks and farm-to-pharma excellence.

The Ministry of Ayush, in partnership with WHO, continues efforts to align India's herbal drug standards with global best practices. **IANS**

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NEWSBRIEFS

Madhya Pradesh announces 60-day remission for 14,000 prisoners

BHOPAL: In a humanitarian gesture coinciding with the celebration of "Shri Krishna Janmashtami," which occurred on August 16, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced a 60-day remission for thousands of convicted prisoners across the state. The decision, shared on the official X handle of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, reflects the government's continued tradition of offering sentence relief during major religious festivals.

According to the Chief Minister's statement, approximately 14,000 inmates out of the 21,000 currently lodged in state jails will benefit from the remission. The order, issued to the Jail Department, specifically excludes those convicted of serious offenses such as terrorism, sexual crimes, and murder -- ensuring that public safety remains paramount, his post said. **IANS**

'BJP scared of truth, not afraid of FIRs': Tejashwi Yadav

PATNA: Bihar Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday hit back at the BJP after two FIRs were filed against him for his alleged comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who visited the state on August 22. The two FIRs have been separately filed in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh -- both states ruled by the BJP."Who is afraid of FIR? Now, even saying 'jumla' has become a crime. These people are scared of the truth. We are not afraid of any FIR," said Tejashwi Yadav while addressing the ongoing Voter Rights Yatra in Katihar. **IANS**

VP election: Justice B Sudershan Reddy plans Lucknow tour for reaching out to MPs

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23



INDIA Bloc's vice presidential candidate Justice (Retd) B. Sudershan Reddy plans to launch his nationwide campaign to seek MPs' support from Lucknow, said his aide on Saturday.

"Justice Reddy's Lucknow tour is being drafted," said a member of his personal staff, adding that he would be visiting other states later.

The visits to different states will be planned in a way that he manages to establish contact with a maximum number of MPs, he said.

, Justice Reddy said his foremost priority would be to protect and defend the Constitution and for this, rather than appealing to political parties, he is reaching out to individual MPs to take an appropriate and conscious decision.

"Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu know me well, and I know them too. They haven't explicitly stated that they'll support the NDA candidate. They've only said that they are part of the NDA and have to go with them.

Let's see what happens," he said.

Refusing to call the September 9 VP election symbolic due to the Opposition's numerical inferiority, he said, "I don't think there's anything symbolic about this contest. That's a misunderstanding. In Parliament, while we see the numbers of parties, the actual voters are individual Members of Parliament. I appeal to each MP to consider my candidature."

The 79-year-old Justice Reddy has a long and illustrious legal career known for his progressive and socially-conscious approach to justice, access to education and judicial independence.

During his stint in the Supreme Court from January 2007 to July 2011, while serving as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court and working as a Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, Justice Reddy paid special focus on access to education.

Justice Reddy expressed strong disapproval of policies limiting access to higher education, particularly for disadvantaged groups.

Justice Reddy, who was appointed as a permanent Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on May 2, 1995 and elevated as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court on December 5, 2005, has also stood for judicial independence. **IANS**

CJI Gavai calls for expanding legal aid, educating people on their legal rights

PANAJI, AUGUST 23



Chief Justice of India, B.R. Gavai, on Saturday called for taking legal aid to the remotest areas in the country to educate people about their rights and asked stakeholders to help strengthen the legal education infrastructure in mofussil colleges.

Speaking at an event at V.M. Salgaocar College of Law, CJI Gavai said, "Unless the citizens know that they have the right to legal remedy, the remedy or the right will be of no help to them."CJI Gavai recalled his early days when he took part in legal aid camps in places in the Northeast and states like Rajasthan along the Indo-Pakistan border.

Inspiring students to work for society, he said, "You are the future of tomorrow's India."

He said exam results alone do not determine success, but it is "your determination, your hard work and your commitment that matter."Appreciating the innovative measures taken by the V.M. Salgaocar College of Law for supporting young lawyers, CJI Gavai said, "Maybe other law colleges can emulate the experiment of giving three rooms to young lawyers for use as chambers for practice."The CJI also stressed the need to maintain high standards in legal education. "These days there is a lot of focus on National Law Universities but I believe other colleges are also producing bright students. But stakeholders should strengthen legal education infrastructure in mofussil colleges."

The CJI's call to young legal professionals to give something back to society comes at a time when the number of pending cases in courts has been rising steadily.

As per official data up to July 21 available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), Indian courts are burdened with 5.29 crore pending cases, with the maximum number of 4.65 crore cases pending in district and subordinate courts. **IANS**

Home tutor thrashed for protesting against public drinking near Kolkata

KOLKATA, AUGUST 23

A home tutor was brutally assaulted by a group of youths, including a woman, after he objected to them consuming alcohol in public on Saturday morning in Belgharia, on the northern outskirts of Kolkata.

The victim has been identified as Nirupam Pal, a drawing teacher. He was severely beaten up by a few young men and a woman who were drinking alcohol at the roadside.

The injured teacher has been admitted to Sagar Dutta Medical College and Hospital. The CCTV footage from a local shop has captured the incident. He was seen being punched and kicked in the video. The protesting teacher was trying to shield himself with his hands, but was overpowered by the youths. A young woman was also seen beating him.

The teacher has lodged a complaint against the youths at the Belgharia Police Station. However, no one has been arrested so far in this connection.

According to the complaint, Nirupam Pal was returning to his home in the Nandanpur area from a guesthouse around 6 a.m. on Saturday. He saw four young men and a young woman drinking alcohol on the side of the road.

He protested and asked them why they were consuming alcohol in broad daylight. Following that, five people, including a woman, allegedly beat him up. According to the teacher, his nose and mouth were broken. He was also hit in the eyes and chest.

Pal said, "There was an invitation for Kali Puja at night. I was returning home from there in the morning. **IANS**

Kota Floods: Army and SDRF in action as heavy rains disrupt life, schools closed, expressway shut

JAIPUR, AUGUST 23



Continuous heavy rains over the last two days have created a flood-like situation in rural areas of Kota. The Army and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have taken charge of rescue and relief operations. Schools across the district remained closed on Saturday, while Kota University has also postponed its scheduled examinations.

Due to overflowing creeks, rivers, and drains, connectivity with Sultanpur and Digod and Nimoda villages.

The Army and SDRF teams are relocating affected families to safer areas.

The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway has been closed from Karadia after the rising creek water submerged the eighth lane. Traffic from Kota to Karadia towards Delhi has come to a complete halt. A 4-foot water sheet on the Marwada Chowki drain has blocked traffic, while drains overflowing on Sultanpur-Bhaura Road have further disrupted connectivity. **IANS**

Playing cricket with Pakistan is inhumane, says Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI, AUGUST 23



Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday strongly opposed the Union Sports Ministry's approval for India-Pakistan matches in the Asia Cup, calling it "deeply painful" for the people of India.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Raut said, "The blood of the Indians killed in the Pahalgam attack has not yet dried, and the tears of their families have not yet stopped. Even so, playing cricket matches with Pakistan is inhumane."

"Playing cricket with Pakistan is not only an insult to the valour of our soldiers but also to every martyr who sacrificed their life for Kashmir, including Syama Prasad Mukherjee. These matches are being played in Dubai.

If they were held in Maharashtra, Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sena would have disrupted them. By prioritizing cricket with Pakistan over Hindutva and patriotism, you are treating the sentiments of the nation's people as worthless. The Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) condemns your decision," said Raut.

He claimed that the sports ministry's decision would not be possible without the approval of the Prime Minister and the Home Ministry, saying that he is expressing the sentiments of patriotic citizens in his letter."Matches against Pakistan involve large-scale betting and online gambling, with many BJP members allegedly involved. Jay Shah, a prominent figure from Gujarat, is currently steering cricket affairs.

Is there significant financial turnover for the BJP in this?" he asked.

"You say Operation Sindoor against Pakistan is not over.

If the conflict is still ongoing, how can we play cricket with Pakistan? The Pahalgam attack was carried out by a Pakistani terrorist group, which wiped the sindoor (vermilion) of 26 women. Have you considered the feelings of those mothers and sisters?

Has President Trump threatened to stop trade if we do not play cricket with Pakistan? You declared that 'blood and water cannot flow together'. Now, will blood and cricket flow together? Raut asked. **IANS**

DELHI/NCR

Delhi CM Gupta attends SRCC anniversary, says won't be intimidated by any 'demonic' force

DELHI, AUGUST 23



Days after being attacked at her Civil Lines residence, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday attended the 99th anniversary celebrations of Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) and asserted that no force can intimidate her.

Gupta, who sustained injuries during the Jan Sunvai event attack, has since made two public appearances.

On Friday, she faced another disruption when a man dressed in a salwar-kurta stormed into an event of the Association of Wholesale Readymade Garments Dealers, shouting slogans.

Speaking at SRCC, CM Gupta, an alumnus of the University of Delhi, recalled an incident from her student politics days to stress her resilience.

"I am used to facing storms. When I was the DUSU president, we were organising a protest and burnt effigies at Maurice Nagar Chowk. As President, I had to light the effigy.

A smart person had poured petrol, and as soon as I lit it, the flames rose, burning my face. I had to live with that injury for almost one and a half months. I was a student, young, but I decided not to stop and kept going," she said.

Drawing a parallel to her present role, the Chief Minister said, "Today, I have such a big power -- the people of Delhi, their love, affection and blessings. You all have entrusted me with the reins of Delhi. I am not going to be scared of any demonic power. I am very grateful to all of you."

Gupta also extended greetings to her alma mater, calling SRCC "Asia's finest commerce college."

"Memories of college life are truly golden. No matter how many heights we achieve in life, those days always remain fresh in our hearts.

Being a Delhi University student, this atmosphere took me back to my old days," she said.

In her address, the Chief Minister urged the youth to dedicate themselves to the nation's progress and to work for the upliftment of the country and "together build a new, better, and stronger Delhi." **IANS**

Delhi govt committed to increase job opportunities for youth: Kapil Mishra

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23



Delhi Employment Minister Kapil Mishra said on Saturday that the Rekha Gupta government is working to increase employment opportunities, so that the city's young jobseekers are not forced to go to Noida and Gurugram for work.

Addressing mediapersons at a job fair organised at Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College, Minister Mishra said, "Under CM Rekha Gupta, we are working on this issue and have an action plan to generate jobs for city youth."

"We want Delhi youths to get better opportunities, training and skills," he said.

He praised the job fair experiment in the college and said that over the past decade, the job situation has worsened due to the previous government's apathy.

"There was a time when the development in the NCR region was taking place, with Delhi the commercial and job hub and other cities serving as residential zones. However, the situation has deteriorated so much that people are being forced to go to Noida and Gurugram for jobs," he said. Minister Mishra said industries in the city have been destroyed, and job creation has hit rock bottom.

"The situation for Delhi's young job seekers turned very bad, but under the Rekha Gupta government, we are committed to improving the situation," he said."We are planning to bring in modern and non-polluting industries to the city. For promoting investment in the tourism sector, we held a summit last week," he said.

He said the Delhi government's focus is on all non-polluting sectors like services, technology-based industries, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics and tourism sector.

Talking about the partnership with colleges, he said the Delhi government is looking to bridge the skill gap so that the youth are employable.

He said during the past 15 years, the skill gap has widened, and we are working to handle it. **IANS**

Several parts of Delhi lashed by rains

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

Several parts of the national capital witnessed rainfall on Saturday afternoon. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning on Sunday as well. On Saturday, several parts of the city -- including north, central, south and southeast Delhi -- witnessed rain. According to officials of the Public Works Department, their flood control room received at least 10 complaints on waterlogging during the day, and most of them were cleared within an hour.

The IMD has predicted rainfall with gusty winds in areas including Civil Lines, Red Fort, Lajpat Nagar, Narela, Bawana, Alipur and ITO on Saturday evening and Sunday. Meanwhile, the maximum temperature in the city settled at 34.5 degrees Celsius on Saturday, 0.3 notches below the season›s average.

The minimum temperature stood at 25.7 degrees Celsius, 0.8 notch below the season's average. The relative humidity was recorded at 76 per cent at 5.30 pm. The air quality continued in the "satisfactory" category at 6 pm, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of 93, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed. **PTI**

CBI brings back fugitive extortionist Sunil Kumar from Azerbaijan, key member of Aman Sahu gang

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

In a major success against organised crime, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has coordinated the return of fugitive Sunil Kumar, a key member of the Aman Sahu gang, from Azerbaijan. Kumar was wanted by Jharkhand Police in multiple extortion cases and was brought back to India through INTERPOL channels on Friday.

According to officials, a three-member team of Jharkhand Police travelled to Baku, Azerbaijan, on August 19 to secure Kumar's custody.The team, along with the accused, landed at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, on August 23. Sunil Kumar, who operated under the alias Mayank Singh, was wanted in FIR No. 175/2022 registered at Patratu, Bhadaninagar Police Station, Jharkhand.

He had been accused of sending threatening WhatsApp messages to coal transporters, railway contractors, and businesspersons, demanding extortion money. Several cases against him are registered in different states. **IANS**

Authorities set up flood relief camps in Mayur Vihar area amid rising Yamuna level

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23



Amidst the rising level of the Yamuna River in Delhi, flood relief camps have been set up by the District Magistrate (East) in the Mayur Vihar area. The Yamuna River in the national capital continued to flow close to the danger mark on Friday. Drone images from Loha Pul on Friday showed the water flowing close to the danger level. Visuals from Loha Pul on Thursday also showed the water close to the 205 m mark. The river has so far crossed the danger level only once, and the overflowing river water reached the residential areas. But the change in water level of the river has kept the authorities on their toes. The administration has set up temporary camps in schools for people living near the Yamuna camp. On Wednesday, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta visited the residential area at Yamuna Bazaar, where water from the overflowing Yamuna River had entered, and assured that there is no flood-like situation in Delhi and the water level will drop within one to two days. After assessing the affected area, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said,

"The situation is under control.

The water level was close to 206 m in the morning, but it has not crossed this mark yet.

The water should recede in a day or two.

We are providing food and water, as well as a medical facility here. There is no flood situation in Delhi."

She said that the administration has made arrangements in school for those who want to go to a safer location, providing them with a place to stay and food, as well as all the necessary help in the affected area.

CM Gupta visited the affected area to analyse the situation and talk to the people living in the area. The Yamuna River is flowing close to the danger mark after all 18 gates of Hathinikund Barrage in Haryana's Yamunanagar were opened on Sunday due to rising water level after continuous rain. **AGENCIES**

Work together to build a new, better Haryana: CM Saini to officers

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23



With 'Swachhata Pakhwada' to be celebrated across the state from September 17 to October 2, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday urged the officers to work together as 'team Haryana' to build a new and better Haryana.

He said with the goal of making the state cleaner, greener, and more beautiful, a Swachta Ranking of all cities will soon be launched on the lines of the Centre's Swachh Survekshan. Cities that perform best in cleanliness will be honoured for their efforts.

Chief Minister Saini was presiding over a cleanliness review meeting with senior officers, including Additional Deputy Commissioners, from all districts, the Municipal Corporation Commissioners, District Municipal Commissioners, Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), and Principal Medical Officers (PMOs) in Panchkula. The Deputy Commissioners joined the meeting through video conferencing.Earlier, he inaugurated the newly constructed building of the Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management in Sector 3. Urban Local Bodies Minister Vipul Goel, Public Works Minister Ranbir Gangwa and Health and Family Welfare Minister Arti Singh Rao were also present at the meeting.

CM Saini said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has envisioned making India a developed nation by 2047, and the officers will play a crucial role in shaping this vision. He recalled that when the Prime Minister assumed office in 2014, he gave a message of Swachh Bharat -- Swasth Bharat, which has had a positive impact on future generations.

Efforts on to make gaushalas self-reliant: CM

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 23

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday said the state government is continuously working for the protection and welfare of cows. He said that, along with financial grants for fodder, efforts are being made to make gaushalas self-reliant. The Chief Minister was addressing a ceremony for the distribution of fodder grants to gaushalas at Shri Krishna Gaushala at Badopal in Fatehabad district. He paid floral tributes to Shri Rajendranand Maharaj, calling his life a source of inspiration, and urged citizens to take inspiration from his life and carry forward social work. On the occasion, the Chief Minister handed over fodder grant cheques for Rs 7.2 crore to managers of 67 gaushalas in the district.

He said this year, a total grant of Rs 88.50 crore is being released for 605 gaushalas of the state. He also announced Rs 21 lakh for the development of Badopal village and declared that the wildlife treatment centre in Badopal will be named after Shri Rajendranand Maharaj. He announced that the six demands raised for the Fatehabad Assembly constituency will be fulfilled after checking the feasibility at the departmental level.

The Chief Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the past 11 years, the double-engine government has been working for the protection of the cow, the Gita, and the Ganga. Along with financial aid for fodder, gaushalas are also being supported to become self-reliant by providing machinery as per demand. He said that in the past 10 and a half years, fodder grants of Rs 358.50 crore have been given. Solar power plants have been installed in 330 gaushalas, and the remaining gaushalas will soon get them.

The Chief Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has implemented the Rashtriya Gokul Mission for the protection and promotion of indigenous cow breeds. The Chief Minister said that till 2014, there were only 215 registered gaushalas in the state with 1.75 lakh cattle. IANS

India progressing rapidly in space science: Union Minister Manohar Lal

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23

Union Minister of Power, Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, today said that India is progressing rapidly in the field of space science. He recalled that on this day in 2023, India created history with the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3. Following this achievement, it was decided to celebrate National Space Day every year. This year, the state-level programme was held in Karnal. Manohar Lal was speaking as the Chief Guest at the event organized in Karnal. Haryana Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda was also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Union Minister said that space science is a vast and fascinating field. He said that as early as 1,500 years ago, Aryabhatta had established that the Earth is round and revolves around the Sun.

He further said that India's rich tradition of astronomy enabled scholars to accurately calculate and predict important lunar phases and festivals such as Purnima, Amavasya, Karva Chauth, and Ganesh Chaturthi.

"Today, our scientists are carrying forward this legacy with outstanding work in modern space science," he added. Manohar Lal also highlighted India's journey in space exploration, adding that the country's satellite programme began in the 1960s. In 1963, the satellite was taken to the launching pad on a bicycle.

Government working to make cowsheds self-reliant: Dr Arvind Sharma

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23

Haryana's Minister of Cooperation, Jails, Elections, Heritage and Tourism Dr Arvind Sharma said that under the able guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state government led by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is fulfilling the resolve to enhance the respect of cattle.

The government's efforts to improve basic facilities in cowsheds and make them self-reliant are being witnessed by everyone. He handed over fodder grant cheques worth ₹4.70 crore to cowsheds of Gohana and nearby areas. Dr Arvind Sharma was speaking after distributing fodder grant cheques to operators of 9 cowsheds at a programme held in Gohana on Saturday.

He said the Haryana Government is continuously taking steps to make the state free from stray cattle and to make cowsheds self-reliant.

He added that during the Congress regime, only ₹2 crore per year was allocated for cattle promotion, but in the past 10 and a half years under the BJP government in Haryana, this budget has increased to ₹595 crore. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has released ₹88.50 crore as fodder grant for 605 cowsheds from Sirsa, while in the past 10 and a half years, ₹270 crore has already been released for fodder grants.

Criminals are fearlessly committing crimes in broad daylight, Rising crime in Haryana is alarming: Kumari Selja

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, August 23



The General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee, former Union Minister, and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja expressed deep concern over the rising incidents of crime in the state, said that the figures presented in the Assembly reveal that, on an average every day in Haryana, three murders, 11 kidnappings, four rapes, and four molestation cases are taking place. This situation is extremely serious and worrisome. Looking at the deteriorating law and order situation, it seems that criminals are carrying out crimes openly without any fear, while the government remains a silent spectator. The Policemen posted at every crossing are more focused on issuing challans to vehicles rather than keeping an eye on criminals.

In a statement released to the media Kumari Selja said that the BJP government in the state has completely failed to maintain law and order. The continuous rise in violence and crimes against women proves that the government has failed in controlling crime. Kumari Selja said that today, the people of the state are living in an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. The safety of women, children, and the elderly is completely at risk. The state government is only busy making plans on paper and presenting figures, while on the ground, criminals are becoming more daring.

Referring to the death of Manisha, she said that the police administration mishandled the case; had they acted promptly, her life could have been saved. Kumari Selja said that according to the figures presented by the government in the Assembly (from January 1, 2025, to July 31, 2025), during this 212-day period, there were 530 murders (three per day), 2,116 kidnappings (11 per day), 779 rapes (four per day), 771 molestation cases (around four per day), and 662 cases under the POCSO Act (five per day). Along with these, cases of extortion, ransom, loot, and theft are also on the rise.

HIMACHAL/J&K

339 roads shut in Himachal; heavy rain predicted

SHIMLA, AUGUST 23

Several roads, including one national highway, are closed in Himachal Pradesh as rain continues to lash several parts of the state, officials said on Saturday. Of the 339 roads closed, 162 roads are in Mandi district and 106 in the adjoining Kullu.

National Highway 305 (Aut to Sainj) was also closed, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said. A yellow warning has been issued for heavy rain in isolated areas of the state from Sunday to Tuesday, the MeT centre said.

Light to moderate rains lashed several parts of the state. Nadaun has received 58.6 mm of rain since Friday evening, followed by Joggindernagar, which got 45 mm, and Jatton Barrage, which received slightly less rain at 44.2 mm.

Nagrota Suriyan received 39.2 mm of precipitation, Kangra 35.7 mm, Naina Devi 34.8 mm, Paonta Sahib 33 mm, Dhaulakuan 32 mm, Ghaghas 26 mm, Bhattiyat 22.2 mm, and Neri received 20.5 mm of it.

Thunderstorms were witnessed in Kangra, Jor, Murari Devi and Palampur, while wind blowing at 37-54 kmph speed struck the residents of Kukumseri, Seobagh and Bajaura, the MeT centre said. Since the onset of monsoon on June 20, at least 151 people have died in Himachal Pradesh and 37 have gone missing, the SEOC said. PTI

Didn't suggest any name for Himachal Cong chief to state in-charge: CM Sukhu

SHIMLA, AUGUST 23



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday said he has not suggested any name for the state Congress president's post to Rajni Patil, the party's in-charge for the hill state.

Talking to mediapersons after meeting Patil here, Sukhu said the decision to pick the state party chief has to come from the Congress high command, adding that he can only discuss future programmes and issues to be raised in the Assembly and among the public.

"For me, everyone is equal. The entire party believes in the Congress ideology, and we will support any appointment made by the high command," Sukhu said.

Referring to the debate in the Assembly on disaster relief, Sukhu said there is a difference between what the BJP preaches and the action that follows.

"The BJP sought a debate under Rule 67, which we agreed to. We debated the issue for four days, but when the reply was given, the BJP members walked out.

"We have not received any financial assistance from the Centre so far. We are providing relief from our own resources, giving Rs 7 lakh for house construction, Rs 70,000 for belongings, and Rs 50,000 for loss of cattle, which are much higher as compared to other states," Sukhu claimed.

The chief minister also said that he would speak to the Union home secretary, who is in Shimla, and seek an adequate special relief package for the state, which is reeling under large-scale damages caused by incessant rain, cloudbursts and flash floods. PTI

BJP welcomes govt takeover of 200 schools affiliated to banned Jel in Kashmir

JAMMU, AUGUST 23

The Jammu and Kashmir BJP has welcomed the takeover of over 200 schools affiliated to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in the valley and said the Lt Governor–led administration has secured the future of thousands of students by this action.

BJP vice president Priya Sethi said the JeI and its affiliate Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT) misused the sacred platform of education to spread radicalisation instead of knowledge.

"By seizing control of these schools, the government has broken this vicious cycle and secured the academic future of thousands of innocent students," Sethi, who is a former education minister, said in a statement here.

She said the Ministry of Home Affairs had rightly declared the JeI as an unlawful association because of its anti-national agenda, and the recent takeover of 215 of its affiliated schools is a strong step to put an end to this "dangerous misuse of education".

"This move is yet another step under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to safeguard the future of the youth and ensure that education in the Union Territory remains free from radical influence.

"Despite being projected as a socio-religious body, the JeI was actively involved in spreading separatist ideology and creating a mindset of hostility against India. Its affiliate FAT-run schools were being misused to indoctrinate young children, rather than providing them with modern and progressive education," she said.

The BJP leader said institutions linked to JeI and FAT were never about genuine education or empowerment.

"They were hubs of indoctrination, trying to create generations detached from the mainstream of progress. Children who deserved modern education, scientific thinking and growth opportunities were instead being exposed to regressive propaganda. This betrayal of trust by JeI and FAT cannot be forgiven," she said.

Sethi said such organisations never worked for the welfare of society but rather acted as breeding grounds of extremism, misguiding generations of Kashmiri youth and pushing them away from the mainstream.

"By taking direct control of these schools, the government has ensured that no student will ever again be used as a pawn in the separatist agenda," she said, praising the Narendra Modi government for its firm resolve in protecting the nation's future by striking at the root of radical networks.

"Modi has given a clear message that education will not be allowed to become a tool of separatism," she said. PTI

Inter-state drug peddler held in Jammu with over 40 kg poppy straw

JAMMU, AUGUST 23

A drug peddler, hailing from Punjab, was arrested here with over 40 kg of poppy straw, police said on Saturday. The accused, Gurmeet Singh, was driving an oil tanker when he was stopped by the police during routine checking at Nadal-Manwal along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Friday, a police spokesperson said.

The search of the Punjab-bound vehicle led to the recovery of the contraband, hidden under one of the oil chambers, he added. PTI

Police bust fake marriage racket in Jammu, 'bride' among five arrested

JAMMU, AUGUST 23

Five persons, including a woman from Uttar Pradesh, were arrested after police busted an inter-state racket involved in orchestrating fake marriages to extort money from unsuspecting grooms here, officials said on Saturday.

So far, five such cases – three from Akhnoor and two from Nagrota – have come to light, a police spokesman said.

Terming the arrests, which also included two locals and two outsiders, a "major breakthrough", he said police registered an FIR on August 11 at the Akhnoor police station after receiving a complaint about a fraudulent marriage.

Deepak Kumar, a resident of Dhana Chapri, approached the complainant, Rashpal Chand from nearby Dori Dager, with a marriage proposal from outside the Union territory and demanded Rs 3 lakh, the spokesman said.

After the marriage was solemnised, the bride, along with her accomplices, fled within two days, he said.

A probe revealed that the gang was operating a fraudulent nexus under the guise of a marriage bureau. PTI

Disaster relief row: Himachal revenue minister hits back at BJP

SHIMLA, AUGUST 22

Himachal Pradesh Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi on Friday hit back at opposition BJP over disaster relief row and targeted the leader of the opposition, Jai Ram Thakur, accusing him of constructing roads on forest lands without any permission and raising huge structures, which emerged as major cause of destruction during the disaster.

Replying to the debate on natural disaster and relief under Rule 67 (adjournment motion), Negi alleged that the forest cover reduced by 23 percent between 2018 and 2022 in Seraj region (assembly constituency of LOP), when Jai Ram Thakur was chief minister as trees were felled illegally by deploying JCB and Nallahs were choked, which heightened disaster risk. The BJP which has announced to boycott Negi left the house as the minister started his reply. Later, BJP leader Vipin Singh Parmar said that Negi had been using intemperate language and insulting Jai Ram Thakur and disaster affected people and the BJP has decided to boycott him.

Trees were illegally cut and 56 cases are under investigation, Negi said in the House. During the disaster, Jai Ram Thakur only talked about his Seraj assembly constituency and even as chief minister, he was careless in disaster management and did not take advantage of the "double Engine" government, depriving the state of development, Negi said. Asserting that there was no laxity in disaster management and relief, Negi said that the government took care of all the disaster affected areas and provided immediate relief and Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was first to reach Seraj after disaster but the BJP was making accusations to belittle his efforts. PTI

NEWSBRIEFS

Attack on press freedom: Human rights body slams arrest of Pakistani journalist

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Council of Pakistan (HRCP) has strongly condemned the arrest of the country's prominent journalist Khalid Jamil, calling it an attack on press freedom. Jamil was arrested on Friday by the Cyber Crime Cell of the Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) from his residence in Islamabad Media Town. In a statement, the investigation agency said he was taken into custody following "completion of official procedures", without disclosing any further details, local media reported. "The right to freedom of expression for journalists is protected by the Constitution of Pakistan and international human rights agreements. Arresting any journalist for their views or reporting is not only a violation of fundamental human rights but also an attack on press freedom," the HRC Pakistan stated. **IANS**

Awami League slams Yunus for 'threatening' B'desh media against broadcasting Hasina's speech

DHAKA: Bangladesh's Awami League on Saturday slammed the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government for "threatening" the country's media houses with legal action against any future publication or dissemination of statements from former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In a statement released on Friday, the interim government termed airing or promoting Hasina's remarks on television channels, news platforms, or online media a violation of law, considering her conviction for genocide and crimes against humanity, local media reported. "The illegal occupier, killer-fascist Yunus and his cohorts have immorally threatened the country's media that action will be taken if they broadcast the speech of Awami League President and Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," the Awami League said in a statement. **IANS**

South Korean Prez Lee arrives in Tokyo for summit talks with Japanese PM Ishiba

TOKYO: South Korean President Lee Jae Myung arrived in Tokyo on Saturday for summit talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as he seeks to expand cooperation with Tokyo while squarely facing up to the history of the past. The Saturday summit with Ishiba comes before Lee will head for Washington for high-stakes summit talks with US President Donald Trump, in a rare diplomatic decision for South Korean presidents who choose Washington, a key defence ally, as their first diplomatic destination after taking office. It would be Lee's second in-person meeting with Ishiba, following their encounter on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit in Canada in June, reports Yonhap news agency. **IANS**

Seven suspected IS terrorists arrested in Iraq

BAGHDAD: Iraq's military intelligence said that it has arrested seven suspected Islamic State (IS) terrorists, including two women, in northern Nineveh province. The arrests were made in several areas of the province on Friday following "accurate intelligence information and intensive field monitoring," the directorate said in a statement. The suspects were handed over to the relevant authorities. **IANS**

Zelensky, NATO chief meet on security guarantees for Ukraine

KYIV, AUGUST 23



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that he discussed security guarantees for Ukraine during a meeting with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary General Mark Rutte in Kyiv.

Following the talks, Zelensky on Friday said that Ukraine aims to secure "Article 5-like" guarantees, similar to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

"The outcome we must achieve: a crystal-clear architecture of which countries assist us on the ground, which are responsible for the security of our skies, which guarantee security at sea and support Ukraine," Zelensky said in a statement on his official website.

He added that guarantees should also include financing of the Ukrainian military from partner nations, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to Zelensky, negotiations between Ukraine, Europe and the United States on the specific content of the security guarantees are ongoing.

Zelensky and Rutte also discussed weapons deliveries to Ukraine coordinated under the Prioritized Ukraine Requirements List, proposed by NATO and the United States, as well as joint efforts aimed at ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

This comes hours after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced that there is no meeting planned between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Zelensky.

"Putin is ready to meet with Zelensky when the agenda is ready for a summit, and this agenda is not ready at all," Lavrov told US news outlet NBC.

Lavrov said Russia has agreed to show flexibility on several issues raised by US President Donald Trump during his meeting with Putin in Alaska last week, but suggested Ukraine had hindered the meeting agenda.

On Monday night, Trump said in a post on the Truth Social platform that he had called Putin and began arranging a bilateral meeting between Putin and Zelensky, with the location to be determined.

Trump added that after a Putin-Zelensky meeting, a trilateral meeting involving US, Russian and Ukrainian leaders would take place.

Lavrov previously said that Russia does not reject any formats, either bilateral or trilateral, for resolving the conflict in Ukraine. **IANS**

North Korea berates South Korea for firing warning shots at its troops in border area this week

SEOUL, AUGUST 23

Pyongyang on Saturday accused South Korea's military of having fired more than 10 warning shots at North Korean soldiers, who were conducting a border reinforcement project, earlier this week, underscoring a rise in inter-Korean tensions amid an ongoing military exercise between Seoul and Washington.

Ko Jong-chol, vice chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA), issued a statement calling for Seoul to stop its "premeditated and deliberate" provocations that he said are "inciting military conflict," reports Yonhap, quoting the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"On Aug. 19, the ROK military warmongers committed such a serious provocation as firing more than 10 warning shots with a 12.7 mm large-calibre machine gun at the DPRK soldiers who were conducting a permanent barrier project near the southern border line," the statement read.

ROK is the acronym for South Korea's official name, the Republic of Korea, and DPRK is short for North Korea's full name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea said its soldiers were conducting a "barrier project to permanently block the southern border" in an effort to reinforce it. The project came after North Korean leader Kim Jong-un declared inter-Korean ties as those between "two states hostile to each other" in late 2023.

Ko said the North had informed the US forces stationed in South Korea of a plan for the project on June 25 and July 18 in a bid to prevent an accidental conflict near the border.

"In particular, the recent incident, timed to coincide with the large-scale joint military drills being staged in the region of the ROK, cannot but be construed as a premeditated and deliberate provocation aimed at military conflict from A to Z," the official said.

The North's claim came as Seoul and Washington kicked off their annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise Monday for an 11-day run through Thursday next week."If the act of restraining or obstructing the project unrelated to the military character persists, our army will regard it as a deliberate military provocation and take corresponding countermeasures," Ko warned.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said the military fired warning shots earlier this week after North Korean troops crossed the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) separating the two Koreas. **IANS**

Mexican President once again rejects US military intervention in drug war

MEXICO CITY, AUGUST 23



Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum has once again rejected any US military intervention in cracking down on the country's drug cartels, reiterating Mexico's sovereignty.

Mexico "is free, independent, and sovereign" and will not allow any foreign government to violate its autonomy, she told a daily news conference in Mexico City on Friday.

Her comments came in response to remarks made by US Drug Enforcement Administration chief Terry Cole when speaking to Fox News that his agency would back a US presidential decision to attack Mexican drug cartels.

"That will not happen," Sheinbaum said. "Mexico has great strength -- from our people and from what we represent as a government of the people. Any attempt will be met with national unity."

Sheinbaum has repeatedly rejected a US military intervention in the country's drug war, a prospect threatened by US President Donald Trump, reports Xinhua news agency.

Earlier this month, US media reports said that Trump signed a secret order authorising military actions against drug cartels designated as terrorist organisations in Latin America.

> **"That will not happen," Sheinbaum said. "Mexico has great strength -- from our people and from what we represent as a government of the people. Any attempt will be met with national unity."**

Additionally, Sheinbaum also stated that US migration policies were responsible for a decrease in July remittances sent home by Mexicans living in the United States.

Sheinbaum said remittances dropped 16 per cent from June to July and are down by about 5 per cent so far in 2025, back to 2022 levels.

"Remittances increased substantially in 2023 and even more in 2024. Now we are at levels similar to 2022," she said.

"What explains this? Above all, the policies the United States has imposed on our migrant brothers and sisters," she added.

Sheinbaum said her government, along with Mexico's central bank, is assessing the impact of the decline in remittances and considering measures to protect Mexican families reliant on the funds.

Sheinbaum stressed that the situation does not pose a risk to Mexico's overall economy.

The US is expected to impose a 1 per cent tax on outbound remittances starting in 2026.

The Mexican government has announced a special program to reimburse the tax on cash transfers from migrants.

Mexico received 62.5 billion US dollars in remittances in 2024 from about 8 million Mexicans living in the US, official data showed. **IANS**

Former Lankan Prez Wickremesinghe remanded on charges of misuse of State Funds

COLOMBO, AUGUST 23



The Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court remanded former Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who had been arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) over allegations of misusing state funds, until August 26, local media reported.

The court took the decision on Friday night after a representative for the country's Attorney General's Department, appearing for the CID, told the court that evidence against Wickremesinghe will be presented under the Public Property Act and requested that the court remand the suspect as the investigation is not complete.

Wickremesinghe was admitted to the prison hospital following the ruling, reports Xinhua news agency, citing local media.

Wickremesinghe was produced before the court after he was arrested earlier on Friday for charges of misusing state funds to visit London to attend an event organised by a British university, during his tenure as president in September 2023, according to local media.It is the first time a former executive president has been arrested and remanded in Sri Lanka's history.

Wickremesinghe was elected president by parliamentarians in July 2022 following the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as president. **IANS**

Govt temporarily suspends booking of postal services destined for US from Aug 25

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

The Department of Posts (DoP) on Saturday said it has decided to temporarily suspend booking of all types of postal articles, destined for the US, with effect from August 25.

The suspension, however, exempts letters, documents and gift items up to $100 in value. These exempt categories will continue to be accepted and conveyed to the US, subject to further clarifications from CBP and USPS, the Ministry of Communications said in a statement.

"The Department is closely monitoring the evolving situation in coordination with all stakeholders, and every effort is being made to normalize services at the earliest possible opportunity," it added.

The Department of Posts has taken note of the Executive Order issued by the US Administration on July 30, 2025, under which the "duty-free de minimis exemption for goods valued up to $800 will be withdrawn with effect from August 29, 2025.

Consequently, all international postal items destined for the US, regardless of their value, shall be subject to customs duties as per the country-specific International Emergency Economic Power Act (IEEPA) tariff framework.

However, gift items up to the value of $100 will continue to remain exempt from duties.

As per the Executive Order, transport carriers delivering shipments through the international postal network, or other "qualified parties" approved by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), are required to collect and remit duties on postal shipments. **IANS**

Dutch govt crisis deepens as NSC ministers step down



THE HAGUE, AUGUST 23

The political crisis in the Netherlands escalated after all ministers from the New Social Contract (NSC) party resigned from the caretaker government, following the departure of Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp.

Veldkamp announced his resignation in The Hague on Friday, citing frustration over restrictions on measures against Israel.

"I see that I cannot take sufficiently meaningful additional measures to increase pressure on Israel," he told reporters after a Council of Ministers meeting.

His departure triggered a collective exit by fellow NSC ministers -- Eddy van Hijum (Social Affairs), Eppo Bruins (Education), Judith Uitermark (Interior), Danielle Jansen (Health) -- as well as four state secretaries. **IANS**

Voting would be cancelled if booth capture reported during elections: B'desh CEC

DHAKA, AUGUST 23



Bangladesh's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin on Saturday said that preparations are underway to conduct the next general election before Ramadan in February, warning that if any polling booth is captured, voting there will be cancelled, local media reported.

He made these remarks during a meeting on the 13th National Parliament election with election officials in Rajshahi district.

"We do not want to get into the statements of any political party about whether the election will be held or not. We want to move forward according to the chief advisor's words. Preparations for the election have been intensified since receiving the chief advisor's letter," leading Bangladeshi daily Jugantor quoted the CEC as saying.

"Those who are dreaming of grabbing the ballot box will have their dreams shattered," he said.

"If any attempt is made to seize polling centres, (voting in) the entire constituency will be cancelled," the CEC added.

Nasir Uddin further stated that the upcoming elections cannot be held under the proportional representation (PR) system without amending the law since the Constitution does not permit it.

"There is no such electoral system in the Constitution. We cannot go beyond it. There is an ongoing debate among political parties about this, but I do not want to get into it," he added. **IANS**

China activates emergency response as Typhoon Kajiki approaches

BEIJING, AUGUST 23



China on Saturday activated a Level-IV emergency response to flooding and typhoon in Hainan Province as Typhoon Kajiki, the 13th typhoon of this year, is approaching, according to the Ministry of Emergency Management.

The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters has initiated emergency response measures and dispatched a work team to the southern province to assist with local flood and typhoon relief efforts, the ministry said.

At 11 am Saturday, the centre of Typhoon Kajiki was located around 650 km east of Hainan's Sanya City over the sea, and it is forecast to move westward at a speed of up to 25 km per hour with its intensity expected to strengthen significantly, according to meteorological authorities.

China's National Meteorological Centre on Saturday issued a yellow alert for Typhoon Kajiki, warning that it is likely to make landfall or pass close to the southern coast of Hainan Island around Sunday evening. **IANS**

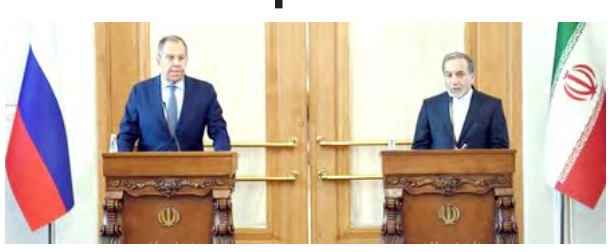
Iranian, Russian FMs discuss latest developments on Iran's nuclear issue

TEHRAN, AUGUST 23

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov have exchanged views on the latest developments regarding Iran's nuclear issue.

In a phone call on Friday, the two sides discussed threats by France, Britain and Germany, collectively known as the E3, to reinstate international sanctions on Iran on the verge of the expiration of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, said a statement released by the Iranian foreign ministry early on Saturday.

The statement said the E3 has no legal and moral competence to resort to the snapback mechanism and reinstate the Security Council's sanctions on Tehran as it has "flagrantly violated" Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 JCPOA, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.



The "snapback" clause, part of the JCPOA, allows world powers to reimpose international sanctions if Iran fails to comply with the deal, reports Xinhua news agency.

The statement added that the ministers also exchanged views on the path ahead of the nuclear negotiations between Iran and the West, stressing that Resolution 2231 should end at the scheduled date, which falls on October 18.

Earlier in the day, Araghchi held a joint phone call with the E3 foreign ministers and EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, elaborating on Iran's positions regarding the potential triggering of the snapback mechanism and the resumption of negotiations between Iran and the Europeans. **IANS**

lifestyle



Nora Fatehi
upcoming movie 'Ufff Yeh Siyapaa' has been shot without any dialogue

Actress Nora Fatehi has shared some exciting details about her upciming movie "Ufff Yeh Siyapaa" through her social media account. Taking to her Instagram handle, Nora shared her first-look poster from the film. Dressed in a funky outfit, Nora is seen seated on a yellow scooty with bundles of Rs. 2000 seen scattered all around her. The scooty reminds us of the one seen in the Aamir Khan starrer "3 Idiots."

Her character's name in the movie is Kamini, a chaotic and confused neighbour.

Nora even shared a few stories on her Instagram account where she is seen talking elaborately about her movie with utmost zeal and excitement. She exclaimed that the movie was shot during the end of the pandemic and that it has been quite a while to the shoot. She also mentioned that the movie was shot without any dialogues and that she is extremely excited to see how the movie has turned out to be.

The other poster of the movie released by makers, features actress Nushrratt Bharuccha who has been introduced as a naive Indian married woman. Dressed in a simple saree, Nushrratt, on the poster can be seen sporting a mangalsutra, bangles, and a loose hairdo. The makers also shared the first look posters of the other cast too that feature actors Sohum Shah, Omkar Kapoor, and Sharib Hashmi. Through the posters, it is established that Sohum will essay the character of Kesari Lal Singh, an employee at the electricity department and Omkar Kapoor will be seen in the role of a police officer. Every poster was captioned as, "Meet our silent heroes. #SiyapaaSquad,". The movie has been written and directed by G Ashok, and is produced by Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg under the banner of Luv Films.

The music of the movie has been composed by legendary music composer AR Rahman. The film is slated for a September 5 release. **IANS**

Soha Ali Khan
reveals how she plans to disrupt the podcast market



Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan, who is set to bring her podcast 'All About Her' on streaming medium, has spoken up about how she plans to break the clutter in the space of podcasts. The space of podcasts, especially after the pandemic, has seen an uptick. Everyone wants to have a piece of the pie when it comes to the podcast medium. The actress recently spoke with IANS during the promotions of her show.

When asked how does she plan to break the clutter and disrupt this whole medium of podcasts, the actress told IANS, "I completely agree with you. There are a lot of podcasts, and there's a huge rising appetite for podcasts as well. But I have looked into it a little bit. And whereas I feel that there are lots of podcasts on news, there are lots of podcasts on fictional, whether it's thrillers, and things like that. We have podcasts on wellness and parenting as well. But one area that is still slightly undertapped is the wellness market, especially, I think, when it comes to women's wellness".

The actress further mentioned that usually on a podcast, either there's a celebrity, or an expert. Here, the attempt is to have both. So that format in itself is novel as it features both the guest and the experts. "What happens with experts is sometimes the conversation can get a little dry. What happens sometimes with a celebrity is that you might get interesting conversations and people want to know about celebrities' lives, but the takeaways might not be so fruitful. So the idea is to blend them both. So you get interesting conversation, and you get also some takeaways that you can apply. So I think that is the factor which stands out", she added. 'All About Her' is available to stream on YouTube. **IANS**



Zaid Darbar surprises his 'Biggest Blessing' Gauahar Khan with midnight birthday celebration

Actress Gauahar Khan turned 42 on Friday. Making her special day even more memorable, husband Zaid Darbar surprised the mom-to-be with a midnight birthday celebration, including flowers, customised cakes, and a sweet personal note that left Gauahar emotional. At midnight, the mom-to-be was seen entering a decorated room to find cakes, flowers, and a heartfelt handwritten letter from her husband. Gauahar read the letter aloud, in which Zaid called her his "biggest blessing," lauding her strength, love, and dedication both as a wife and mother.

The post was captioned with another emotional note by Zaid for his better half that read: "My Jaanu, Happy Birthday. Every year, I wonder how I got this lucky, and this year, I'm even more grateful. You're not just my wife, you're the most amazing mother to our little Zehaan, and soon, to another little one who's on the way."

Praising Gauahar for handling everything with utmost grace and strength, he added: "Watching you balance everything with so much love and strength makes me admire you even more. I know it's not always easy, the sleepless nights, the sacrifices, the endless care you give to everyone around you. But I want you to know, I see it all. I see you. And I want you to never forget how much you mean to me, to Zehaan, and to the family we're building together."

"Today is about you. I hope you feel loved, celebrated, and reminded that you're the heart of this home. No matter how many birthdays come and go, you'll always be my favourite person, my partner, and my biggest blessing. Here's to you, to us, and to the beautiful life we're creating together (Allhumdulillah). Love you more than words. Zaid," the post concluded.

Reacting to the post, Gauahar commented: "The best moments in life are unplanned and simple, feeling blessed to have the best husband ever! I love you. Sleep se jagaa ke, is shakal mein, I still felt beautiful and loved. Happy birthday to me. Allahumma baarik fih." **IANS**



Surbhi Chandna
opens up about the unexpected pause life threw her way

Actress Surbhi Chandna has joined the list of actors who have fallen prey to online hacking. Her official page - Feel Good Originals official account - Youtube channel and Gmail account have been hacked.

The actress who seemed in distress, took to social media in expressing the same. She wrote, "Life threw us an unexpected pause last night , Our Feel Good Originals official account was hacked (GMAIL & YOUTUBE) and we lost access to them. Our latest track FARZI was all set to meet you, but destiny had other plans for now. But here's what we believe — no storm is strong enough to silence music, no setback big enough to stop a dream. Every pause is only preparing us for a louder, stronger comeback. We promise you this — FARZI will release, no matter what. And when it does, it won't just be a song, it will be a celebration of resilience, of love, of the journey we are on together. Till then, thank you for standing by us, for believing in us. The chords may rest for a moment... but soon, they will strike again. #FeelGoodOriginals #Farzi #StrongerComeback."

Surbhi Chandna has produced a few projects under her banner, that went onto become hits. Surbhi rose to fame with her superhit show Ishqbaaz and is known for being cheerful and carefree.

The actress got married to the love of her life Karan Sharma in March, 2024. **IANS**

Ashnoor Kaur posts a special selfie before entering 'Bigg Boss' house, says will miss parents



Actress Ashnoor Kaur recently posted a story on her Instagram account wherein she expressed how she is going to miss her parents, further hinting that she is starting a new journey. Ever since she posted the picture along with the caption, fans have been wondering if Ashnoor is entering the Bigg Boss 19 house. She had even shared another photo that saw a cake along with a Best Wishes Card.

Fans have been intrigued with these posts but Ashnoor, as of yet, has not given any official statement but as per a source close to IANS Ashoor will be seen season 19 of 'Bigg Boss".

The young girl, all of 21, has been working in the entertainment industry ever since she was 6 years old. The actress has also worked in Bollywood movies like Sanju and Manmarziyaan.

Ashnoor kickstarted her career with the TV show Jhansi Ki Rani and later, featured on various popular daily soaps like Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai, Patiala Babes and others. She has also done many music videos in Punjabi and Hindi. With Bigg Boss, it would be Ashnoor's debut into the reality show world. **IANS**

NEWSBRIEFS

Tata Motors and DIMO expand mobility leadership in Sri Lanka

CHANDIGARH: Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer and a global leader in mobility solutions, today introduced 10 new commercial vehicles in partnership with DIMO, its authorised distributor in Sri Lanka. This significant launch underscores Tata Motors' commitment to provide advanced transport solutions and marks a major expansion of its presence in the country. It also commemorates 65-years of trusted partnership with DIMO — a collaboration rooted in shared growth and a relentless pursuit of customer excellence. **BPE**

RR Kabel launches series of future ready wires

LUDHIANA: RR Kabel announced a series of next-generation wire solutions crafted to address the evolving demands of Indian homes and infrastructure in an era marked by rising temperatures and increasing electrical loads. The new product line features Superex Green HR+FR, and Firex LS0H-EBXL—each engineered to deliver superior safety, performance, and sustainability across diverse applications. "As homes grow smarter and temperatures rise due to global warming, wires must evolve too", said Rajesh Kabra, Executive Director, RR Kabel. "Our new range is built not just for today's demands—but to anticipate the challenges of tomorrow, from higher temperatures and heavier electrical loads to greater safety and environmental responsibility." **BPE**

Cinépolis and Crax unveil first-ever flavour collaboration

CHANDIGARH: Cinépolis India has announced its first-ever brand collaboration with Crax, one of the country's most iconic and beloved snack brands. As part of this innovation initiative, the two giants are coming together to introduce a disruptive and delightfully bold new popcorn flavour, fusing the nostalgia of Crax Cheeseballs with the irresistible movie-time magic of Cinépolis popcorn. This one-of-a-kind limited edition flavour drop is poised to hit all Cinépolis outlets nationwide. **BPE**

KAL Lord's Technologies inaugurated to drive India's EV future

AMBALA: KAL Lord's Technologies Pvt. Ltd., marked its official inauguration at the Kerala Automobiles Limited (KAL) factory premises in Aralumoodu. The company is the result of a strategic joint venture between Kerala Automobiles Limited (KAL), a Government of Kerala undertaking with over four decades of manufacturing heritage, and Lords Automative Private Limited, one of India's most agile and innovative EV brands. **BPE**

Roche Pharma India presents walk in my shoes

CHANDIGARH: Millions globally and ~2 lakh people in India live with a life-limiting neurological condition called Multiple Sclerosis (MS). To bring a spotlight on MS, Roche Pharma India, in collaboration with the Multiple Sclerosis Society of India (MSSI) presents Walk In My Shoes - a public health awareness initiative to highlight the often invisible struggles of individuals living with this life-limiting neurological condition. **BPE**

Punjab Tourism wins prestigious award for 'Best Rural & Agricultural Tourism'

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Tourism has been honoured with the prestigious award for "Best Rural & Agricultural Tourism" at the 10th ITCTA B2B International Tourism Expo, Conclave & Awards – Part II, held at New Delhi. The award was received by Dampreet Singh Walia, Joint Director, Punjab Tourism, on behalf of Punjab Tourism. The ceremony was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including Chief Guest Arun Srivastava, Joint Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, and Subhash Goel, Chairman, STIC Group. This esteemed award is a testament to Punjab Tourism's commitment to promoting rural and agricultural tourism in the state, showcasing its rich cultural heritage and providing unique experiences to tourists. **BPE**

Yakult Taps Taapsee Pannu as Brand Ambassador

CHANDIGARH: Yakult Danone India Pvt. Ltd., announced the appointment of Bollywood star Taapsee Pannu as its new brand ambassador. Strengthening its commitment to promoting good gut health across India, the company also revealed its ambitious goal of achieving double-digit growth every year until 2030. Since its entry into India in 2008, Yakult has expanded to nearly 700 cities across the country, successfully pioneering the probiotic dairy drink category and creating greater awareness around gut health. With India witnessing a paradigm shift toward healthier food and beverage choices, the demand for probiotics and functional foods is on the rise, making the country a crucial market for Yakult's growth strategy. **BPE**

Govt giving priority to national interest in FTA talks: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday that the Government's approach in trade negotiations for free trade agreements with other countries will be guided by national interest and the priorities of Indian industry.

"I've always held a very clear vision. When we do trade deals, I have to protect national interests. We usually now work with different countries with the pre-understanding, before even getting into negotiations: you respect my sensitivities, I respect your sensitivities. There are areas of concern in every country in the world," the Commerce Minister said at a media event organised by the Economic Times.

The minister said that India is engaging regularly with the European Union and fast-tracking discussions on three to four more trade agreements.

"So the EU also has certain areas which are very sensitive to them. We respect that. As they respect ours. And, therefore, I think it will not be difficult to come to terms on the trade front," Goyal said.

India is looking at the entire situation realistically, but proactively working with trading partners with whom we can have transparent relations, the minister added.

Goyal also said that the government had taken on board the concerns of the domestic industry on the ASEAN free trade agreement."We are very concerned because the domestic industry has given us negative feedback. The agreement was badly negotiated by the previous government," he said.

Goyal assured stakeholders that trade would stand independently but underlined the need for balance. "Maybe we won't be able to deliver 100 per cent, but be demanding," he told industry participants, noting that labour-intensive industries would receive support.

The minister also said that India's relations with the US are "very consequential" and India has resilience, strength, and is full of possibilities as the world's fastest-growing economy.

The government has earlier stated at a meeting with the Parliamentary Standing Committee that India-US ties are multi-layered and trade is "only one aspect" of a "very important relationship" that also rests on geopolitical and strategic considerations.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, committee head, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said: "Our Foreign Affairs Secretary clearly said that our relationship with America is important, and trade is just one aspect of this, but we are still in touch on many subjects."The Commerce Secretary assured that the dialogue process is ongoing," he had added **IANS**

India's exports to China rise 20 pc in first four months of FY26

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23



India's goods exports to China surged 20 per cent year-on-year in the first four months of Financial Year (FY) 26, touching $5.76 billion (about Rs 50,112 crore), according to official data.

Each of the four months recorded higher outbound shipments compared to the same period last year, underscoring a steady upward trend despite global trade headwinds.

Exports peaked in May 2025 at $1.63 billion, up from $1.32 billion in the same month a year ago, marking the strongest monthly performance in the period.

In April, shipments rose to $1.39 billion from $1.25 billion a year earlier, while June exports grew 17 per cent year-on-year to $1.38 billion.

In July, India exported goods worth $1.35 billion, up from $1.06 billion in the corresponding month a year earlier.

The growth momentum highlights a gradual rebalancing of trade between the two Asian economies.

India has historically run a high trade deficit with China, which stood at $99.2 billion in FY25.

The April–June quarter of FY26 saw exports to China buoyed by strong demand across energy, electronics, and agri-based products.

Petroleum product exports nearly doubled to $883 million, while electronic goods surged over threefold to $521 million.

Exports of organic and inorganic chemicals climbed 16.3 per cent to $335.1 million, and gems and jewellery shipments rose sharply by 72.7 per cent.On the other hand, India's top imports from China continued to include pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, electronics, machinery, chemicals, plastics, and other industrial goods.

The sustained month-on-month gains over last year underscore India's strengthening trade performance with China and rising export competitiveness, even as the variations reflect global trade dynamics and seasonal demand shifts.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had extensive bilateral discussions in New Delhi earlier this month.

The talks, which covered bilateral, regional, and international issues of shared concern, were described as

"positive, constructive, and forward-looking" by the Ministry of External Affairs. **IANS**

Kerala not just industry-friendly, but investor-friendly too: CM Vijayan on Adani Group's decision to start logistics park

KOCHI, AUGUST 23



Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) has begun the construction of its first logistics park in Kerala at Kalamassery in Kochi, marking a major milestone in the state's industrial and logistics expansion.

The project, part of the state government's 'Invest in Kerala' initiative, was inaugurated on Saturday by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Spread across 70 acres, the Adani Logistics Park will feature 1.3 million square feet of integrated logistics infrastructure equipped with digital systems, electric vehicle charging stations, and sustainable design features.

With an investment exceeding Rs 600 crore, the project is expected to generate more than 1,500 direct and indirect jobs, while opening up opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to integrate into the supply chain.

Chief Minister Vijayan, while laying the foundation stone, said that the project demonstrates Kerala's transition into an investor-friendly destination.

"Kerala has grown to be not just industry-friendly, but investor-friendly. That is why the Adani Group has decided to start this logistics park here," Vijayan said.

Kerala Industries Minister P. Rajeeve described the project as a catalyst for regional transformation.

"The Kalamassery Logistics Park reflects APSEZ's vision for smart, sustainable infrastructure that drives trade, empowers communities, and connects markets. More than a logistics hub, it is a platform for inclusive growth,

" Rajeeve said.

Ashwani Gupta, Whole-Time Director and CEO of APSEZ, said the project aligns with the group's strategy of evolving into a fully integrated transport and logistics provider.

"This park will play a pivotal role in strengthening our logistics presence in southern India, supporting local manufacturing, and driving regional growth," Gupta added.

APSEZ, part of the diversified Adani Group, is India's largest port developer and operator, handling nearly 28 per cent of the country's port cargo.

The Kalamassery facility will provide a seamless, end-to-end digital logistics experience, from gate entry to invoicing, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and real-time supply chain visibility.

Once operational, it is expected to significantly reduce transportation costs and enhance Kerala's export capabilities in sectors such as e-commerce, FMCG, pharmaceuticals, automotive, and retail. **IANS**

Govt notifies Income Tax Act 2025, to come into effect from April 1 next year

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

The government has officially notified the Income Tax Act, 2025, which consolidates and amends the income tax law provisions, replacing the over six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961.

The Act received the President's assent on August 21, according to a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The new simplified Act, which will come into effect from April 1, 2026, does not impose any new tax rate and only simplifies the language, making it easier to understand the income tax laws.The new Act removes redundant provisions and archaic language and reduces the number of Sections from 819 in the Income Tax Act of 1961 to 536 and the number of chapters from 47 to 23.

The number of words had been reduced from 5.12 lakh to 2.6 lakh in the new Income Tax Act.

"These changes are not merely superficial; they reflect a new, simplified approach to tax administration. This leaner and more focused law is designed to make it easy to read, understand and implement," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had informed Parliament.

The new Income Tax Bill 2025 was approved by Parliament on August 12, with the Rajya Sabha returning the Bill to the Lok Sabha, which had approved it on August 11. **IANS**

56th GST Council meet to decide on 2-slab structure in early Sept

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23



The 56th meeting of the GST Council, slated for September 3-4, will decide on the Group of Minister's (GoM) proposal to retain two slabs — 5 per cent and 18 per cent.

As per an official statement, the Council meeting comes amid the Centre's mega push to reform the GST taxation regime's structure into two slabs, from four at present.

According to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who leads the six-member GoM, "we have recommended a two-slab GST structure and submit our recommendations to the GST Council".

The GoM agreed that the existing 12 per cent and 28 per cent slabs will be scrapped under the new regime. The objective is to move toward a simpler and more transparent GST regime.The country currently follows a four-slab GST system — 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent, and 28 per cent — along with an additional cess on sin and luxury goods.

Under the new structure, 'merit' goods and services will attract 5 per cent GST, while most other items (standard) will come under an 18 per cent standard rate. A higher 40 per cent levy will remain on a small set of so-called sin goods. Examples include alcohol, tobacco, drugs, gambling, soft drinks, fast food, coffee, sugar, and even pornography.

A sin tax is a special tax that the government puts on such goods. The purpose is to discourage people from using them and to reduce the harm they can cause. **IANS**

CCPA imposes ₹3 lakh penalty on VLCC for misleading fat-loss ads

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) on Saturday imposed a penalty of Rs 3 lakh on beauty and wellness chain VLCC for publishing misleading advertisements regarding fat-loss and slimming treatments.

The order reinforces CCPA's commitment to protecting consumers from false, misleading, and exaggerated advertisements in the health, wellness, and beauty industry.

The CCPA noted that VLCC was making claims of drastic weight loss and inch reduction within a single session through the use of the US-FDA-approved CoolSculpting procedure/machine.

The ads, however, went far beyond the actual approval granted to the CoolSculpting machine, misleading consumers.

"The investigation revealed that the advertisements of VLCC projected CoolSculpting and related procedures as a permanent weight-loss and size-reduction solution," the CCPA said.

Some of the alleged claims included: Lose up to 600g and 7 cm in 1 session; drop 1 size in 1 session permanently; drop one size in one hour; VLCC brings you a ground-breaking fat reduction treatment; and with Lipolaser, lose 6cm and 400g in one session.

"Such advertisements gave consumers the false impression that CoolSculpting guarantees permanent and significant weight loss. In reality, the procedure is only approved for localised fat reduction in specific body areas and only for individuals with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or less," the CCPA said. **IANS**

Foreign investors still participating in Indian primary market amid selling

MUMBAI, AUGUST 23



Despite selling, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) are still participating in the Indian primary market which indicates their ongoing investment in new themes and businesses, analysts said on Saturday.

FIIs have been net sellers for most of 2025, and this trend continues in August, which has seen substantial outflows despite occasional daily inflows.

"When we examine the data for secondary and primary market inflows, it becomes evident that FIIs are still participating in the primary market. This indicates their ongoing investment in new themes and businesses, while they are reducing their exposure to sectors that are experiencing slower growth," said Vipul Bhowar, Senior Director, Head of Equities, Waterfield Advisors.Meanwhile, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have become steady buyers, supported by strong retail and SIP inflows.

As per data with the depositories, foreign investors offloaded Indian equities worth nearly Rs 21,000 crore in the first half of August amid global uncertainties. With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in equities reached the Rs 1.16 trillion mark so far in 2025.

Market watchers attribute the outflows to US tariff concerns, weak Q1 corporate earnings, and rupee depreciation, which have weighed on investor sentiment.However, the FII selling is abating after the current rating action by S&P Global. S&P India's projection for real GDP growth at 6.5 per cent is on the more pragmatic side when compared to other forecasts.

The rating agency also predicted that US tariffs will have an overall marginal impact and will not derail India's long-term growth prospects.

This is because, with sectoral exemptions on pharmaceuticals and consumer electronics, the exposure of Indian exports subjected to tariffs is lower at 1.2 per cent of GDP, according to an SBI Research report.

S&P Global Ratings, in its latest report, raised its long-term sovereign credit ratings on India to BBB from BBB– in August 2025 with a stable outlook.

The rating action hinges on three fundamental observations— credible fiscal consolidation, strong external position and well-anchored inflationary expectations. **IANS**

SPORTS

GIANNI INFANTINO

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING THE TEAM DELEGATIONS, OUR PARTNERS, GLOBAL MEDIA, AND, UNIQUELY, FANS REPRESENTING EACH OF THE 16 WONDERFUL HOST CITIES, TO THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THIS SIGNIFICANT OCCASION."

Shreyas Iyer not making to India's Asia Cup squad is just shocking: Sanjay Manjrekar

MUMBAI, AUGUST 23



Former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar slammed the choice of selectors for leaving out Shreyas Iyer from India's squad for the upcoming Asia Cup, saying that his exclusion from the T20 multi-nation tournament is 'just shocking'.

Manjrekar was quite anguished with Iyer's snub for the continental tournament for which the squad was announced by chief selector Ajit Agarkar, in the presence of T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav, at the BCCI headquarters on Tuesday.

"It's something that I've seen over the years, not recently, this tendency of selectors to pick a player on performances of one format, where that person is accepted and picking him for another format. When I see a player getting rewarded for his Test match performances by a player in the T20 side, I just find that devoid of cricketing logic. It just doesn't make any sense," Manjrekar said in a video posted on Instagram.

"Shreyas Iyer not making this T20 squad of India for the Asia Cup is just shocking. Because this is a guy who was left out of the Indian game for the right reason, because they felt he wasn't committing himself as a master of domestic cricket. But it had the desired effect on Shreyas Iyer. When he came back against England at home in a one-day series, and the way he batted, you could see that he was just batting like he's never batted before. Didn't put a foot wrong in that comeback series. And then carried that form into IPL cricket," he added.

Despite not featuring in the T20I format for India since December 2023, Iyer was in sublime form during the Champions Trophy title-winning campaign in Dubai and the IPL 2025, where he guided Punjab Kings to a runners-up finish.

Iyer finished the IPL 2025 season with 604 runs, including six half-centuries, scoring at an average of 50.33 and a strike rate of 175.07. He also finished the Champions Trophy campaign as the second-highest run-getter with 243 runs in five innings.

"I don't think any batter has had that kind of form right through the IPL season. What with an average of over 50, a strike rate of over 170, plus being the game-changer in the side with the bat. And he gets rewarded with non-selection. So when you do that to a player who's put in one of the best performances ever in the last few months in a format for which the Indian team is getting selected, and you leave it out of the format. Perhaps for a guy who has excelled in a completely different format, Test cricket. Pick a guy who's done well in Test cricket," Manjrekar elaborated while expressing dissatisfaction over Shubman Gill's return to the side.

"And not just because somebody has done so well in test cricket, gets rewarded with a T20 place, especially at the cost of somebody like Shreyas Iyer. I think the selection these days of the squad and the playing 11 in Indian cricket hasn't been great. It's just amazing, despite the fact that India played so well in England, and there is a great possibility they might do so again in this Asia Cup. But what is wrong is wrong. And I think Iyer has been seriously wronged by the selectors," he added. **IANS**

Proteas add stealth to bowling attack for Eng tour

CAPE TOWN, AUGUST 23



South Africa have included Kagiso Rabada in their one-day international and Twenty20 squads to tour England next month, but the fast bowler will continue to be monitored for an ankle injury.

South Africa will play three ODIs between September 2-7 and three T20 matches, and will travel to England direct from Australia, where they are leading a 50-over series against their hosts 2-0 with a final game to come on Sunday.

We'll reassess Kagiso in England," South Africa coach Shukri Conrad said.

"We are hopeful he will be available for part of the ODI series, but we're prioritising T20 cricket and will take a conservative approach."

Key all-rounder Marco Jansen is fit again after a thumb injury and has been included for the T20s, while teenage fast bowler Kwena Maphaka will act as cover for Rabada in both formats.

"It's great to have Marco back," Conrad said.

"He's a fantastic all-format player who balances our side, he bowls up front and at the death, and hits the ball a long way." Hard-hitting left-handed batter David Miller also returns to the T20 squad, as does Donovan Ferreira. Both are currently playing in The Hundred in England. **AGENCIES**

South Africa ODI squad:

Temba Bavuma (captain), Corbin Bosch, Matthew Breetzke, Dewald Brevis, Nandre Burger, Tony de Zorzi, Keshav Maharaj, Kwena Maphaka, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs

South Africa T20 squad:

Aiden Markram (captain), Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Donovan Ferreira, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kwena Maphaka, David Miller, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs, Lizaad Williams.

2026 FIFA World Cup draw to be held at Kennedy Center

WASHINGTON DC, AUGUST 23





President of the United States, Donald Trump, and FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced on Friday that the Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup 26 will be held at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC on 5 December, FIFA said in a statement.

The draw will commence at 12:00 local time (18:00 CET) and will be beamed to the three host countries and around the globe by FIFA's Media Partners.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said: "We are excited to host the most anticipated Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup in history in the cultural and entertainment heart of the United States, the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. The draw is a major tournament milestone and one that will continue the remarkable build-up to the biggest sporting event ever, as we get set for many landmark FIFA events across North America throughout 2026.

"We look forward to welcoming the team delegations, our partners, global media, and, uniquely, fans representing each of the 16 wonderful Host Cities, to the capital of the United States for this significant occasion," he added.

The teams representing the host countries will be assigned to positions A1 (Mexico), B1 (Canada) and D1 (USA).

FIFA boss Infantino also presented President Trump with the very first ticket to the tournament's grand finale.

Sharing the moment on his official Instagram handle, Infantino wrote, 'Having announced that FIFA World Cup 2026 tickets will go on sale for all 104 matches on Wednesday, 10 September 2025, it was a pleasure to present the first ticket to United States President Donald J. Trump at the White House.

'We look forward to hosting @realdonaldtrump at the showpiece final on Sunday, 19 July 2026 in New York New Jersey, along with the millions of fans who will unite to celebrate our beautiful game across all the host cities in the United States, as well as in Canada and Mexico,' he further wrote.

ashington DC will also host the FIFA play-off tournament -- a new event that will see six nations from five of the six confederations (with UEFA to hold a separate play-off competition for the final four European spots) compete for two places at the FIFA World Cup -- in March next year.

42 of the 48 teams that will compete at the World Cup will be known by the time the draw is made, with the final six coveted berths to be determined via play-off matches in March next year.

In addition to the three host countries, ten nations have already qualified for next year's FIFA World Cup: defending champions Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Ecuador, IR Iran, Japan, Jordan – who are set to make their tournament debut – Korea Republic, New Zealand and first-timers Uzbekistan.

In a ground-breaking initiative for the Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup, fans from each of the 16 Host Cities (two in Canada, three in Mexico and 11 in the United States) will be able to participate in a special lottery for the chance to win complimentary admission to the once-in-a-lifetime event, including a VIP experience. A select number of admissions will be allocated to each Host City, with the lottery procedures to be announced in due course.

Sixteen venues have already been chosen to host games, with 11 in the US, three in Mexico and two in Canada. **AGENCIES**

Chelsea's togetherness was key in win over West Ham: Joao Pedro

LONDON, AUGUST 23



Joao Pedro felt the squad's togetherness was key to overturning an early setback, with the Brazilian playing a starring role in Chelsea's 5-1 victory over West Ham.

It was a dazzling display from Joao Pedro and his teammates as the Blues stormed to their first Premier League win of the season at the London Stadium. After the home side had taken an early lead, Chelsea responded in style with first-half goals from Joao Pedro, Pedro Neto and Enzo Fernandez to turn the game on its head before the interval.

Their momentum only continued building after the restart, with Moises Caicedo marking a century of Chelsea appearances with their fourth of the evening, before Trevoh Chalobah completed the five-goal routing in emphatic fashion.

Pedro, who combined his first Premier League goal in Blue with two assists, highlighted the spirit within the squad as a crucial factor in responding to West Ham's opener.

"We started the game having gone one goal down, but we showed our togetherness today to win the game. I think we know our power. When we started the game, the first thing we thought about was winning. We've got so much power in the team. Cole Palmer was out today, but we played Estevao Willian and he showed his quality. It's good to have a team like this.

"With [so many] different players scoring today, that will help give confidence to the team. That confidence will help us keep going.

"To have the first win away is very important for us. It helps to prepare us for other games. You never know, you can go 1-0 down, but if you have the confidence, then you can change the game," said Pedro.

That sense of unity has also helped the 23-year-old settle quickly in his new surroundings, with Joao Pedro noting the deep connection between Chelsea and his homeland over the years.

He continued, "A lot of Brazilians have come here and made history, but it's the beginning of my journey.

"I've been expecting to come to a big team for a long time, so I've arrived with a lot of energy to take this opportunity. I wanted to try and show my quality in the game, and today I was happy to score and get two assists."

The South American also spoke of the bond he is already building with the Chelsea supporters, underlining the role of his footballing background in shaping that relationship.

"I'm from Brazil, and the connection between the players and the fans is so important. Of course, we'll always be going to give 100 per cent to make them happy. I'm very happy to play in front of the fans and show them our quality." **IANS**

Bournemouth's Semenyo calls for jail-time as potential punishment for racism



LONDON, AUGUST 23

AFC Bournemouth forward Antoine Semenyo has called for harsher actions against anyone who is charged with racial abuse, citing that what is currently being done is not enough.

The incident occurred in the first half at Anfield during the opening Premier League game when a man in the crowd directed abuse at Semenyo, prompting referee Anthony Taylor to halt the match. Taylor then consulted both team captains and managers before allowing play to continue.

"I hope it does, but if it doesn't then it just shows that what the Premier League is doing is not enough and that more needs to be done. I hope it does," Semenyo said to ITV.

When asked what the maximum punishment should be, Semenyo said, "It could be jail time, it could be banned from stadiums for a lifetime, it could be anything along the lines of that, but I feel like there has to be something else."

Merseyside Police confirmed that a 47-year-old man was removed from Anfield and announced his arrest on suspicion of a racially aggravated public order offence. He was later released on bail and has been banned from any regulated football match in the UK as part of his bail conditions. **IANS**



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