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Illegal Hotel Mountview, Malari Inn being demolished mechanically at Joshimath

Commissioner News Service
Joshimath (Badrinath) : By imposing a gag order, developing cracks, hill sliding process would never come to halt. The National Disaster Management Authority has reliably guided government institutions and officials to escape interacting with media or share information on social media about land subsidence in Joshimath. The immediate trigger for the gag order appears to be a satellite report of ISRO that indicates subsidence of about 9 cm in seven months. NDMA should re contemplate its decision - as it would never stop flow of unpleasant news. Global experience of Covid had hammered home the lesson that scientific collaboration is the best way to diagnose a problem and find a solution. Stringent restrictions on the information flow remains self-defeating. Governments at all levels in India need to encourage their institutions to collaborate with scientists in the private sector and in foreign institutions. A big-

ger pool of experts analysing a subject is more likely to come up with useful insights. NDMA's gag order is the second such sarkari instance in the recent past. A few weeks back ICAR issued a similar one for GM mustard. Debates and disagreements are intrinsic to science. They expand the boundaries of knowledge. Around 150 meters of a road stretch on the main Badrinath highway has been facing continuous land slides and subsidence. Local have decried population pressure, hill cutting work for the 4 Dham road project complicating further the complexities. Hotel Mount View and Malari Inn have moved away from the ground in and so damage, in this case, is irreparable. Both actually shifted its weight on the other hotel. A safe mechanical demolition of these two buildings will take place in stages. 'We have chalked out a detailed plan for it. We'll monitor the demolition by using our state-of-the-art equipment placed in and around the buildings to observe vibrations and other elements', said a



Kanungo. The exercise got underway after the protesting owners of the two hotels finally relented to the demolition. Kamlesh Rana, son of Thakur Rana who owns one of the hotels, Malari Inn, said, "I can't put my parents under stress anymore. They had been sitting here in protest for days. God forbid if rain intensifies then the building might start collapsing on its own causing damage to others' properties. People here are already a very worried lot. We don't want to give trouble to anyone." "Since the landscape is extremely fragile we'll manually cut the building and lift its pieces to another location. We can't blast or bulldoze it. The process may take days and we are afraid rain may make the operation challenging for us," said the chief scientist. About the teams involved, he said, "We are following all safety protocols. We would require at least 80 SDRF personnel along with CBRI experts and engineers to execute this operation. Around 20 labourers would

also be needed for each stage. Roads leading to the nearby houses and by lanes would be cordoned off." Kanungo, a chief scientist with MTech and PhD degrees (engineering-geologist) from IIT-Roorkee, have been working at CSIR-CBRI for almost 30 years now. His team played a crucial role during the Noida twin tower blast. His team had deployed instrumentation monitoring equipment worth Rs 2 crore and visually captured the exercise. L N Mishra, Chief development officer (Chamoli), said, "We held a series of meetings with the stakeholders and they understood the gravity of the situation and agreed for dismantling of the structure which started at around 4.30pm. The removal of concrete should start tomorrow." The meeting didn't achieve a conclusive result and residents and authorities were told to "set up a market rate panel" to finalise the amount. Talks are on with the stakeholders, the official added.

No random covid testing for G20 delegates

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : Delegates scheduled to travel to India for attending G20 events will be exempt from the 2% random Covid testing rule for international arrivals. The ministry of external affairs had requested the ministry of civil aviation on Wednesday (Jan 11) to grant this exemption till November/2023-till the G20 events will be organised. "The request of ministry of external affairs for exemption from 2% random screening for G20 delegates/participants from several countries and international organisations sched-



uled to arrive till November 2023, has been considered in consultation with ministry of health and family welfare. Based on the NOC given by the health ministry, aviation ministry has decided to grant exemption to arriving G20 delegates at Indian airports from 2% random testing for

Covid-19." "In view of the above, all airport operators are requested to take appropriate action in this matter," it added. India had resumed random Covid testing for 2% international arrivals from December 24, 2022.

Randhawa felicitates Chief Minister Pb on eve of Lohri



Commissioner News Service
CHANDIGARH : Enthused with overwhelming spirits of Lohri festivities, MLA Kuljit Singh Randhawa along with his family didn't miss any moment and felicitated Bhagwant Maan CM at his residence in Sector 2

on Friday. The Derabassi MLA extended his spontaneous love, feelings and passions on the colorful event and wished prosperous days in the future for his family and near dears.

'Raien Basera' becomes a showpiece in Zirakpur



RAMAN BRAR

Commissioner News Service
ZIRAKPUR : No magnum opus for the homeless who are not even aware of the whereabouts and address of the unique facility being provided by the Municipal Council in the town. Several poor were seen taking shelter in the shopping arcade near the Verma News Agency as none from the Civic body ever comes to sensitised them. Under the welfare state, the article 21 mandates the local government to facilitate the poor, homeless persons with the night shelters, equipped with requisite toilets, potable water and blankets.

In the town no crowding of the Raien Basera was seen, even early morning beds are found unoccupied while juxtaposing occupied strength of Delhi where Raien Basera are overcrowded and serving to the best of needs of the extreme poor, sources reveal. Taking note of the biting cold as a curse for the poor, the municipal authorities had raised the amenity but why the beds are not occupied and toilets are unclean, not swept for days together perhaps hardly needy person appear in the vicinity of the shelter facility, said Rohit Sharma husband of the councillor of Ward No 15. During 2012, even Supreme Court

had directed the local governments to provide shelters with bed rolls, health care and recreational resources. And under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission sanitation and hygienic toilets are mandatory but toilets in Raien Basera were seen stinking with no occupant on the bed on Sunday. On verifying the plight of shelter house, under the flyover and shopping corridors, the homeless bemoaned they were not aware of such types of shelters available in the town. Despite many efforts no contact would be established with the Executive Officer, Ravneet Singh of the Civic body.

Advancing tributes to flying officer Sekhon, PVC awardee immortalize him



Commissioner News Service
CHANDIGARH : The martyr fighter pilot Flying officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon is still enlivened, as his

memories have not evaporated into oblivion and don't allow us to forget his valorous combat fight with Pakistan fighter jets.

Before the Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Sector 18, the flying mode of Gnat air craft of Sekhon's squadron depicts colossus

beats for the lookers. The reverberating sounds still echoes along the horizons and in the environment as sound energy never get

fatigued, contends a group of airmen from the local wing Chandigarh of Indian Air Force.

No use of having facade Delhi elected govt - SC

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : "What is the use of having a facade elected government in Delhi, if it cannot even transfer bureaucrats from one department to the other? Then, why we have an elected government at all?" The constitutional provisions as well as laws establishing assembly in Delhi never gave, nor intended to give, control over posting and transfer of bureaucrats to the Delhi government as the national capital has always been a Union Territory, though a special one. Raising Delhi counsel A M Singhvi's argument, a



5-judge bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices M R Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha responded by asking Solicitor General Tushar Mehta about provisions of the Constitution which divided all India civil services, including police services, into two categories - for the Union and

states. "No separate service is provided for Union Territories in the Constitution right from the Seventh Constitutional Amendment in 1956, which created UTs. The services in UTs are always controlled by the Union government," he said. The SG said the object and intent behind the insertion of Article 239A as well as passing of GNCTD Act in 1991 by Parliament provided a guide to the status of Delhi, even though Parliament decided to set up a legislative assembly with Council of Ministers headed by a CM..

PCS officers to finish backlog by weekend



Commissioner News Service
CHANDIGARH : "It is clarified that the government has agreed to all the demands and the association/expresses its gratitude to CM Bhagwant Mann for his support in resolving the issues." The association also thanked various associations like that of revenue officers, DC office employees and excise and taxation staff, which had expressed solidarity with the PCS officers during the strike, announced PCS officers association. Punjab Civil Service (PCS) offi-

cers, have been on mass casual leave earlier this week, have decided to work on Saturday and Sunday to clear the backlog in view of inconvenience caused to the general public. The PCS officers had remained on mass casual leave on Monday and Tuesday. The association had announced mass casual leave till January 13 in protest against the arrest of their colleague Narinder Singh Dhalwal, secretary, Regional Transport Authority (RTA), Ludhiana, in a vigilance case.

Pollution Control Committee orders sealing of 29 shops

Commissioner News Service
CHANDIGARH : The Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPC) while cracking the whip against violation of the plastic ban, has directed sealing of 29 shops located in different parts of the city. The estate office has been asked to implement the action and the power department to snap power connections of the shops found to be using single plastic and plastic carry bags. "Action has been taken under Section 5 of Environmental



Protection Act, 1986. They were first issued show-cause notices. A fine of Rs 5,000 was imposed. After they didn't deposit the envi-

ronmental compensation, the sealing orders were issued," said an official. Amlraj P CPCC member-secretary said, "we have identified areas where most violations have been spotted. These include mandis and trading shops. Teams of the MC, the CPCC and the estate office are regularly inspecting the sites. We are also asking traders to choose alternatives to single-use plastics and plastic carry bags. The drive has been initiated on the directions of the UT adviser and the CPCC chairman."

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EDITORIAL –

China's quarantine policy ditched, borders re- opened

China no longer requires quarantine for arrivals after authorities ditched the policy that along with the exorbitant cost of air fares amid severe capacity constraints, was a deterrent for travellers. While anyone wanting to enter the country will still need a 48-hour negative Covid test result, the substantial easing in border controls two weeks before the Lunar New Year holiday marks an end to Beijing's efforts to keep out the virus. The first flights under the "no quarantine" rules for international travellers landed at the airports in Guangzhou and Shenzhen in southern Guangdong province on Sunday morning, the state-run CGTN TV reported. Officials said 387 passengers were aboard two flights from Toronto and Singapore on the day the country ended its strict Covid curbs for travellers. Travellers streamed into China by air, land and sea, many eager for long-awaited reunions, as Beijing opened borders that have been all but shut since the start of the Covid pandemic.

After three years, mainland China opened sea and land crossings with Hong Kong and ended a requirement for incoming travellers to quarantine, dismantling a final pillar of a zero-Covid policy. Gu Tingting was looking forward to seeing her grandfather and eating local cuisine in Beijing after a three-year absence in London, where she works for an energy firm. "I'm gonna cry, I'm back in Beijing and will eat dumplings," said the 28-year old, who flew into the capital via Hong Kong. The border opening follows start of "chun yun", the 40-day period of Lunar New Year travel, which before the pandemic was the world's largest annual migration, as people returned to their hometowns or took holidays with family. Some 2 billion trips are expected this season, nearly double last year's movement and recovering to 70% of 2019 levels, the government says. The reopening comes even as the virus continues to spread in China. Many countries have

implemented testing requirements on travellers from China and airlines have been reluctant to make major changes to their flight schedules meaning capacity remains tight and prices high. The reopening won't bring much risk of a new outbreak because the BQ and XBB sub-variants are still part of the omicron strain, Wu Zunyou, a chief epidemiologist at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, told state broadcaster CCTV. Wu said China hasn't found any new mutation domestically. Much of the initial inbound flow is expected to come from Hong Kong, through which many of the diaspora will travel given limited direct flights from global destinations to mainland cities. There's been a rush to secure spots in the daily quota of about 60,000 people allowed to travel northward from the financial hub, including 50,000 via the land borders that separate the two places. Hong Kong's leader John Lee said the next step would be lifting the quota, though he didn't provide any date.

3 days rose festival to commence from Feb 17

Commissioner News Service
CHANDIGARH : One of the extravaganzas, the exclusive festival of Roses would commence from Feb 17 as has been scheduled by the officials of the Municipal Corporation. Mr Banwari Lal Purohit, the UT Administrator would be the chief guest at the opening ceremony for 3 days festivities. Conspicuous attraction this year would be a light & sound program. A total of Rs 1.7 Cr would



be spent on the celebrations which would be dedicated to the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav." Besides competition and pageants for citizens of varied age groups, also

would include music, photography, painting, dancing and rangli making to enthuse the spirits of the visitors, said an official of the civic body.

Aashika Jain becomes Mohali DC

Commissioner News Service

MOHALI :Aashika Jain, replaces Amit Talwar, who has been transferred as Director, Sports and Youth Services, in addition to Special Secretary, Planning. A 2015 batch IAS officer, has been posted as Mohali Deputy Commissioner. Aashika was earlier Additional Deputy Commissioner, Urban Development, Jalandhar. She has done BA, LLB



(Hons) from National Law University (2014) and Masters in Public Management from the JNU. The 23-year-old officer comes from Ambala Cantonment.

Afresh assessment of energy audit soon, panel tells UT dept



Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : The energy audit will assess the pattern of energy consumption in the residential as well as commercial buildings and provide a complete assessment on electricity consumption and energy efficiency. To understand energy usage and ways to cut electricity costs, the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) has directed the UT Electricity Department to conduct an energy audit at the earliest. There was a suo motu hearing in order to ascertain and take on record the work done vis-a-vis targets by the Electricity Department towards replacement of mechanical and defective electronic meters and providing meters for unmetered connections and also action plan for such replacement in 2022-23. The commission has observed that all feeders and substation are not metered and directed the department to submit an action plan within 30 days for the installation of required meters and conduct an energy audit at the earliest. In the compliance report,

the department submitted that of 3,134 feeders, electronic meters had been installed at 465 feeders and 234 meters at 2,411 transformers so far. Meters were yet to be installed at 2,669 feeders and 2,175 transformers in the city, stated the department. The department stated the total number of consumers was estimated to be 2,36,654 in the city as per the tariff order of 2022-23. The department further submitted that there are no unmetered consumers and the 4,531 defective electronic meters were to be replaced in 2022-23 and meters estimated for new connections were 1,220. They were able to replace 3,952 defective electronic meters and provide 1,561 new connections to consumers in the first and second quarter (from April to September). The department also submitted that 24,230 smart meters had also been installed in the city. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had shelved the project, under which smart electricity meters were to be installed in the entire city, in October last year.

For updating KYC, no need for visiting bank branch : RBI



Commissioner News Service

MUMBAI : Customers do not need to visit their bank's branch to update 'know your customer' (KYC) details if they have already submitted valid documents and not changed their address. Instead, customers can submit a self-declaration through email, phone, ATM, net-banking, or a letter, said an official of the RBI branch. The banking regulator has made these changes to make it convenient for customers to update KYC details, in order to comply with the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. Banks may ask for fresh KYC process if their records don't have the correct documents or if they have expired. Customers can also complete a fresh KYC process through video call in banks that provide this facility. The RBI has asked customers to contact their bank for more information about the options available for updating KYC details.

A fresh KYC process needs to be undertaken only when the documents in bank records do not conform to the current list of 'officially valid documents' (see graphic). Fresh KYC is also required if the validity of the document submitted earlier has expired. Banks must acknowledge receipt of KYC documents/ self-declaration submitted by customers. In December, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das had clarified in a post-policy press conference that banks should not insist on branch visits. The governor's clarification had come when many customers said their banks were asking them to visit the branch for KYC before December 31, 2022. This KYC demand had led to fears that accounts may be frozen if customers do not visit the branch. Officially valid documents are passport, driving license, Aadhaar, voter ID, job card issued by MGNREGA and letter issued by the National Population Register.

3,500 trees in Sec 20 to face axe as permitted by NGT

Commissioner News Service

PANCHKULA : The area in Sector 20 was not earmarked as a green belt. NGT (National Green Tribunal) allowed the (Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), to carry out any construction work on its own, provided prior proper permission for felling of trees would be obtained from the authority concerned on behalf of the HSVP.

In a major relief to the the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has decided in favour of the estate agency for cutting down 3,500 trees from the forest area of Sector 20 in the city. The NGT gave the directions while hearing the matter on January 12 in New Delhi. The office-bearers of the Residents Welfare Association (RWA), Sector 20, had filed a case in the NGT against the construction of 4,500 Ashiana flats for economically weaker sections by felling trees in the forest area. The NGT had summoned both sides



for hearing their views in the matter and deliver its final judgment. Estate Officer Gagandeep Singh along with executive engineer and four advocates were present on behalf of the HSVP, while the RWA, Sector 20, was represented by its vice-president Yoginder Kwatra and general secretary Avinash Malik. HSVP's EO Gagandeep Singh told the NGT court the area was not reserved for green belt and that houses for the poor were to be built under the ambitious plan of the Prime Minister and Haryana Chief Minister. After hearing arguments of both sides, the NGT court decided the area was not

reserved for green belt and that the HSVP could execute any development work there on its own. Kwatra, however, said the matter was going on in the Punjab and Haryana High Court as well, in which they had demanded change of site of the Ashiana flats. He claimed the Administrator and Estate Officer, appearing in the HC on behalf of the HSVP, had claimed the site for Ashiana flats would be changed. The HSVP officers in the NGT had now made a U-turn. He said they had decided to challenge the matter again in the HC. A petition in this regard would be filed soon.

Round the clock surgical store remains open in PGI

Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : The Surgical store in PGI is maintained for surgical items such as implants, syringes, gloves, canulla, masks, sutures, spirometer, nebulisers, LS belt, knee caps, stocking, etc. These were previously provided up to 5 pm only. Now, PGI's surgical store will open round the clock. Earlier, it used to remain open only till 5 pm. The PGI Employees' Union had raised the issue to keep the surgical



store open 24*7. Ravinder Kumar Saini, president of the PGI Employees' Union, said: "It will bring an end to loot and corrupt practices

of buying even available surgical material/items in stock at exorbitant price, besides causing harassment to patients and staff."

Compounding regime of synthetic milk



Over 70% of populace digest daily the pulverised synthetic milk which comprises a definite quantity of detergent, urea, caustic soda, sodium hydroxide and fats, cautioned the otherday, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology. In accordance with Food Safety & Standard Authority of India, the quality of milk in question doesn't conform to the parameters laid by the stipulated law. The excess water added to the milk may destroy the intake of nutritious specific values, which are immensely harmful. The unnatural milk also comprises certain quantity of insecticides and metal which are destructive to human health. One day, skimmed milk sample of 548, only 577 were found to be carrying ample quantity of glucose. It has been noticed while storing, packaging, certain quantity of detergent particles enter the openly placed

quantity of bare milk. The demand for the genuine quality milk is not being met hence the glut of synthetic milk would continue to rein in the prevailing market. Artificial imitation of natural milk remains harmful to human health. Its excessive use inflict very serious damage on human body causing swelling in the eyes and many other complication in the liver and kidney. The journey of synthetic milk, now a days, has been heading from urban area to rural

populace to acclimatise to their propensities. Our nation has been notoriously becoming famous, leaving concentration away from genuine natural milk. Now fait accompli, we are tolerating assortment by of chemicals, urea, by compulsion as the occupation of genuine dairy farming has been going in very lackadaisical race even government controlled units are losing curiosity in natural milk. What a catastrophic approach, but against whom? remains puzzling.

The Commissioner

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BJP national executive meet begins today to finalise election strategies

Commissioner News Service

NEW DELHI : The key agenda of the two-day BJP National Executive meet, will begin today, to chalk out a strategy for the poll-bound states and to determine the ways to take the achievements of the Modi government to the masses. During the meet, Prime Minister Modi would give mantra to BJP leaders and workers to prepare for the upcoming assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Apart from this, he would also give a message to the nation and would call for ensuring maximum public participation in the programmes related to the G-20 presidency. The two-day meet will hold in the national capital on January 16 and 17. On Monday, January 16, at 10 am there will be a meeting of the national office bearers of the party under the



chairmanship of the party's national president JP Nadda at the party headquarters, in which the agenda of the meet will be finalised. After this, at 4 pm, the meet will formally begin at the NDMC Convention Centre. The meet will begin with the presidential address by Nadda and will likely to conclude with a guidance speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, January 17, at 4 pm. The meet will be attended by Prime Minister Modi, Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

and National General Secretary (Organisation) BL Santosh, besides the Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states, Deputy Chief Ministers, Union ministers, all the national office bearers and other leaders of the national executive.

It is being said that the proposal to extend the presidential term of the current party president Nadda till 2024 Lok Sabha elections can be approved.

Apart from this, resolutions related to the achievements made by the Modi government in various fields and the G-20 presidency given to India can also be passed in during the meet.

Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and several other leaders of the party are likely to speak on the important proposals in the meet.

Public toilets by Civic body being renovated in Karnal



Commissioner News Service

KARNAL : The facelifting work of public and community toilets, along with the walls of government buildings, with artistic paintings is being undertaken by the Civic body. These toilets in the city are infamous for being poorly maintained.

The step was initiated by the civic body under Swachh Survekshan-2023. The authorities are confident that the step will help the MC in improving the Swachh Survekshan ranking.

Karnal city had secured 85th position in the 1-10 lakh population category in Swachh Survekshan-2022 with a jump of only one point from 86th position in Swachh Survekshan-2021 organised by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry. In 2021, it slipped to 86th position from 17 in Swachh Survekshan 2020, which was a jump from 24th position in 2019. It secured the 41st position in Swachh Survekshan-2018 and 65th

in 2017.

“We have started the facelifting of toilets and walls of different government buildings. Awareness slogans are being painted on the exterior walls of the toilets,” said Ajay Singh Tomar, Commissioner, MC, Karnal.

“I have held a meeting with the engineering branch and have asked them to complete the beautification work by January end. XENs have been appointed to monitor the works in their areas,” said the commissioner.

Gaurav Kumar, Additional Commissioner, said there are 165 public toilets in the city. So far, the public toilets of Prem Nagar, Budakhara, Deha Basti, and the Transport Area in Sector 4, Model Town and Sector 13 market have been painted. “Work on the toilets of Wards 12, 15, 19 and 20 is underway,” said Kumar. He maintained that the location of all public toilets is available on Google toilet locator.

Maiden Pharma yet not blacklisted, 2 months lapsed

Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : After the tablets failed in the “dissolution test parameter of IP (Indian Pharmacopoeia) 2018” at a private-empanelled laboratory, the HMSCL is awaiting the test results of the Haryana Government lab in Chandigarh for further action.

A total of 21 batches of Albendazole tablets of Maiden Pharmaceuticals, Sonapat, have failed the quality test, but even as more than two months have passed, Haryana Medical Services Corporation Limited (HMSCL) is yet to blacklist the firm.

Sources said the State Drug Laboratory had told the Food and Drug Administration, Haryana, that it did not have the facility to carry out the



dissolution test. The State Drug Controller has now informed the HMSCL about the government lab's incapability to test the tablets. As per the HMSCL policy, available on its website, for more than two instances of quality failure, the contract will be cancelled and the “firm will be debarred for three years from participating in the tendering process for that particular item”. And “if more than three products of a firm are debarred/blacklisted, the firm will not be eligible to participate in the tendering process of Haryana for the next three

years for any item”.

The HMSCL had procured the Albendazole tablets for government hospitals and dispensaries. These tablets are given for the treatment of parasitic worm infections. The tablet batches have the manufacturing date of August or September 2022 and the expiry date of August 2024.

Earlier, the HMSCL blocked purchase orders from Maiden Pharmaceuticals, besides withdrawing medicines procured from it last year.

Maiden Pharmaceuticals is also linked to four syrups that were found to contain unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol as contaminants and have allegedly led to the death of more than 66 children in Gambia.

AAP is set to provide 400 more Mohalla clinics on January 27

Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : The state government will dedicate more than 400 new Aam Aadmi Clinics to people of state on January 27, thereby taking the total number of functional clinics to 500, announced Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday.

On reviewing the arrangements for the mega event to be held at Amritsar on January 27, the Chief Minister said in order to provide quality and timely health services to the people 100 Aam Aadmi Clinics were already dedicated to the people on the 75th Independence Day. He said the clinics were offering 41 health packages with nearly 100 clinical tests free of cost to the people. Mann



said the clinics were acting as a cornerstone in the revamp of the healthcare system in Punjab. The Chief Minister said it was a matter of great pride and satisfaction that the Government of India had also lauded this path-breaking initiative of the state government to

deliver health services to people. He said now with the opening of more than 400 such clinics, Punjab would script a new success story in the healthcare sector.

Claiming that the revolutionary initiative would rejuvenate the healthcare system, he directed the officers to ensure foolproof arrangements for the mega event.

On the occasion, Cabinet ministers Aman Arora and Dr Balbir, Principal Secretary, Information and Public Relations, Rahul Bhandari; Secretary, Health, Ajay Sharma; Director, Information and Public Relations, Sonali Giri; and others were also present.

Rs 38 Lakh fraud by Bank branch manager, case registered

Commissioner News Service

AMRITSAR : The bank in 2021, got written complaints from five persons regarding loans, amount of which was credited to their accounts without their application for it. The bank also identified several persons who were given loans far in excess of the amount they had applied for.

The Cantonment police have booked a branch manager of Central Bank of India, an assistant branch manager and an officiating officer of the bank on charges of fraud.

They were booked following a probe conducted by the Assistant Commissioner of Police (West) after a complaint was filed on September 2021 by



the regional manager of the bank. A case under Section 420 of the IPC was registered on Thursday against branch manager Upkar Singh, assistant branch manager Ritu Jaita and officiating officer Manjinder Singh. Upkar Singh was already placed under suspension in this connection.

One of the victims, Lal Bahadur Shukla, told the bank that a loan of Rs 8 lakh was issued against his bank account and out of which Rs 1.80 lakh and 1.20 lakh were withdrawn by the suspects. He said he had never applied for the loan. Similarly, another victim, Kanika Malhotra, approached the bank

with a complaint that Rs 5 lakh loan was issued against her name without her knowledge. Likewise Annie Gupta, another victim, told the bank that a loan of Rs 5 lakh was sanctioned against her account.

Saurabh Gupta, another victim, told that he had applied for a loan of Rs 5.50 lakh, but the bank authorities sanctioned him a loan of Rs 8.50 lakh. Similarly, Megha Khindri told the bank authorities that she was sanctioned a loan of Rs 8 lakh, but she had applied for a loan of Rs 4 lakh.

Besides, the police also found two more victims during the probe and they were identified as Baby and Raj Kaur. A probe was carried out by the

ACP (West) who found that bank officials did not follow the norms while issuing these loans. No physical verification was done during the process. The official also found that many of the firms, the documents of which were shown as deposited for taking loans, did not exist. The loan was passed by Upkar Singh while these were recommended by Ritu Jaita and Manjinder Singh.

Prabhjot Singh Virk, Additional Commissioner of Police, City-II, said after the registration of an FIR, a probe was on and raids were being carried out to nab the suspects.



केश कान्ति

बालों की समस्याओं का साइंटिफिक व इफेक्टिव सॉल्यूशन



केश कान्ति नैचुरल शैम्पू

- हेयर फॉल रोक कर बालों को घना बनाये
- बेजान बालों में चमक लाये
- झड़्डे स्कैल्प को मॉइस्चराइज़ करे
- दो मूँहे बालों को कम करके उन्हें मज़बूत बनाये



हर्बल हेयर एक्सपर्ट ऑयल

- डेमेज्ड बालों को एक हफ़्ते में रिपेयर करे तथा 1-2 महीने में नये बाल उगाये
- बालों को झड़ने से रोके व असमय सफेद होने से बचाये
- स्कैल्प को डैंड्रूफ़ फ्री बनाये
- 30 वेशकीमती जड़्डे-बूटियाँ बालों की ग्रोथ व हेल्थ को अच्छा करती हैं



केश कान्ति एलोवेरा शैम्पू

- बालों को घना बनाये
- रुखे बालों को मॉइस्चराइज़ करे
- बेजान बालों को डीप कंडिशन करके नरिश करे
- हाइड्रेट करके टूटने से बचाये



केश कान्ति मिल्क प्रोटीन शैम्पू

- रुखे, बेजान बालों को पोषण दे व असमय सफेद होने से रोके
- उन्हें रिपेयर करके हेल्दी ग्रोथ दे
- बालों की जड़्डे को मज़बूत बनाकर उन्हें झड़ने से रोके



केश कान्ति एंटी डैंड्रूफ़ शैम्पू

- रुसी हटाकर बालों को झड़ने से रोके
- स्कैल्प को नरिश करके बालों को हेल्दी बनाये
- झड़्डे हटाकर बालों को चमक दे



केश कान्ति हेयर ऑयल

- बालों का रूखापन दूर करे
- दो मूँहे बाल व बालों को असमय सफेद होने से रोके
- बालों की जड़्डे को मज़बूत करके उनकी ग्रोथ में मदद करे
- बालों को गिरने और डैंड्रूफ़ से बचाये

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Rs 1.4 Cr property tax paid by CITCO to civic body

Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : Rs 1.4 Cr tax paid by the Citco is the highest from any one department in the current financial year. The property tax is of three Citco properties, Hotel Shivalikview, Lakeview at Sukhna Lake and The Chef restaurant in Sector 17.

Shivalikview was carrying around Rs 1.31 crore tax, while Lakeview and The Chef owed Rs 4.17 lakh and Rs 7.13 lakh. Hotel Taj in Sector 17 had deposited Rs 70.80 lakh property tax to the municipal corporation. The hotel owed around Rs 1.65 crore property



tax, mainly arrears, said the sources.

The civic body had issued a notice to the hotel, following which the entire principal amount was paid.

"Since the authority is quite strict on recovering property tax from both government and

private properties, regular notices are being sent. Besides the notices, specific letters are also being written to senior officers of the department. As a result, the MC has received the significant amount of money in the form of property tax," sources said.

Advanced cardiac centre goes in loop

Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : Structural changes planned in the the Advanced Cardiac Centre in PGI still needs approval of the helipad facility. The expansion plan of 210-bedded centre houses cardiothoracic and cardiology departments. The fifth floor also was meant for expansion with two more operation theatres, wards and additional catheterisation laboratories.

Kumar Gaurav Dhawan, deputy director, administration, PGI said "We have to get structural stability checked and extra manpower also needed. We are waiting for approvals.". He added, "There has been no official record of a helipad at the centre."

The expansion file has been stuck for the past four years. "The catheterisation laboratory and OTs of the centre are filled to the brim. The expansion was supposed to happen to adjust these patients, but nothing has happened," said a faculty member.

"The file is not being moved by the senior doctors in the centre."The centre sees around 40



to 50 cases on a daily basis in two catheterisation laboratories. The cost of angiography in PGI is around Rs 6,000, while it is almost three times more in a private set-up. "What can the administration do when senior doctors in the centre are sitting on the file and not even agreeing to increase the manpower?" asked another faculty.

A meeting was held around seven months ago when the expansion process was discussed in PGI. However, nothing happened after that. "The patient load has increased and rates for infrastructure enhancement will also escalate. The delay will add to the cost of the project and has been hindering patient care," apprised a faculty in PGI.

Probe under section 17A act in land bifurcation case to start soon

Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : The report by the Chief Secretary is also looking into the allegations of tampering of the records of the PSIEC in this case, as is being alleged. It is alleged that though the developer was allowed to bifurcate the plot into 12 units, but the plot was bifurcated into 125 units. Most of the 125 allottees have been questioned by the VB about the projects they were setting up in this industrial township to assess if these were being used for commercial or residential purposes that was not allowed under the rules, said the sources. Punjab IAS officer Neelima will join the investigation into the PSIEC land bifurcation case this week.

With an 'assurance' that she will not be arrested, the 2008 batch IAS officer will appear before Vigilance Bureau sleuths to answer their queries regarding the alleged irregularities in the bifurcation of the plot allowed by the PSIEC.

The officer was posted as the



Managing Director (MD) of the PSIEC when the bifurcation of the plot was allowed to a real estate developer.

The officer has pleaded herself innocence in the case in a letter written to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. The state IAS Officers Association has been up in arms against the registration of an FIR against the officer while stating that a prior sanction was not taken before the FIR was registered against her.

Highly placed sources in the state government said a team of the VB had already visited the native state of the IAS officer as part of the investigation.

"It is not necessary that a person be arrested immediately after an FIR is registered. Arrest is necessary only if there is

apprehension of the person, being investigated, trying to dodge the investigating agency," said a senior functionary in the government.

Meanwhile, a reply in the entire case of allowing the sale of the 25-acre piece of land by Signify Innovations India Ltd (formerly known as Phillips Lighting India Ltd) to Gulmohar Township India Pvt Ltd has been submitted by the Industries Department to the Chief Secretary, who is preparing a report for the Chief Minister.

The Vigilance too has submitted four judgements that validate its claim that no prior sanction was required to register an FIR against the IAS officer under Section 17 A of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Janjua said his report on various aspects of the case is ready. "I will submit it to the Chief Minister on Monday. The CM may then make a statement on the issue," he said.

Initiate steps for safety of environment and ground water - HC

Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : The HC has directed the Punjab government as well as the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) to furnish reports as to the manner in which the sand mining activities are permitted and undertaken by the state.

"As an interim measure, the petitioner state is permitted to undertake sand mining operations in terms of and strictly in accordance with the conditions stated by the SEIAA in its order dated December 30, 2022 at Rupnagar, Fazilka and Pathankot except the area in and across the river Ravi in district Pathankot adjacent to international border with Pakistan, as the mining activities in that area had already been stayed by this court vide order dated August 29, 2022," observed the HC in its detailed order released on Wednesday.



The division bench, comprising Chief Justice Ravi Shanker Jha and Justice Arun Palli, the court was informed that on an application being filed by the authorities of the state. The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), by its order dated December 30, 2022, has granted permission for starting mining operations pending environmental clearance after approving the District Survey Reports (DSRs) at Pathankot, Rupnagar and Fazilka districts.

Senior counsel for the SEIAA submitted that in all the inspections conducted by them, they had found that illegal mining was going on by digging deep pits in the riverbeds and

employing heavy machinery which in fact was evident from the reports filed along with the petition. However, the prayer of the petitioners based upon the permission granted by the SEIAA by order dated December 30, 2022 was not opposed.

No other party to the case opposed the prayer of the petitioners to commence sand mining in accordance with the permission granted by the SEIAA. In its application submitted to the HC, the Punjab government had sought directions to permit mining activities in view of shortage of material being used in the construction work.

Ayodhya Ram temple to open by Jan 2024 : Shah

Commissioner News Service

MYSURU : Four months ahead of the Karnataka assembly polls, Amit Shah Union home minister exhorted voters in the Vokkaliga heartland of Mandya about 100 km from Bengaluru that it was time to end dynastic politics in the state and give it a corruption-free government . He promised voters that his party would put the district on the path of development if people offered full support in the polls.

JD(S) national president and former PM HD Deve Gowda heaped praise on Shah during the launch of a new mega dairy at Manmul, in Mandya . Mr Gowda said Shah has worked tirelessly to curb corruption in cooperative banks across the country, and has empowered the dairy sector. Calling Shah "active and brilliant", the JD(S) patriarch said politics aside, he has a lot of respect for him.

In Mandya Shah said both Congress and JD(S) have not come out of the clutches of dynastic politics. "When people voted them in, both parties didn't take up any development work. Karnataka became Delhi's ATM when Congress was in power; when JD (S) held the reins, it was one family's ATM," he claimed.

"If the people of Mysuru and Mandya strengthen our hands,



then BJP will, in the next five years, take development in the region to a whole new level," he said, exhorting party workers to work hard in Mysuru and Mandya so that BJP hits the majority mark in the state on its own for the first time.

Shah claimed Congress and JD(S) are communal" and shelter criminals. He said Congress withdrew cases against 170 activists of the Popular Front of India whereas the Modi government had banned the organisation and jailed its members.

He also alleged that Congress, when in power, had done injustice to Dalits and adivasis until BJP made a Dalit and adivasi the president of India. Mr Shah said Ayodhya Ram temple is scheduled to open by Jan 2024, Shah said the "grand inauguration of the magnificent Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will be held on January 1, 2024, " and urged people from Mandya to start reserving tickets for their journey to Ayodhya.

ICSE Class X exams to commence from Feb 27

Commissioner News Service

NEW DELHI : The Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) class X exams will begin from February 27 and end on March 29. While the Indian School Certificate (ISC) class XII exams will begin on February 13 and end on March 31.

The board had added the 2023 results will be announced in the month of May through the convenors



to the head of schools.

In the last few years the board examination could not be held or was delayed due to Co- vid. Now with datasheets announced by one of the national board, the

schedule is back to the pre-Covid times. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is yet to announce the results. The ISC examination will begin with English paper I. For the ICSE students as well, the first exam scheduled is English language paper 1. The notice issued by Gerry Arathoon, chief executive and secretary of the board stated.

'OLA' company to start electric vehicles manufacturing unit

Commissioner News Service

NEW DELHI : Tamilnadu has reportedly approved a proposal of Bhavish Aggarwal's Ola company for acquiring around 1,500 acres land in the state that will house the company's electric vehicles manufacturing facility. The company will manufacture battery cell and supply component ecosystem.

It is believed that Ola has indicated to the government that it expects investments to the tune of Rs 1 lakh crore by the end of the decade in



the 'electric vehicles' park that it is setting up at the Krishnagiri district in Tamil Nadu, sources said.

The company already has acquired around 500 acres in the area and is now adding a much- bigger land parcel of 1,500 acres as it looks to not only expand the capacity of its electric two-wheelers

business, but also looks at making electric cars as well as batteries in the area. Importantly, it wants to house all its critical vendors and suppliers in the same area.

The battery plant is being set up to meet the growing needs of Ola's electric vehicles business, and this flows from the company winning production-linked incentive (PLI) benefits under the government's advanced cell chemistry (ACC) for EV batteries.

Alcohol is toxic causal link to cancer - WHO

"Alcohol consumption is associated with 7,40,000 new cancer cases each year globally. In the European Union, light to moderate alcohol consumption 20g of pure alcohol goes per day. The WHO concedes, have suggested that light alcohol consumption could have a small protective effect, as measured by the risk of some cardiovascular diseases or type 2 diabetes. "Evidence does not indicate the existence of a particular threshold at which the carcinogenic effects of alcohol



start to manifest in the human body. As such, no safe amount of alcohol consumption for cancers and health can be established," the UN health body says.

"People do not want to believe this until they develop the disease. That's why creating awareness about the harms of excessive drinking is the need of the hour," said Dr Sarin. According to WHO, alcohol consumption is associated with an increased risk of many health conditions and is the main and sufficient cause for several disorders, including alcohol dependence, liver cirrhosis, and non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions.

Resignation of PSEB Chairman accepted

Commissioner News Service

MOHALI : The Punjab government has constituted a committee of three members to find an appropriate applicant suitable for the post of the chairman PSEB and one may be appointed within a month.

Resignation by Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) chairman Yograj Sharma was accepted by the Punjab government on Wednesday. Yograj has claimed that the reason of his resignation was purely personal.

The orders to constitute a three-member committee



have been issued by the chief secretary (school education), Punjab, and is headed by the chief secretary along with the chief secretary (school education) and the vice-chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, as members. The orders also mentioned that the committee would find a suitable

applicant and inform the Punjab government within 30 days. Yograj was said to be very close to former education minister Vijay Inder Singla during then CM Amarinder Singh government when his appointment was made as PSEB chairman during the Congress regime.

Fraudulent case lodged against retd Col

Commissioner News Service

PANCHKULA : Ms Satinderpal Kaur a resident of GHS - 86 (Surya Enclave), Sector 20, filed a complaint, stating that she purchased a flat at GHS-86 in 2008, nominating her husband Col Raminder Singh Sandhu as the successor.

A retired Colonel and former office bearer of a residential housing society allegedly colluded with two residents of Punjab and forged documents to make two nominees of a flat owned by the wife of a late Colonel. The accused allegedly tried to take possession of the flat. After her husband's demise on February 2, 2021, she



approached the president of the co-op society and submitted a written request to appoint Sarabjit Singh as her legal nominee for the flat. On checking the official register of the society, she learned that the then society president, Col R C Kapur (retd) fraudulently appointed Jaswinder Singh, a resident of Army Officer's Enclave, Jalandhar (Punjab) and Arvind Sidhu, a resident of Gilco Valley, Kharar,

Mohali, as nominees of the flat. "The society president, without my consent or any verbal communication, put unknown person's names as my flat nominees. The accused were threatening me to vacate the flat and also attempted to take possession of the flat from me," she alleged. The victim appeared before the police commissioner and filed a complaint.

11 storeyed mother-child care hospital to come up in Pkula



Commissioner News Service

PANCHKULA : 11 storeyed mother- child care hospital will have neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU), pre-natal care unit for babies and an intensive care unit for mothers. Other facilities, including OPD, ultrasound ward, laboratory facility, educational institute, library and store will also be provided. Administrative block will have rooms of civil surgeon and principal medical officer level officer to maintain the set-up. As per plan, all these rooms will be on four floors of the building.

Approval for the construction of the hospital in place of old building of Civil Hospital, Sector 6, was secured from the director general health services in 2019, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, the construction got delayed.

The demand was sent based on the increasing number of patients at the maternity ward, said an official.

Currently, there are only 50 beds at the gynaecology ward of the Civil Hospital, Sector 6, which usually remains occupied all the time.

"We are working to build the hospital wing adjacent to the Civil Hospital. The wing will exclusively cater to expectant women, newly-born babies and their mothers. Under the project, Rs 100 crore will be spent to make this model hospital in the state," said an official.

The old building of the civil hospital was lying vacant after three new buildings of the hospital came into existence in 2015. The single-floor old building was dismantled.

'Pariksha Pe Charcha' by Narendra Modi on January 27



Commissioner News Service

NEW DELHI : PM Narendra Modi will interact on January 27 with students, teachers and parents on 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', said Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister.

Prime Minister has invited the top three teams of the Kala Utsav 2022-23 to Delhi to witness the Republic Day parade on January 26 as well as present their talent during the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'.

The five-day National Kala Utsav 2022-23, organised by the ministry of education in 2022-23, commenced from Tuesday at the Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar to promote arts in education by nurtur-

ing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at the secondary stage in the country.

Now the sixth edition of the interaction will be held at the Talkatora Indoor stadium. "The wait is over!"

#PPC2023 is going to be held on 27th January 2023 at Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi will interact with students, parents, and teachers. Stay Tuned! #Exam Warriors," the ministry said in a tweet.

Pariksha Pe Charcha is an annual event where Modi would interact with students who will be appearing for the forthcoming board exams.

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Police Control Room : 100, 0172-2210357, 58

DSP Office : 0172-2272003, 0172-2272045

SSP Office : 0172-2270575, 76, 77

PUDA Office : 0172-2215308, 10, 11

Punjab School Education Board : 3047444

Industrial Area : 0172-2250910

Police Station Ph-1, 0172-2272850, Ph-II, 9115516027, 9115516015

Police Station Mataur : 9115516020

Police Station Suhana : 9115516029

Police Station Balaugi : 9115516040

Graveyard Mohali : 0172-2236403, 18001802468

COMPLAINT CENTERS

Water Supply : 18001802468

Mohali Division Electricity Complaint Number : 9646115973

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Birth and Death : 0172-5044902,

Engineering Branch : 0172-5044909, 5044907 (O)

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CTU : 0172-2704005

PRTC : 0172-2704128

Haryana Roadways : 0172-2704014,

Himachal Roadways : 0172-2704014

Railway : 0172-2641656

Airport : 0172-2654832

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