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UGC sans power inscription can't check any university from admitting Phd students onto higher study

Commissioner News Service
New Delhi : The Delhi High Court has ruled that the University Grants Commission (UGC) does not have the power to prevent a university from admitting PhD students under the UGC Act, 1956, or its regulations. A bench headed by Justice Vikas Mahajan stated that it is clear that there is no provision in the Act that empowers the UGC to prevent a university from admitting PhD students for alleged non-compliance with its provisions. The bench delivered the ruling while hearing a

petition filed by Singhania University.
The university had challenged the UGC order prohibiting it from admitting students to PhD programs for the next five academic years (2025-26 to 2029-30). The university has also challenged the public notice issued by the UGC advising prospective students and their parents not to enroll in the university's PhD programs. The university cannot be stopped from growing in its ethical conduct. The bench, while quashing the UGC order and public notice, said that the



preamble and Section 12(j) of the UGC Act indicate that the UGC's regulatory authority is limited to coordinating and determining standards in uni-

versities. Its objective is to promote higher education in India. The bench noted that Section 12A of the UGC Act has only limited powers, which only



allows it to initiate an investigation against a college and pass a prohibitory order with the approval of the central government.

The commission's powers are limited. The bench noted that there is no express punitive provision in the UGC Act or regulations that authorizes the

UGC to prohibit universities from offering PhD programs for the next five years. The court concluded that the penalty imposed on Singhania University was not within the scope of the UGC. Besides the other two universities are named as OPJS University in Churu, Sunrise University in Alwar said M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman of UGC. "In wider scope, Universities should be committed to maintaining the highest standards in PhD programmes. UGC will take appropriate

action against institutions that fail to follow UGC's PhD regulations. We are also in the process of checking the quality of PhD programs in a few other universities. If they are found to violate the PhD regulations, action will be taken against them too. It is necessary to single out such erring institutions and prevent them from admitting PhD students. We would ensure that the integrity and global reputation of Indian higher education remain uncompromised under strict integrity.

Amidst threat of air pollution, stubble burning sustains tempo in Punjab

Commissioner News Service
New Delhi : A farmer burns straw stubble after a harvest in a paddy field on the outskirts of Amritsar on Saturday. Stubble burning especially after the paddy harvest in October and November, has been a significant contributor to air pollution in the national capital and its region. Despite massive awareness drive, yet the agriculturists were continuing with their conventional practices creating about over 30 criminal cases alone near border and elsewhere in the state. Commuters were seen riding in smoke a two-wheeler from stubble burning in a paddy field on the outskirts of Amritsar on Sunday September 21.

The Punjab government flagged 663 villages across eight districts of Punjab as hotspots of stubble burning based on data over the past three years. People walk by the road as smoke rises from a paddy field due to stubble burning on the outskirts of Amritsar, and other town's also in Punjab. Even as authorities have launched an intensive campaign in hotspots of paddy straw burning in various districts to create awareness, yet the campaign has not been successful due to non cooperation from the farming Communities. The Supreme Court and the Union government differed sharply on Wednesday over how to deal with farmers



who burn stubble ahead of the winter season. Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, heading a Bench, advocated a return to criminal prosecution of errant agriculturists, even suggesting a separate legislation. The Centre, however, main-

tained that its policy was to take farmers behind rather than put them behind bars. The exchange came after amicus curiae, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, pointed out that despite "humongous" efforts and funds spent by the Centre, farmers



continued to burn stubble, creating a toxic haze across northern States each winter. She said the situation returned to square one every season despite repeated Supreme Court directions. "Why do you not reintroduce criminal prosecution for stubble-burning? If some

people are behind the bars, it will give the right message," Chief Justice Gavai asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre. Ms. Bhati said the issue boiled down to implementation by the States, noting that farmers had been exempted

from prosecution under the Commission for Air Quality Management Act as a matter of policy. It would not be feasible to prosecute farmers criminally, she argued. "If you really have any intention to protect the environment, why don't you?" the CJI pressed. Ms. Bhati replied that the government's approach was to take farmers "along with us". "Do take them along with you, but ultimately you should have a mechanism to deal with stubble. You should give them the carrot and then the stick. You give them the carrot first, but then the stick. You cannot be swayed solely because of a five-year exercise [elections]," the CJI responded. Ms. Bhati clarified that the

policy was not dictated by vote bank politics. "It is not because of the five-yearly exercise. It is simply a matter of policy for us," she submitted. The Chief Justice noted that while farmers hold a special place in the country, they too have a responsibility. "It is because of them that we get what we eat but that does not mean they should not be brought in to protect the environment of the country. We are not saying you penalise farmers as a routine, do it as a sample to send the message across," he said. Ms. Bhati said the Centre would file a detailed status report reflecting the ground situation in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

NATO slams Russia's 'reckless behaviour', intercept jets violating Estonian airspace

Commissione News Service
RUSSIA : NATO intercepted Russian jets violating Estonian airspace, while officials condemned Moscow's reckless behaviour, emphasising the body's unity and commitment to supporting Ukraine amid escalating tensions. "Russian jets had earlier violated Estonian airspace," alliance spokesperson Allison Hart posted on X. NATO responded immediately and intercepted the Russian aircraft," she wrote, adding "this is yet another example of reckless Russian behaviour and NATO's ability to respond."



Defence Minister Britain John Healey said that the recent violation by Russian military jets of NATO member Estonia's airspace on Friday marked the latest dangerous activity by Russia in recent days. "Russia's latest reckless and dangerous activity is the third violation of NATO airspace in recent days," Healey said on X. "But Putin's aggression only

serves to strengthen the unity of NATO and our resolve to stand with Ukraine." Estonia's capital, Tallinn, confirmed that three Russian MiG-31 fighter jets had entered its airspace over the Gulf of Finland, remaining for 12 minutes, reported the sources. According to a NATO official, they were met by Italian F-35 aircraft deployed as part of an alliance mission in the Baltic region. "Europe stands with Estonia in the face of Russia's latest violation of our airspace," wrote president Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission on X.

Breath taking spectacle by Indian Air Force in the skies on 26 Sept

Commissioner News Service
Chandigarh : The much tested pristine Suryakiran Aerobatic team will display its extraordinary air show said an official of the local air base . Bidding farewell to the ageing MIG 21 , the fly past of the Surya kiran would salute the outgoing retiring fighters from one of the world fighters warrior fleets. The aerobatic team of Surya kant is better called Ambassadors of the Indian Air Force . The fighters are popular for their precision, skill, and team work. A series of jaw dropping manoeuvres would be executed as planned by the team. Flying the red white Hawk Mk 132 jets would outperform its efficacy ever displayed . The inhabitants



of Chandigarh as well alien visitors would be welcome to grace the occasion where sky would transform into a canvas of spectacular formations. The spirit of team work, discipline and hard valour would be the significant spectacle on September 26 where farewell would be accorded to the old serving MIG 21s for over six decades.

Verka price lowered in milk and dairy products by Milkfed

Commisione News Service
Chandigarh : Verka price were lowered in milk and dairy products on 22 Sept by Milkfed. The price settlements by Rs 30--35 per litte would be cheaper than the earlier and in alignment table butter. The processed cheese would be sold by Rs 20 per KG and UHT milk(standard, toned and



double toned by Rs, 2 per litre. Now Punjab Govt consequently , in accordance with the India's GST 2. 0 reforms, has lowered tariffs on essential dairy items.

The process would increase affordability and will boost consumer demand and sale statistics said Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Chief Minister pb. The move, further will multiply the tax collection, strengthen the fiscal position of the state, foster potential growth, boost quality standard and it's compliance.

Opposition activists kept out of adhoc MC delimitation committee - Congress

Commissioner News Service
PANCHKULA : Attempts are being made to change the members of the adhoc committee for ward delimitation under political pressure which might undermine democratic norms, said Sandeep Singh. Sohi, a Congress councillor. A memorandum by party leaders and councillors was submitted to the district magistrate grudging strong resentment against the exclusion of opposition



representation from the ad hoc committee. After the committee is formed by the deputy Commissioner, no alteration in the composition of the Committee is

permissible hence called undemocratic and unacceptable . Our names of two councillors, were finalised for the delimitation adhoc body and sent to the director of the local bodies which was published in newspapers also. In case, the names are removed , the issue would be filed in the court of law for adjudication, said a congress activist on anonymity bssis.

MAA ka bharosa, Pyar se parosa 'Patanjali' brand desi ghee dominates market

Commisione News Service
P'kula: Patanjali cow sudhdesi ghee has gained popularity on account of its fragrant quality , purity and economic rates in tricity markets claimed PK Rao Marketing Manager. He adds saying this pure cow ghee is preferred by those who prioritise natural and organic options. During 2024, the claim of high purity was made in August 2025, sample BKD 2458 was taken for purity test and won clientele applause and wide acceptance . For the quality emergence con-



ventional ayurvedic Bolana procedure is adopted by the dairy engineers. Cow pure milk is

manufactured from white butter/curd. The quantum of cow milk is put on mild flame specific span of time until it got melted for ghee . It is widely claimed that cow milk is scared substance , offenseed in religious rituals besides Aurvedic treatments . Cow ghee must be used before 9 months from date . Milk fat is inherently expensive . Its current exdairy price of Rs 460, -- 470 / is way above Rs 125 --130, wholesale range for refined palmolien , soyabean or sunflower.

Kolkata faces heaviest downpour of 37 years, leaving 7 dead

Commissioner News Service
Kolkata : On the beginning of Durga Puja celebrations buzz, the Bengal capital has been experiencing tough times leaving vast areas waterlogged, road traffic on grinding halt until Monday evening reports poured in. The trains were halted and seven persons were dead, reported the police circles. She will not attend the ongoing durga puja celebrations due to the heavy number of tragedies , lamented the Chief Minister



Mamta Banerjee. All government, private schools will remain closed and the official work will be executed from homes. Nothing more than the human lives was more paramount to the Chief Minister in West Bengal. " condoled Mrs Banerjee,

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EDITORIAL ~

Peak transplantation, harvest season cry for huge labor

The Punjab peasantry, in spite of mechanisation, still relies on monoculture as the Green Revolution requires a huge labour force during peak harvesting season and during paddy transplantation to complete farm operations successfully in the shortest possible time. A significant number of people from states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal migrated to Punjab, firstly as agricultural work-force and later on becoming an integral part of non-agricultural activities, seeking better economic prospects. In 2011, there were more than 13 lakh migrant labourers in Punjab making a significant contribution to the state's development. The trend of migration in rural Punjab continued in 1980s and 1990s during the darkest terrorism years Owhen dozens of migrant workers were killed by militants. Migrants came for farm work, but many later shifted to industry and settled in Punjab. However, despite sectoral shifts, Punjab's dependence on migrant workers remained. An estimated 1.8 million migrant workers sustain Punjab's economy across agriculture, industry and services. Their inflow for farm work has reduced due to better opportunities in their home states, leading to shortages. Farmers now offer incentives, especially in Doaba, where migrants also manage lands and homes of families settled abroad. So, what led to the demand for the ouster of migrants from Punjab? Because of a murder committed by one

individual? They could have asked the government and law enforcement agencies to make sure that no such incident happens in future and severe punishment to the accused. Some Sikhs fear that rising migrant settlement is reshaping Punjab's demography The Sikh share of the population fell from 61 per cent in 1966 to 57.7 per cent in 2011, a trend worsened by youth migration abroad. Now, the question is: who is making migrant workers responsible for the problems in Punjab? What are their designs? Why is the whole migrant community being held responsible for this unfortunate murder allegedly committed by a migrant worker? The need of the hour is to see what is happening at the ground level. Another aspect of this phenomenon is that when such issues are raised in other parts of the country, who gets the political benefit? In the recent past, political parties have gained electorally by stoking anti-migrant sentiment, as seen in Maharashtra and parts of the south. This gruesome murder of 5 yrs boy resulted in widespread outrage of across the state against the migrants population. Many panchayats have passed resolutions demanding stern action to prevent the entry of migrants in their respective villages and hardline measures against them. Other platitudes have hinted about the negative impact of unregulated migration in des Punjab, saying it is a conspiracy to change the demographic structure in the state. They have asked the government to enact

laws similar to those in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to stop migrants from settling in the state. Considering the seriousness of this incident, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann firmly stated that such demands violated the Constitution. He warned the locals against such behaviour as it would adversely affect Punjabis settled in other states of the country. On the other hand, the passing of resolutions by panchayats to check the entry of migrants in their respective villages has raised many questions about the working of the panchayati raj system in Punjab. Passing such resolution is a violation of the Constitution and the Panchayati Raj Act 1993? No gram panchayat has the jurisdiction to take such a decision or impose a ban on individuals. Let us see how important migrant workers are for Punjab. The fact of matter is that migrant labourers are found in all areas of Punjabi society and have become an integral part of all growth-related activities, i.e. agriculture, industry, construction, etc in both rural and urban areas. Punjab is facing many problems, and no government in the post-terrorism period has paid attention to solving the structural problems that emerged during the turmoil in Punjab. Such issues become handy for individuals, political parties and others to derive political benefit in the electoral process. Punjab's past sectarian and terrorist violence has already cost it dearly. Punjab has to recover from its structural problems.

Sewerage board chairperson reviews progress of projects in Kharar

Commissioner News Service
MOHALI : Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board chairperson SS Ahluwalia A h l u w a l i a inspected the Rs 22.15 crore drinking water project underway at Jhangi Road, Kharar, and said that this project will provide c a n a l - b a s e d drinking water supply to Kharar residents. SS Ahluwalia General Secretary Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) reviewed various ongoing



projects of the Board in Kharar. Subsequently, he reviewed the Rs 18.61 crore sewerage project on the Kharar-Ladhran Road aimed at resolving the sewerage issues of the town. He further assessed

the progress of the Rs 14.83 crore S e w e r a g e Treatment Plant (STP) project near Khuni Majra village. He said that after the STP b e c o m e s operational, treated water would be supplied to farmers' fields.

Rs 25,000 penalty against delay in drainage repair

Commissioner News Service

MOHALI : The Punjab and Haryana High Court took cognizance of the delay in repairing the drainage system of road from Khudda Ali Sher to Nayagaon Acting on a PIL filed by an advocate regarding the collapse of drainage lines that the EO did not get the work done, the penalty was imposed. After repeated reminders from the court. EO Ravneet Singh had completed the repair of drainage who was fined Rs 10,000 earlier this week in a contempt of



court case. The court has imposed another fine of Rs 25,000 on the Executive Officer in a regarding the repair work of drainage lines from Khuda Ali Sher to Nayagaon. The court ordered the officer to pay the fine from his own pocket and deposit the amount at PGI for the welfare of patients.

62 show-cause notices served against illegal structures by GMADA issues

Commissioner News Service

MOHALI : Against the violation of the Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development Act, the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act and Punjab New Capital Periphery Act, the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) has issued 62 show-cause notices. In several villages like Mirjapur, Jyanti Majri, Bharonjia, Karoran and Seonk against illegal constructions the action has been initiated. The issue of extensive construction activity on the periphery of Chandigarh was initially taken up by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).



In an affidavit filed with the NGT Additional Chief Administrator, GMADA, Rakesh Popli said action was launched against those indulging in illegal construction. GMADA had earlier carried out demolition drives in Karoran, Perch, Soenk, Mullanopur, Garibadss, Padol and Nada villages.

Pet dog registration made mandatory by MC

Commissioner News Service

PANCHKULA : The Panchkula Municipal Corporation has made pet dog registration mandatory. Residents have hailed the directive as an important step towards ensuring responsibility pet ownership, improving public safety and promoting adherence to animal welfare norms. The directive, issued under Section 311 of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994, and the Haryana Municipal Corporation (Registration and Proper Control of Dogs) Bylaws, 2008, is aimed at bringing pet owners into a structured framework. The Chief Sanitary Inspector of the MC in a communication addressed to all Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), has urged full cooperation in facilitating the registration process. While the online registration through the SARAL portal has been closed, pet owners can now apply via the offline process. However, while the intent is widely supported, residents have also voiced concerns over practical implementation of the directive. Many have pointed out that delays in processing applications, repeated follow-



ups without updates and technical glitches in the SARAL Haryana portal are making the process cumbersome. A resident shared that his application, submitted on April 9, was still unresolved, with the last communication he received was dated June 10. The corporation has directed the pet owners to submit documents manually due to portal failures, but uncertainty continues to linger. Guidelines from the Animal Welfare Board of India, such as keeping pets on leashes and observing muzzle rules, are in place but difficult to enforce without efficient registration. The pet owners and residents' groups have called on the authorities to streamline procedures and ensure prompt responses, emphasising that registration is crucial not only for compliance but also for public health and order.

Railway passes Rs 65 Cr for construction of Dhakoli railway overbridge



Commissioner News Service

ZIRAKPUR : The design of the overbridge underpass is being drafted after which tenders would be floated, said local BJP leader Manpreet Singh Bunny Sandhu. The Northern Railway has approved the overbridge at the Dhakoli level crossing at an estimated cost of Rs 65 crore, said Mr Bunny Sandhu.

Dhakoli resident KK Verma said the additional facility would economise time and money. "The flyover would leverage the process of movements and will benefit local residents. Besides giving clear way to emergency vehicles, it will also help reduce the risk of mishaps considerably," he added.

10 times hike in fee for placing standby fire tender

Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : Three months after the General House approval of the agenda, the Municipal Corporation (MC) has increased the charges for standby fire tender service 10 times. The service, amounting including staff, is provided at various events in and outside UT. In accordance with the directives of the Municipal Commissioner, Amit Kumar, the MC will charge Rs 5,000 per hour, per fire vehicle for five hours subject to a minimum of Rs 25,000, along with GST as applicable from time to time for major programmes, and Rs 3,000 per hour, per fire vehicle for other functions. The agenda had been approved in the General House meeting on June 3. For events held outside



Chandigarh, it has been decided to charge Rs 7,500 per hour, per fire vehicle for five hours subject to a minimum of Rs 37,500, along with GST. These charges will be increased by 10% every year with effect from April 1. Earlier, the Fire Department was charging Rs 579 per hour/per fire vehicle for providing this service within Chandigarh, and Rs 2,205 and 3,308 per hour/per vehicle for events held

outside UT. The MC justified the decision by saying that the prices of petrol/diesel have been increasing day by day and also, the salaries of the fire staff have increased after the implementation of the 7th pay commission's recommendations. Firefighters are deputed on standby duty along with vehicles on a request by organisers. The value of a fire vehicle is from Rs.60 lakh to Rs 1 crore.

Rs 1.25L compensation awarded to victim of RERA violations

Commissioner News Service

MOHALI : Shahnawaj Khan, advocate for the complainants, Sunita Sharma and Ajay Kumar residence of Amritsar stated that a composite complaint was filed seeking refund of the capital amount paid by complainants to the builder. Complainants later came to know that neither the project was registered with RERA and a settlement deed dated October 5, 2023, was executed between the parties. Even the facilities and amenities promised in the advertisement, such as Club House, Gated Township, Green Pollution free surroundings, were not provided.M/S Gunjan Land Developers, Motiaz Pacific Centre, Kisanpur village, along with interest and compensation. A Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) court has



directed a Zirakpur-based builder to pay a compensation of Rs 1.25 lakhs to Amritsar residents Sunita Sharma and Ajay Kumar within 90 days for violating the Act or its rules and regulations in a one year old case. Hence the respondent company has violated Section 3,4,12 & 13 of RERA Act, 2016. Representative of the respondent also misbehaved with the complainant Ajay Kumar, who is co-purchaser after which he filed a criminal complaint. The complainants had

booked residential Flat in GLD Homes, Kharar, and the respondent company represented of having all sufficient approvals, clear ownership as per master plan and that it was an approachable project to live with fully developed infrastructure. Total price of the flat in question was Rs.27,50,000 and the complainants have till date paid an amount of Rs. 16,44,000. Accordingly, Buyer's Agreement dated 19.08.2022 was also executed.

No dumping of garbage as IAF to exhibit air show on Sept 26

Commissioner News Service

CHD/MOHALI : The local Indian Air Force authorities have intimated senior Punjab Government and district administration officials about the specific measures to be taken for the event at the administration level. The Air Force authority will hold an air show from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on September 26. The show will mark iconic MIG-21 fighter jet's end of six-decade service in the IAF, which inducted its first Russian jet in 1963. The District Magistrate, Mohali, has



enforced prohibitory orders to ensure safe flying environment and keep a check on dumping of garbage as well as meat shops in the vicinity. Indian Air Force celebrated its 90th anniversary at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh, on October 8, 2022. Hon'ble President Draupadi Murmu was

the chief guest and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also attended the event. On September 22, 2021, an air show was held at Sukhna Lake to c o m m e m o r a t e Swarnim Vijay Varsh, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

The Commissioner

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Russia to complete delivery of S-400 missile systems in 2026

Commissioner News Service
MOSCOW : "Russia will complete the contract to supply India with five S-400 Triumph air defence systems in 2026. Four of these systems have been delivered to date, and the fifth will be delivered next year," a defence source was quoted as saying by the state-run TASS news agency.
Under the USD 5.43 billion deal signed with India in 2018, Russia will complete deliveries of the S-400 Triumph air defence systems next year, according to a media report on Monday.
According to earlier media reports, the USD 5.43 billion (Rs 40,000 crore) deal was formally signed on October 5, 2018, ignoring the threat of US sanctions.
In March 2021, US Secretary of Defence



Lloyd Austin discussed India's planned purchase of Russia's S-400 air missile system and warned that the purchase of S-400 could trigger CAATSA sanctions. So far, the US has not invoked the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) signed by President Donald Trump in his first term as the S-400 deal has not been formally completed. S-400 air defence missiles proved very effective during Operation Sindoor in May, Minister of State

Sanjay Seth had told the local Indian community during his visit to Moscow to attend the V-Day parade at Red Square as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's representative. Seth said India has shown interest to buy more missile systems and is exploring the possibility of acquiring its more advanced S-500 missiles systems. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Commissioner News Service

LONDON: The taskforce, in England reports directly to Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Chancellor Rachel Reeves, works across 10 Downing Street and the UK Treasury to explore ways to boost the UK's economic growth. The UK government is looking at bolstering a drive to attract global talent with a possible visa fee waiver to support the world's top science and tech talent relocation to the country, a media report said on Monday. The Global Talent Taskforce, backed up by a 54-million-pound Global Talent Fund launched earlier this year, is revving up further to lure international experts, including Indians, even as the US announced a clampdown on its H-1B visas used by global techies. "We're kicking around the idea of cutting (visa) costs to zero," the newspaper quoted a government official as saying. "We're talking about the sort of people who have attended the world's top five universities or have won prestigious prizes," the official said. It comes as President Donald Trump's order imposing a \$100,000 one-off



application fee on all new H-1B visa applications came into force on Sunday. The visa is used overwhelmingly by American tech majors, with Indians among the largest recipients. The UK operates a Global Talent Visa system, which is often perceived as heavily bureaucratic and led to Starmer launching his taskforce back in June. It is chaired by the UK PM's business adviser, Varun Chandra, and Science Minister Lord Patrick Vallance. "The launch of the Taskforce and 54-million-pound Global Talent Fund, which will attract world-class researchers and their teams to the UK, covering relocation and research costs over five years starting this year, sends a clear signal to exceptional talent and businesses that the UK seeks to continue its global leadership in growth-driving sectors," the UK's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

New GST rates kick in groceries, medicines, electronic items, cars

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : Tax rates of 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent have been clubbed into two rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, resulting in a reduced price of 99 per cent of daily-use items.

New lower GST rates kicked in from Monday, resulting in a slashing of prices of as many as 375 items ranging from toothpaste and shampoo to cars and television sets, a move seen as an attempt to boost consumption to cushion an economy facing tariff headwinds. FMCG, car companies, electronics manufacturers and pharma companies have lowered prices. As many as 375 items, including groceries, agri-equipment, clothing, medicines and automobiles, have got cheaper. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited the busy Laxmi Nagar market in the national capital and interacted with a stationery shop owner. "The shopkeeper shared that Next-Gen GST rate cuts on many stationery items have



reduced prices, benefiting students and parents," the Finance Minister's Office said in a X post. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has termed the reform as 'GST Bachat Utsav' and said that, along with the Income Tax exemption hike to Rs 12 lakh announced in the Budget, the total household savings would be Rs 2.5 lakh crore. "Your household expenses will reduce and it will be easier to fulfil aspirations such as building a home, purchasing a vehicle, purchasing appliances, eating out or planning a family vacation," the Prime Minister said in an open letter. As per government estimates, there would be a saving of 13 per cent in the household bills for groceries

and daily essentials, while a small car buyer could save around Rs 70,000. Stationery, clothing, footwear and medicines purchases would bring in savings in the range of 7-12 per cent, while the savings would go up to 18 per cent in the case of individual health and life insurance policies, which have been exempt from GST. There would be a savings of Rs 40,000 on the purchase of tractors up to 1,800 cc. GST rate has been cut to 5 per cent on tractors from the earlier 12-18 per cent. In case of bikes/scooters (up to 350 cc) purchase, savings would be Rs 8,000, while in TV (above 32 inches), there would be savings of Rs 3,500. Air-conditioner purchase would result in a saving of Rs 2,800 as the GST rate of these items has been slashed from 28 per cent to 18 per cent. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Next-Gen GST reforms are a testament to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "steely resolve" to serve the poor, youth, farmers and women.

'Free trade agreement' with Qatar, draft likely by next month

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : In a significant step towards strengthening the economic ties, India and Qatar may finalise the terms of reference for a free trade agreement by October, a government official said on Monday. Piyush Goyal Minister Commerce and Industry may also visit Qatar on October 6 to discuss the proposed trade deal, disclosed an official. India and Qatar announced plans for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to double bilateral trade by 2030 during the India visit of Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani in February. Qatar



represents 1.22 per cent of India's total trade, with India exporting \$1.68 billion and importing \$12.47 billion in FY 2024-25. Qatar's primary exports to India include LNG, LPG, chemicals, petrochemicals and aluminium products. Both nations agreed to double bilateral trade to \$28 billion over the next five year. Amid US President Donald Trump's 50 per cent tariff on Indian

goods (with a 25 per cent penalty for Russian oil purchases), expanding Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners has become critical for India to mitigate the impact. India is focused on market diversification to cushion the impact of US tariff. In FY 2024-25, India exported goods worth \$86.5 billion to the US and had a trade surplus of over \$40 billion. The FTA, aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investment, is expected to cover a wide range of sectors. Qatar, a key supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India, is a vital partner in the energy sector, and the trade deal could further enhance this relationship.

Final hearing on pleas against validity of Bihar SIR on Oct 7, SC orders

Commissioner News Service

NEW DELHI : The Election Commission of India being a constitutional authority was following the law during the special intensive revision of electoral roll in poll-bound Bihar and cautioned in case of any illegality, the exercise would be set aside, said the Supreme Court. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi fixed October 7 for hearing final arguments on validity of Bihar SIR while refusing to offer any "any piecemeal opinion" on the exercise. "Our judgement in Bihar SIR will be applicable for Pan-India SIR," the bench said, clarifying it can't stop the poll panel from conducting the similar exercise for revision of electoral roll across the country. The bench, however,



allowed petitioners against the Bihar SIR exercise to also argue on the pan-India SIR on October 7. The top court, in the meantime, issued notice on a plea seeking the recall of the September 8 top court order directing the poll panel to include Aadhaar card as the 12th prescribed document in the Bihar SIR. On September 8, the apex court clarified Aadhaar will not be proof of citizenship and the poll panel can ascertain its genuineness on being submitted by an elector for inclusion in the electoral roll.

Commissioner News Service

NEW DELHI : Groundwork for implementation of digital access has been done. Not only the books will be translated but original content will also be created under the scheme said an official of the Union Education Ministry. Higher education students will be able to study textbooks in 22 Indian languages as the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme will be implemented to provide digital Indian language books. This initiative will enhance learning by enabling students to understand subjects better in their own languages. The scheme, announced in the Union Budget 2024-25, aims to make digital textbooks available in Indian languages for students. It will cater to all disciplines. "The rollout will be digital.



For example, if a student of mechanical engineering is studying machine design. The initiative is to produce four books in different languages. The first language will be of the state in which the college is located and the other languages will be based on the number of students in the class who want the book in their languages," an official said. The scheme is rooted in the vision of the National Education Policy, which emphasises the use of Indian languages in education. "We have done the mapping to identify the courses in

higher education institutions and the textbooks associated with them. There will be original books written as well. For example, in Manipur, a book will be translated in the local language followed by other languages. And original writing will also be done. Books in all disciplines will be written," the official said. At the undergraduate level, the courses in disciplines such as arts, commerce, science, law, agriculture and medicine will be included. The effort is being spearheaded by the University Grants Commission and the Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti under the Ministry of Education. "It will help students from different linguistic backgrounds to understand the subject better. It will also promote Indian languages," the official added.



India must become self reliant, in the face of enemy dependence, says PM Modi

Commissioner News Service
New Delhi : In an indirect reference to the US decision to impose tariffs and a steep USD 100,000 fee over H-1B visa applications, Mr Narendra Modi said on Saturday India's biggest adversary was its dependence on other countries.

In Bhavnagar, Gujarat, Modi said India has no major enemy in the world today except for one: "If we have any enemy, it is our dependence on other nations. This is our biggest enemy, and together we must defeat it." Mr underlined that self-reliance, or 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', is the only way for India to protect its interests and assert its self-respect on the global stage.

The PM's comments came amid a fresh US executive order that imposes a USD 100,000 fee on H-1B visa applications starting



September 21st, citing the replacement of American workers with cheaper foreign labour and national security concerns. The order claims large-scale misuse of the program has suppressed wages and disadvantaged American STEM professionals.

Mr Donald Trump US President imposed steep tariffs on Indian imports, citing India's continued purchase of Russian oil as indirectly funding Russia's war in Ukraine. He said such economic support was unacceptable and used the tariffs to pressure India to reduce

its dependence on Russian energy, escalating trade tensions between the two countries.

Modi criticised policies of the past, particularly during the Congress-led governments, saying that India's potential was suppressed after independence. "For decades, India was caught in the license-quota raj, isolated from global markets. When globalisation came, the country relied heavily on imports," he said.

He added that dependence on foreign nations compromises national development: "We cannot leave the future of 1.4 billion citizens to others. Greater foreign dependence leads to greater failure. There is only one remedy for all of India's challenges – a self-reliant India," the PM said.

Pak commits to counter growing threat of Israel with its nuclear umbrella

Commissioner News Service
Islamabad/Dubai:
The "Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement " signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia effectively espoused Riyadh's money with Pakistan 's giant nuclear armed integration.

With many Arab nations feeling a rising threat from Israel, the Saudi-Pakistan defense pact announced this week brings Pakistan - and its nuclear umbrella - into the region's security equation

Pakistani Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that nuclear weapons were "not on the radar" of the pact. He said the agreement could be extended to cover other Gulf nations.

"We have no intention of using this pact for any aggression," said Asif. "But if the parties are threatened, then obviously this arrangement will become operative."



Asked whether Pakistan would now be obliged to provide Saudi Arabia with a nuclear umbrella. "This is a comprehensive defensive agreement that encompasses all military means agreement also reflects shrinking confidence in the security provided by the United States to the region.From the Saudi perspective, it is intended to plug the strategic and conventional deterrence deficit vis-a-vis nuclear-armed Israel," said Hasan Alhasan, senior fellow for Middle East Policy at London's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

India, Canada consent to work 'way forward' , open 'new chapter' in bilateral ties

Commissioner News Service
New Delhi : The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday, September 20, opined India and Canada have agreed to pursue a collaborative approach in a new phase of their bilateral relationship, focusing on close cooperation to tackle terrorism and transnational crimes.



National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and his Canadian counterpart Nathalie Drouin held wide-ranging talks in New Delhi with a focus on repairing the bilateral relations that came under severe strain following a diplomatic spat over the killing of a Sikh separatist in 2023.

The MEA came out with broad outcomes of the talks on Saturday. The ministry said, "The two sides agreed to work closely on the way? The two NSAs also spoke about advancing the bilateral relationship that includes areas such as counter terrorism, combating transnational organised

crime and intelligence exchanges

"They agreed to strengthen security cooperation and further reinforce existing mechanisms of engagement," the MEA said , "The two NSAs also deliberated on the priority areas for future cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global developments."

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Civic body devours entity of "Rao ki Nadi aswell Road "

Commissione News Service
NAYAGAON :
Broken road on Patiala ki Rao has many folded scams of corrupt handling as it has breathed lively strokes before 1 year prematurely very early, point out the road users with heavy heart.

As no probe has taken place so far, yet the Executive Engineer Sukhvinder Singh of Mandi Board had reassured the masses that enquiry would be instituted to probe the cause of early fallen of the Patiala Rao ki road . He said after the rainy season is over, the road would be built ,as early it was.

One can see the jammed traffic due to the absence of smooth way to trudge, said a worker who is working in PGI

Chandigarh.

Not only the road, the pristine river, a natural asset, is being eroded.

The " Rao ki Nadi " has been a natural gift for the inhabitants of Naya Gaon., as the villagers claim. Due to persistent dumping of garbage into the " Nadi, ", it has shrunk in a Naala, and the Nadi is vanishing fast into oblivion.

The existing width of the "Rao ki Nadi " has curtailed to mere 40 ft from original width of 195 ft.

UNGA Session in US, role may be spearheaded by Jaishankar on September 27

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI :
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not go to the US this month for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session. Foreign minister S Jaishankar will represent India instead at UNGA's General Debate during the High-Level week, as per the provisional list of speakers issued on September 5.

This is as per the convention in recent years as PM Modi had last attended UNGA in 2021, which was the

assembly's 76th session. Modi did go to the UN Headquarters last year but not for the General debate. He had then spoken at the "Summit of the Future" event of the UNGA, two days before the general debate started.

Jaishankar has been representing India at the UNGA general debate since 2022.

In all other years,

either then external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj or present foreign minister S Jaishankar represented India at the general debate.

The General Debate, scheduled to run from September 23–29, will commence with Brazil speaking first, followed by the United States. Trump is set to address world leaders on September 23 in his first UNGA appearance since he returned to the White House for a second term.

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BLO to physically verify voters eligibility for registration

Commissioner News Service
New Delhi : How a veteran politician and Congress MLA B R Patil, from Karnataka's backward Aland constituency averted the deletion of 5,994 names from the voters' list in his seat, ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls, begins with an alert Booth Level Officer (BLO). Aland was one of the two seats spotlighted by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a new "vote chori" charge on Thursday. BLOs are tasked with physically verifying applications filed online for voter list additions or deletions in constituencies in their charge. The BLO for one of the booths in Aland was going through deletion requests made in the December 2022-February 2023 period – for a voter list revision ahead of the May 2023 Karnataka Assembly polls – when she spotted an application to remove the name of one of her relatives, who was very much alive and a resident of the constituency. The BLO contacted the relative, who said he had no



idea who had made the application. "The family members of the BLO, who are supporters of the Congress, and B R Patil, alerted the leader's son," revealed the sources. Patil, a four-time MLA from Aland, and Congress workers then spread across the 254 election booths in the constituency to find out whether similar applications had been made for deletions, without the knowledge of the voters concerned. Congress leaders said they found around 20-30 such names per booth, amounting to a total of 6,670 voters. "Someone tried to delete 6,018 votes. We don't know

the total number of votes deleted in Aland in the 2023 elections... (But) The top 10 booths with maximum deletions were Congress strongholds. The Congress had won eight of these 10 booths in 2018. This was not a coincidence; this was a planned operation." Patil, who eventually won Aland by 10,348 votes in 2023, says his workers and supporters were targeted. "Most of the voters chosen for deletion were minorities, Scheduled Castes and backward classes, who form the Congress vote base," disclosed Rahul Gandhi while addressing a press conference on Friday.

Pak Air Force Drops 8 Bombs On Khyber Pakhtunkhwa killing 30 lives

Pakhtunkhwa : At least 30 people, including women and children, were killed in airstrikes by the Pakistani Air Force in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday. The incident took place around 2 am when the Pakistani fighter jets dropped eight LS-6 bombs on the Matre Dara village located in the Tirah Valley, causing a huge Local media reported that many people have also been injured, but their situation remains unclear. Disturbin



g pictures and videos of the incident site showed bodies, including those of children, lying around. Rescue teams were engaged in searching for bodies under rubble, raising fears of the death count rising further. Many counter-terrorism operations have been carried out in the past in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with many civilian death

Horticulture waste processing plant costing Rs 2.43 Cr to optimise much unswept cleanliness

Commissioner News Service
PANCHKULA : On the roads, streets and public spaces no more littering with horticulture waste would be found in order. Bids have been invited until Oct 3 and will be opened on Oct 6 for the functioning span of 2 years. Under the scheduled plan, 10 to 15 tonnes per day, raw horticulture waste would be processed into biomass briquettes. The assigned agency would instal a bri-

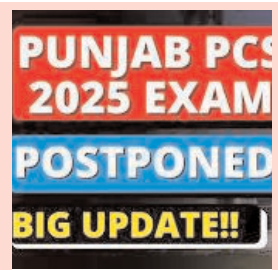


quette machine, hammer mill, flash dryer and own pollution control system at the cost of Rs 2.43 Cr. Along with the lines of Chandigarh, the project is being commissioned in the industrial area. In a scientif-

ic manner, it would produce combustible materials. Earlier in the F& CC meeting of the civic body during May, the project has been cleared but due to the delayed clearance of estimates and floating of tender, the work could not be launched in Chandigarh along the lines of their operational processing plant turning over daily 30 / 40 tonnes of raw horticulture waste into briquettes.

Pb postpones preliminary exam to 7 Dec

Commissioner News Service
Patiala: The Punjab State Civil Services Combined Competitive Preliminary Examination -25 would now be held in 2 session on 7 Dec, said Charanjit Singh PPSC Secretary. On the commission's web site, admit cards before the actual 10 days of the exams would be uploaded.



By using their registration number and password through the Download admit card linkage system over http://ppsc.gov.in. On admit card itself details about the exams would be indicated. On the web site, candidates are advised to check regularly the latest updates, said the Secretary.

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Compounding regime of synthetic milk

We 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, former 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.

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DSP Office : 0172-2272003, 0172-2272045
SSP Office : 0172-2219211, 212, 2219356, 2219357 (M) 9115516066
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
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