

REGION

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CM CALLS UPON PEOPLE TO START A MASS MOVEMENT FOR WRITING ALL THE SIGNBOARDS IN PUNJABI



Center Govt claims tax collections to cross budget estimates in current fiscal



FW DESK

Union govt claimed domestic tax collections will exceed the budget estimate by nearly Rs 4 lakh crore in the current fiscal owing to higher income tax, customs duty, and GST collections, the government said on Wednesday.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj was quoted as saying that the growth in tax revenues will continue to be higher than the GDP growth, owing to better compliance. Tax collection target for the current fiscal is pegged at Rs 27.50 lakh crore. Bajaj also that the direct tax collections consisting of per-

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sonal and corporate taxes would be close to Rs 17.50 lakh crore in the current fiscal. Also collections from indirect taxes like customs, excise and GST would be close to Rs 14 lakh crore, he said, as per reports. The total tax collection is expected to be about Rs 31.50 lakh crore in 2022-23, the Revenue Secretary said. The budget had pegged direct and indirect tax collections at Rs 14.20 lakh crore and Rs 13.30 lakh crore for current fiscal, taking the total figure to Rs 27.50 lakh crore.

AAP will win in Gujarat with a thumping majority: Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann



Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday said that the Aam Aadmi Party will win this assembly elections with a thumping majority in the Gujarat and they will eliminate unemployment, corruption and poverty after forming the government in the state. Addressing a massive gathering of people in his road shows here in Nazari, the Chief Minister said that there is a wave of change as people of Gujarat are so fed-up of the failed BJP government that they are themselves saying that they want to give a chance to AAP for the next 5 years to bring a revolution in Gujarat like the AAP did in Delhi and Punjab.

Only Punjab has right over Chandigarh, established after ruining its villages: Harjinder Singh Dhami

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Reacting to effort made by Haryana Vidhan Sabha speaker Gian Chand Gupta, demanding land for separate Haryana State Legislative Assembly in Chandigarh during a meeting with Punjab Governor Banwari Lal Purohit yesterday, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Harjinder Singh Dhami said on Sunday that only Punjab has the right over Chandigarh, the city established after ruining dozens of villages of Punjab and no one will be allowed to rob this right. He said in a statement issued here today, the rights of Punjab are being neglected by adopting different mischievous tactics. SGPC President said that it is



said that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is also taking an anti-Punjab stand instead of representing the state. «Punjab CM's tweet (on July 9, 2022) is proof of his anti-state stand, in which he has tried to weaken Punjab's right over Chandigarh by demanding land for a separate Punjab Vidhan Sabha like Haryana from the Union. Due to the conspiratorial role being played by Punjab CM Bhagwant

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

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MP CM SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN IN BENGALURU TO SHOWCASE THE FUTURE READINESS OF STATE TO POTENTIAL INVESTERS



Bhagwant Mann Govt has failed to take action against those trying to vitiate atmosphere of Punjab: Majithia



JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) said that AAP Government led by Bhagwant Mann has miserably failed to take action against those handfuf elements who are trying to vitiate the atmosphere by trying to polarize thoughts of people on religious lines and disturbing peace and communal harmony of the state. Addressing a press conference, Former Minister and Senior SAD (Badal) leader Bikram Singh Majithia said that people of the state were worried about these elements who are spitting venom against religion of others and trying to disturb peace

of the state. He said that the bond between Hindu and Sikh Community has to be protected. He alleged that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was adopting double standards in taking action against such elements. He said that though Sandeep Singh Sunny has been arrested in murder case of Sandeep Suri but no action has been taken against those elements who set ablaze shop of Hardeep Singh brother of Sunny and spitted venom against Sikh community. He said that law of the land was equal for everyone and there can't be two set of laws for one community or the other. He said that protection should be given to everyone and

POTPOURRI

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ACTOR RANDEEP HOODA'S 'CAT' EXPOSES HOW DRUG CARTELS PENETRATED PUNJAB



Khalsa Vaheer: 'Waris Punjab De' president Amritpal Singh begins march from Amritsar to Anandpur Sahib



FW DESK
Amritsar

President of the 'Waris Punjab De' and Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh Wednesday started a month-long 'Khalsa vaheer', or Khalsa march, across Punjab, invoking an age-old tradition of spreading Sikhism. This march, though, includes supporters sporting automatic weapons and bullets. This comes at a time when the central government has raised questions about the Khalistan ideologue's "track record" in Dubai from when he was living there. For the past several months Amritpal Singh has been addressing gatherings at various places in Punjab, openly espousing the cause of Khalistan, a separate homeland for Sikhs. Answering media questions over Amritpal Singh's sudden rise in Punjab, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri had Tuesday said there was a need to look into the reason behind his rise. "We all know that he is from Dubai but has anyone checked his track record there? Do find out," said Puri. Puri was talking to media persons in Chandigarh. "It should not happen that such a phenomenon is encouraged because of our own weakness. I am hopeful that this will be handled with utmost maturity," he said, adding that the central government was keeping a close watch on the otherwise deteriorating law and order situation

in Punjab, and that the matter was of "concern". The Khalsa vaheer, during which Amritpal Singh will address gatherings in over a dozen towns in Punjab, began with an Ardas at the Akal Takht — one of the five Takhts of the Sikhs — located within the premises of the Sri Darbar Sahib in Amritsar, and will end at the historical gurudwara at Anandpur Sahib in the last week of December. "Khalsa vaheer is an old tradition of Sikhism, as part of which dharam prachar is done in the sacred presence of Maharaj (Guru Granth Sahib). The vaheer will stop at various places where hymns will be sung and stories will be told from lives of the Gurus," Amritpal Singh told to media. "We will not be allowing mobile phones inside the samagam (meeting) halls where every ritual and rite will be done with traditional sacredness," he added. According to Amritpal Singh, the aim of the Khalsa vaheer is to bring the youth of Punjab closer to religion so that they do not move towards drugs. Amritpal Singh, originally from Punjab's Amritsar district, was living in Dubai for 10 years and working at his family's transport business. He returned to Punjab earlier this year and took over as the leader of pressure group 'Waris Punjab De' formed by actor turned Khalistan ideologue Deep Sidhu, who died in a car accident in February.

Demonetisation was deeply flawed, P. Chidambaram tells SC

NEW DELHI: Senior advocate and Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Thursday told the Supreme Court that demonisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes was "deeply flawed". A five-judge bench, headed by Justice S.A. Nazeer and comprising Justices B.R. Gavai, A.S. Bopanna, V. Ramasubramanian, and B.V. Nagarathna, is hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the Centre's 2016 decision on demonetisation. Chidambaram, representing one of the petitioners, submitted that demonetisation impacted every citizen of the country and questioned Centre's power to invoke Section 26 of the Reserve Bank of India Act to demonetise currency notes. He said the Centre cannot, on its own, initiate any proposal relating to legal tender, which can only be done on the RBI's central board recommendation and further argued that the decision-making process should be struck down for being "deeply flawed". "This is the most outrageous decision-making process which makes a mockery of the rule of law," he said, adding that the RBI has the right to regulate the issue of bank notes. Chidambaram said over 2,300 crore currency notes were demonetised against the backdrop of 300 crore notes per month capability of the government's printing presses, and this would mean it would take several months to print notes.

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SGPC plans nationwide signature campaign for release of Sikh prisoners: Harjinder Singh Dhami

GOVERNMENTS SHOULD OBSERVE MARTYRDOM DAY OF SAHIBZADAS AS SAHIBZADE SHAHDAT DIWAS & NOT AS VEER BAL DIWAS

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) in its today's executive committee (EC) meeting presided over by SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami has decided that the signature campaign to be launched from December 1, 2022, demanding release of Bandi Singhs (Sikh political prisoners) will be held nationwide. It was the first meeting of the SGPC EC which was newly elected on November 9, in



which many important decisions were taken. Speaking to the media after the meeting, SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami said that the active campaign under the struggle for the release of Sikh prisoners will be taken forward from December 1, 2022. He said a signature campaign will be launched, under

which, proformas will be filled besides spreading awareness among the Sangat about the cases of Sikh prisoners and the punishments served. "In order to make this movement nationwide, an approach will be made for filling proformas to different states through the SGPC's Sikh missions and Gurdwara management com-

mittees besides Punjab", said Dhami. He said that the center of this campaign will be the SGPC office in Amritsar, while sub-centres will be established in every district of Punjab and Sikh missions outside Punjab. "Especially in Punjab, proformas will be filled by setting up camps at Gurdwaras, educational institutions, railway stations, bus stands, cities, towns and important intersections", said SGPC President. He said that after completing the work of filling the proformas, a one-day protest will be held by all SGPC members at Chandigarh, after which, the filled proformas will be handed over to the Governor of Punjab. He also said that besides filling the proformas, its entire written and digital record will also be maintained simultaneously.

Retired IAS officer Arun Goel takes charge as new Election Commissioner

Retired IAS officer Arun Goel on Monday took charge as the new Election Commissioner of India. The poll body will now have its full strength after the third post of Election Commissioner had been vacant for nearly six months. After Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra retired in May this year giving charge to Rajiv Kumar, the poll panel has been a two-member body only. Goel, a retired IAS officer from Punjab Cadre of the 1985 batch, was appointed to the post by President Droupadi Murmu on November 19. "The President is pleased to appoint Arun Goel, IAS (Retd.) (PB: 1985) as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission with effect from the date he assumes the office," read an official communication from Ministry of Law and Justice issued on Monday.

Wasn't Twitter supposed to die by now or something, asks Elon Musk

Elon Musk on Wednesday shrugged off the #RIPTwitter hashtag again, saying that the micro-blogging platform under him is actually growing and is not going to die as projected. Despite too much criticism from several quarters, Musk said Twitter is where the "opinion leaders are". "Wasn't Twitter supposed to die by now or something?" Musk tweeted to his more than 118 million followers.

UP ministers ready to cross shores for Global Investors' Summit

Uttar Pradesh ministers will travel to 19 cities across 17 countries between December 9 and 19, ahead of the Global Investors' Summit (GIS) scheduled early next year. The road shows will work in simultaneous mode which means that more than one road show will take place per day. Sources said the schedule has been verbally approved by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who may travel separately closer to the event in January. The required paperwork for visa and other things has been initiated by the partner industry bodies. Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce

and Industry (FICCI) have been engaged for the event that eyes to attract an investment of over Rs 10 lakh crore to the state. As per the schedule, state finance minister Suresh Khanna will travel alone between December 9 and 15 and lead roadshows in London, New York and San Francisco. Cabinet minister for indus-



tries and infrastructure development Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' and PWD minister Jitin Prasada will travel between December 9 and 14 to lead roadshows in Frankfurt, Brussels and Stockholm. On the same dates, Speaker UP Vidhan Sabha and former minister for industrial development Satish Mahana will travel to Canada to hold roadshows in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. He will be accompanied by Dharampal Singh, cabinet minister for animal husbandry, dairy development, political pension, minority welfare, Muslim waqf and haj and civil defence departments.

False narrative against Article 370, 35A exposed, Dr Farooq Abdullah

FW DESK

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said that the failures of the incumbent administration on all fronts had exposed the BJP's narrative against Article 370 as fake. Addressing a party convention in Samba, Abdullah said that the facts on the ground tell a different story. "The ruling dispensation misled people across the country that the abrogation of articles 370, 35-A will draw militancy in J&K



to a close. Has it happened?" Abdullah asked. "Targeted killings of non-locals, Kashmiri Pandits, local Muslims, Cops have brought back the horror of the 90s. Mass migration of Pandits, who had stayed back in Kashmir over the past thirty years is another reality of the post abrogation chapter unfolded by ruling BJP in

Kashmir. Today Kashmir is marked by uncertainty. Abdullah also highlighted the soaring unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir. "Didn't BJP promise 50,000 jobs for our youth when they were banging the drum for articles 370, 35-A abrogation. Where are those jobs?" he asked. Why are our educated, skilled and talented youth on the roads?" Abdullah added that unending job search has taken a toll on the mental health of our promising youth in Jammu, Pir Panjal and Chenab.

CM calls upon people to start a mass movement for writing all the sign boards in Punjabi

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Reiterating the firm commitment of his government to promote Punjabi language and culture, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday exhorted Punjabis to come forward for starting a mass movement for putting all the signboards on the private and public buildings across the state in Punjabi language.



Addressing a gathering during a state level function to mark Punjabi language month here at the Guru Nanak Dev University, Chief Minister cited the examples of states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and others where people show lot of respect to their mother tongue by putting all such signboards on their shops and commercial establishments in their native language.

He said that the time has come when Punjabis should also come forward for adopting this noble practice. Mann exhorted Punjabis to make sure that all the signboards are put prominently in Punjabi with other languages as a mark of respect to the mother tongue.

The Chief Minister said that people should ensure that the signboards in Punjabi are put before International Language Day coming on February 21. He underscored the need for making this a mass movement as a mark of respect to mother tongue.

He said that the wise Punjabis will adopt this before February 21 and remaining one will be made to toe the line of government after that.

should not be promoted at the cost and status of our mother tongue.

The Chief Minister said that rather every Punjabi should feel proud of the glorious cultural heritage inherited by them. He said that Punjab is the land of great Gurus, saints, seers and martyrs adding that since ages it has been a torchbearer to mankind. He said that Punjabis have carved a niche for themselves across the globe by their hard work and dedication.

The Chief Minister said that it is a curse if anyone forgets his/her mother tongue but unfortunately in fad of English and other languages the Punjabis are drifting away from their mother language. He said that this trend needs to be reversed as it is an undeniable fact that a man can communicate and express well only in his mother tongue. He said that due to mental slavery we still believe in superiority of English language whereas the fact is that Punjabi is the best language for every one of us.

48 mobile phones recovered in a month from prisoners at Ambala central jail

SATISH HANDA
Ambala

A couple of days ago during search operation going on inside Ambala central jail by newly transferred Superintendent jail security staff recovered another 16 mobile phones from the prisoners lodged in this jail, most of the mobile phones were found hidden inside bath rooms and three mobile phone sets were recovered kept in an empty 'Bournvita' box. Information reveals, with the recovery of 16 mobile phones the total number of mobile phones recovered from the prisoners in past one month reached 48 along with accessories including mobile phone chargers, cables, ear phones and sim cards now raising a question mark over the performance of previous security staff in this central jail in which hard core criminals, killers, gangsters and many VIPs as well as senior government officers either undergoing sentence or having cases under trial against them are lodged in jail.

Kanugo nabbed red handed for taking bribe Rs. 10,000



JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its campaign against corruption on Thursday nabbed revenue Kanugo Om Parkash, posted at circle Thathi Sohal, in Tarntaran district red handed for accepting a bribe of Rs. 10,000. Disclosing this here today a spokesperson of VB said the above said Kanugo was caught red handed on the complaint of Bhalwinder Singh, resident of village Jhabal, district Tarntaran. Giving details he informed that the complainant approached the VB and alleged that the above said revenue official was demanding a bribe of Rs. 25,000 for providing him demarcation report of his relative and the deal was struck at Rs. 10,000. After verifying his complaint a VB team laid a trap and the accused was caught red handed accepting a bribe of Rs. 10,000 and tainted money was recovered from him in the presence of two official witnesses.

MSME provided employment opportunities to 19 lakh youths in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

On the directions of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter, in a review meeting held at Chandigarh Chief Secretary Haryana Sanjeev Kaushal held a review meeting with the officers of Haryana state industry department, HSIIDC and Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSME) told that more than 19 lakh youths in the state have been offered employment in MSME units in the state and directed all present to implement beneficial schemes offered by the state government to those willing to set up new industry in the state. A general survey by media persons in this regard reveals that many youths are willing to make investment and start their own industrial units in the state but had to drop the idea due to lengthy government procedures as well as lack of co-

operation in concerned government offices although usually claimed by the government that all facilities are available under a roof which is merely on papers only they said. Most of the young entrepreneurs willing to start industry told that getting various permissions from the government to start a industry which include obtaining a production license, permission from municipal corporation or committee, getting power supply from electricity department, obtaining no objection certificate from different government departments like industry, state pollution control board, fire department and getting financial support from banks and other institutions was too difficult and most of the youths after moving from one table to another in these government offices for a long time in the absence of coopera-



tion in these offices lost interest in making investment in setting up a industry and started looking for job. Chief Secretary Haryana directed all those government officers present in the meeting to extend full cooperation to visitors in their office and also to submit a report of last quarter of this year desiring industry investment up to Rs 1 crore to provide assured turnover up to Rs 5 crore in case of a micro industry, similarly

Punjab Police arrest sixth shooter in targeted killing case

Punjab Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) on Sunday arrested the sixth shooter involved in the targeted killing of shopkeeper Pardeep Singh after a brief encounter in Jaipur, officials said. In a conspiracy hatched by the Canada-based terrorist Goldy Brar, Pardeep Singh was killed by six shooters outside his shop in Kotkapura on November 10. Director General of Police Punjab Gaurav Yadav identified the arrested accused as Ramjan Khan, alias Raj Hooda. He said police teams have also arrested his two accomplices -- Happy Mehla (19) and Sahil Mehla (18), both resident of Hanumangarh in Rajasthan. The police has also recovered two pistols, including a Chinese-made .30 caliber and .32 caliber, from their possession, he added. The development came three days after Punjab Police had arrested three persons -- Manpreet Singh, alias Mani, Bhupinder Singh, alias Goldy, and Baljit Singh involved in the targeted killing. DGP Yadav said acting on intelligence, teams from



AGTF headed by ADGP Pramod Ban under the supervision of AIG Sandeep Goel followed the trail of the accused Khan. After collecting vital clues, the police teams of AGTF led by DSP Bikram Brar and DSP Rajan Parminder managed to trace his location in a building at Vinayak Enclave Colony in Jaipur, where he was holed up with his two accomplices in a rented accommodation. The DGP said in a well-coordinated operation with central agencies & Rajasthan Police, the AGTF team has managed to zero in Khan at his rented accommodation. "When police teams tried to arrest Ramjan, he opened fire at the police party and in retaliatory firing, he got injured," said the DGP, adding the accused has been admitted to a hospital in Jaipur.

Khatter & Vij to monitor rising, wipe out drug addiction in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

Drugs smuggling as well as fast increasing addiction of drugs among youths, aged and even women residing in urban as well as rural areas in Haryana is a matter of concern for state government and both Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter and Home & Health Minister Anil Vij has now decided to monitor this fast growing issue jointly to make Haryana drugs-free state. About a year ago state government formed Narcotic Control Bureau in the state to control smuggling and sale of drugs, especially in youths but satisfactory results could not be obtained as such both Khatter and Vij has now decided to undertake monitoring of the same themselves.

Information reveals, a meeting comprising of officers from as many as 17 government departments in the state including education, excise & taxation, agriculture, medical, higher education, forest, drugs control, forensic science laboratories, jails, CID, legal and police was held at



Chandigarh presided by Chief Minister to review this burning issue when a State Action Plan was also constituted by both Chief Minister and Home & Health Minister. Khatter told that state government is very serious in this regard and further strengthening Narcotic Control Bureau to deal the situation strictly and take stern action against drug smugglers as well as suppliers in the state.

Chief Minister told that state government introduced Bulldozer Scheme in the state in which illegal properties of large number of drug smugglers in the state, hard core criminals and gangsters were

demolished to wipe out crime. He said, government is now going to take stern action against such criminals playing with the life of young generation involved in criminal activities under the influence of drugs. Vij said, under State Action Plan government is going to strengthen Narcotic Control Bureau network in the state with the addition of new IPS officers, 29 Scorio vehicles, 33 Pulsar bikes already handed over and a software helpful to wipe out drug smuggling and supplies in the state.

Chief Minister said that as many as 84 persons between

the age 18 and 35 have been reported died in Haryana state due to overdose of drugs in past less than one year. He said, Bulldozer campaign was started in the state sometime ago in which illegal residential as well as commercial properties of large number of drug smugglers, gangsters and hard core criminals were demolished with the help of bulldozers in different parts in Haryana state which brought good results and many criminals went underground and decision has been taken to attach or demolish properties of all drug smugglers and suppliers in the state apart from pushing them in jails as per law. Chief Minister told that state Narcotic Control Bureau in the state has been able to seize as well as destroy huge stocks of drugs in past few months. He told that complaints have been received as regard availability of drugs in few drug de-addiction centers in the state and decision has been taken that SDMs in districts will supervise the functioning and visit these drug de-addiction centers and take strict action against irregularities.

After probe Police cancel FIR registered for promoting gun culture on Social media

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Police station Kathunangal falls under the jurisdiction of Amritsar Rural Police has registered FIR against the four persons for allegedly glorifying gun culture through social media websites by holding gun in hands and wearing strap containing bullets on shoulder.

According to the FIR available with PTI, Police registered the case against four persons as Bhupinder Singh his son (name not mentioned in the FIR due to minor age group) Vikramjit Singh, Visarat Singh.

As per FIR, a case was registered against Bhupinder Singh for giving his own gun in the hands of his minor son and hanging leather belt containing bullets on his Shoulders and rest of the accused were also seen in the picture.

Guru Nanak Dev University celebrates 53rd Foundation Day with great enthusiasm



SCHOLARS SAID LOW COST NEEDED RESEARCH COULD BE SOLUTION TO ALL SUFFERINGS OF MANKIND

FW DESK
Amritsar

Guru Nanak Dev University celebrated 53rd Foundation Day with great enthusiasm here today. Academicians, scholars, students and eminent personalities participated in these celebrations and had Guru Ka Langar. Folklore exhibitions, Painting exhibitions and book exhibitions were organized in front of Bhai Gurdas Library and in the Gallery-History & Dreams at the University campus.

Dr. Yogesh Kumar Chawla, Former Director, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh and Dr. Sarbjinder Singh, Dean Faculty of Humanities and Religious Studies

and Chairman, Sant Prem Singh Murale Wale Chair, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar delivered academic lectures in the Guru Granth Sahib Auditorium of the University. While welcoming the eminent scholars, Prof. Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice Chancellor presented the report about the development of the University since its inception. Prof. Hardip Singh, Dean Academic Affairs presented vote of thanks. Prof. Anish Dua, Dean Students Welfare conducted the proceedings. Prof. Sandhu also honoured guest speakers with mementos on behalf of the University. On this occasion Prof. Dr. Karanjit Singh Kahlon and a large number of dignitaries, employees and students were present.

Dr. Chawla in his academic lecture said that the philosophical aspects and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev ji could lead the welfare of whole humanity, to implement this in our day-to-day activities is the need of the present day.

Govt should pay attention to removal of encroachment from roads leading to Sri Darbar Sahib & haphazard traffic in Amritsar: Grewal

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has expressed concern over the haphazard traffic management of the Guru Nagri (Guru's city) Sri Amritsar, encroachment by



shopkeepers on the roads leading to Sachkhand Sri Harman-

dar Sahib and overcrowding of auto/cycle rickshaws and e-rickshaws. SGPC General Secretary Gureharan Singh Grewal has asked the Punjab government and the Amritsar district administration and municipal corporation to take immediate necessary steps in this regard.

Rejuvenation project of the Tung Dhab drain in Amritsar to be designed on the lines of Buddha Nullah-Nijjar

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Punjab government has decided that a rejuvenation project of the Tung Dhab drain in Amritsar will be designed on the lines of Buddha Nullah.

Presiding over an important meeting of urban and rural area committees formed to clean the drain, the Local Government Minister Dr. Inderbir Singh Nijjar said, in order to make the state pollution-free, more attention towards cleanliness of the rivers, streams and seasonal drains is the need of the hour. Focusing on various aspects to clean the Tung Dhab drain, he said that cleaning project should be divided into three parts for dealing with industrial, dairy and domestic waste separately, said in a release issued here today.

The cabinet minister was apprised that 39 industries are situated along the 20 km long drain passing through the city. Of which 19 industries are water polluting and discharging 28 MLD polluted waste into Tung drain. Similarly, the domestic Sewerage of 17 villages is falling into drain.



Apart from this, 176 dairies discharging about 550 KLD waste, throwing livestock dung and other animal waste into the Tung Dhab drain. He instructed the officials of Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) to strictly prevent the industrial waste containing toxic chemicals from falling into the drain and to ensure constant checking of the industries. He said that Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) should be set up in industrial areas as per the requirement. The Minister directed the officials of Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC) to initiate action to immediately deliver land to PPCB for setting up CETP.

Similarly, he also asked the officials of the Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board to initiate the process of expansion of the two sewage treatment plants (STPs) of the city.

He directed the officials of the MC Amritsar and Rural Development department to collect cow dung and other waste from the dairies in and outside the city periphery to prevent the dairies from falling waste into the drain. He said that simultaneously, prepare a proposal for setting up a biogas plant so that cow dung and other waste from dairies could be utilised and the usage of the gas produced from this plant, can be ensured.

Hartek Power bags 220 KV substation order from Madhav KRG Group

KULBIR SINGH KALSI
Mohali

Hartek Power Private Limited, the Power System and T&D Business unit of Hartek Group and one of India's largest and fastest-growing EPC companies, has bagged a significant order from the largest steel manufacturing enterprise in the region Madhav KRG Group. Madhav KRG Group is a fully integrated, high-end steel manufacturing organization and is one of the leading TMT bars, Galvanized Rebars, MS pipes, Tempcore TMT Rebars, and Tube manufacturers in India. Being named among India's top 10 most promising EPC companies, Hartek Power bagged the order of 220/33 KV from Madhav KRG Group. The scope of work includes Design, Supply, Construction, Project Management, Testing, and Commissioning of the entire 220/33 KV switchyard on a turnkey basis. The Project value is around INR 222 million.

Speaking on this occasion, Sanjeev Gupta, CEO, Hartek Power, said, "we feel proud to bag this key order and to be associated with the steel industry giant Madhav KRG Group. This will be the first 220 KV substation built in the private sector by an EPC in Punjab. This order gives us yet another opportunity to showcase our expertise in 220/400 KV projects." Hartek Group is India's one of the leading power and renewable infrastructure companies of India with its global headquarters in Mohali, Punjab. The group operates through its five strategic business units - Power Systems, Rooftop Solar, Power Distribution Products, Fuel, and Smart Cities having major business interests right through the power sector value chain. Founded in 1991, HARTEK has grown to become one of India's most admired brands in the Power sector.

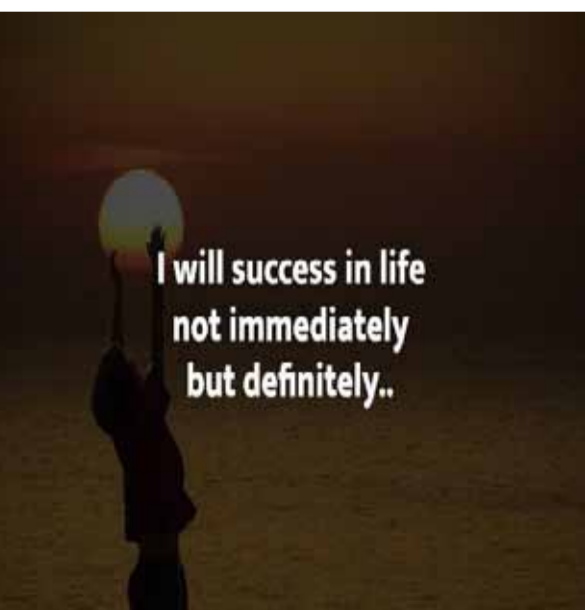


Covid-19: Time to ease norms but caution required

As the third winter begins in India after the COVID-19 pandemic began in January 2020, fresh daily infections of the novel coronavirus — there was a small spike in July and August — have been dipping since the third wave peaked in late January 2022. Daily new cases nationally dropped below the 1,000-mark after November first week, and below 500 in the last few days. The test positivity rate and the number of hospitalisations due to moderate to severe COVID-19 disease are at a low level — a far cry from the peak of the second wave in 2021. COVID-19 deaths too have been very low, with many States not reporting any for days together; Kerala has been reporting some backlog deaths on certain days but nil fresh deaths on many days. Nationally, the case fatality rate has been 1.19%. The situation in India is vastly different from what it is like in a few other countries where the daily infections are witnessing a sharp spike. Even the extremely high transmissible Omicron sub-lineages and recombinant lineages have only caused a small spike in fresh cases but no concomitant increase in hospitalisations or deaths in India. A week ago, India made mask wearing optional for air passengers precisely because of the improved ground situation. It is only in hospitals and health-care settings that mask wearing should remain mandatory. The low level of infection notwithstanding, it is advisable that the vulnerable population including the elderly and those with comorbidities at least wear a mask to reduce the risk of infection. Long COVID is real and poses a risk even to otherwise healthy people. The virus is evolving, and the emerging variants of concern will, by default, be even more highly transmissible. Their lethality cannot be predicted as transmission happens prior to disease onset and so the selection pressure is for higher transmission and not disease severity.

LETTERBOX

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A nation of youth India is full of hope

India is a country full of diversity, but it has now got the distinction of being a country with the largest number of youth in the world. The country is bubbling with 440 million youth. No other nation in the world has such a huge young population. These include young people who were born between 1981 and 1996. In the US style, they are termed as Millennials. Most of these boys and girls have been born in the midst of the technological transformation of the country and almost all of them are aware of the new lifestyle associated with the smartphone and fast speed automobiles, be it the youth of the rural areas or the townsfolk. Of course, the urban youth use all kinds of gadgets. Social media is the super-connector and it keeps them busy all the time, whether it's work or leisure time. There may be many shortcomings in the new generation, but the merits are also not less. Whatever progress is being made in today's era and new technology is coming, behind it all is the innovative thinking of the new generation. Google (Alphabet) CEO Sundar Pichai is very impressed with this quality of the youth, and says that "the new generation is leading the changes in the world".

Google is a company with lots of young employees and a positive thinking envi-



The first 10 hobbies that emerged, in order of preference for engineering youth include - learning new things, watching online documentaries, traveling, reading, gardening, painting, cycling, cooking, online games, and photography...

ronment where they only talk about the possibilities. It has a culture of looking at the positive side of things and never losing hope. Actor and filmmaker Satish Kaushik also said in one of his interviews that "the new generation filmmakers work on new themes and they understand the value of time". However, engineering students are

least interested in sports. This fact has come out from the latest survey. Sports and gym are not even mentioned in the top 10 hobbies of these students. The Stanford University of USA conducted a survey of the hobbies of students from 167 technical institutes in the US, China, Russia, and India, in which new information

about engineering students came to the fore. A similar survey was also conducted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). About 90 thousand students took part in it. Their top three hobbies include learning something new, reading, and watching documentary films on YouTube.

The first 10 hobbies that emerged, in order of preference for engineering youth include - learning new things, reading, watching online documentaries, gardening, tourism, painting, cycling, cooking, online games, and photography. Meanwhile, Tennis champion Rafael Nadal said on the Australian Open TV stage that "After every tournament, I try to discover myself, and for this, I often go on sea voyages. I find immense peace and energy in the midst of the ocean. When I come back after spending some time in the sea, I find it easier to balance life. I have to save my energy for practice. That's why I don't waste my energy by getting entangled in useless things. To get success, it is necessary to put your energy in the right place. I find my energy in the ocean, you can find it somewhere else. Find the source of energy and put it in the right place, your success is certain".

Narvijay Yadav is a senior journalist and columnist. Views are personal



SAURAV DAS EXPLAINS HOW THE INSTITUTION MANDATED TO GUARD TRANSPARENCY ADDS TO ITS OWN DOWNFALL

Losing cherished right to know

The most vital mandate of the Central Information Commission, the apex body under India's transparency regime, is to decide whether certain information sought by a citizen ought to be disclosed or not. Its primary duty is to decide the disclosure or the non-disclosure of information. But the commission has seemingly relinquished this primary duty in cases of larger public importance.

Citizens can file applications under the Right to Information Act with any public body and are guaranteed a reply from the public information officer of that public body within 30 days. In case of a no reply or dissatisfaction with the response, the citizen can file an appeal at the departmental level and then a second and final appeal with the Information Commission. Each State has its own State Information Commission to deal with second appeals concerning State bodies.

At the centre, it is the Central Information Commission (CIC). Until the 2019 amendment to the RTI Act, Information Commissioners (ICs) appointed to the CIC were equal in status to the Chief Election Commissioner, and that of a Supreme Court judge. They had a five-year fixed term and terms of service. After the amendments of 2019, the Centre gave itself powers to change and decide these terms whenever it wished, thereby striking at the independence of the commission and those who man it.

The CIC was a functioning institution until four years ago. It had passed orders seeking transparency in many cases of public importance — from boldly pronouncing that political parties were under the RTI Act's ambit, and hence accountable to the public, to ordering disclosure of the current Prime Minister's education qualifications and the Reserve Bank of India's list of willful defaulters of loans. The commission acted as a strong proponent of transparency in public life.

Now, the CIC has become more like a



walking dead institution, where records will show that not a single order for disclosure has been forthcoming in matters of public importance. The present set of Information Commissioners have together adopted a new jurisprudence that has created additional hurdles in a citizen's quest for accountability.

Cases at the CIC come up for a hearing roughly after a two year wait. If the matter is not already infructuous or lost its significance, one can look forward to the commission deciding one's case. But in matters of public importance, such as cases seeking disclosure of files related to the national lockdown during COVID-19, or the case seeking disclosure of data pertaining to phone tapping orders passed by the Home Ministry, the Commission has adopted a new way of delegating its mandate — to decide cases — to the Ministry before it (the very same party that stands accused of prohibiting transparency). In most cases, the Ministries reiterate their earlier stand of non-disclosure, most often under vague grounds of national interest.

More worryingly, after these public authorities pass fresh orders, which are usually a reiteration of their earlier stand against disclosure, the CIC refuses to accept any further challenge to such orders,

therefore, refusing to do its duty of deciding the cases. One of the cardinal rules of natural justice is that no one should be a judge in their own cause. However, the commission now allows, or rather wants, the very Ministry that stands accused of violating the RTI Act to act as the judge in their own cause and decide whether a disclosure is necessary.

A similar situation arose when the CIC refused to hear the Internet Freedom Foundation's challenge to the fresh non-disclosure order passed by the Home Ministry in the phone tapping case. The organisation had the resources to challenge this before the Delhi High Court and enforce their right to a fair hearing before the Commission. But many do not, in a country where a small percentage of the populace has the access and the resources to justice redress. And it is not as though the Information Commissioners were not made aware of this problem with their orders. They were. Hence, the need to strongly protest such conduct on their part which continues.

Fairly simple to handle

More recent examples from CIC cases do not instill confidence about where India's information regime is headed. In a case

seeking disclosure of documents relating to the making of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019, the commission has resorted to keeping the matter pending for final order for more than three months now, something which is unheard of. Unlike court cases, RTI matters do not involve complex legal arguments and are fairly simple to adjudicate. In another case related to disclosure of non-performing assets and top defaulters of a co-operative bank, the matter was listed out-of-turn to issue a "stay" order against the Bank's First Appellate Authority's order for disclosure. A stay order is unheard of and there is no provision in the RTI Act for the same.

One cannot help but ask whether actions or inactions such as these are meant to deliberately frustrate citizens who dare to seek answers from the powers that be, and reduce the efficiency of the RTI Act. The effects are already being felt. It is getting more difficult, if not impossible, to extract any information of importance under the present dispensation. Bureaucrats reject RTIs with glee with no fear of facing penal provisions outlined in Section 20 of the RTI Act, knowing fully well that they have a free hand under the Information Commissioners.

To even think of the possibility of the very institution mandated to guard India's transparency regime to be responsible for its downfall should set alarm bells ringing as far as civil society and citizens who care and dare to question are concerned. Dark clouds surround India's transparency regime. Citizens have to mount intense pressure on authorities to act and appoint commissioners of integrity. Lawyers have to help willing citizens take matters to court and seek justice. If there is a failure to do so, India will lose its cherished right to know.

Saurav Das is an independent investigative journalist and a transparency activist



BOOKS: REVIEW

New book explores heroic exploits of bravehearts

Lachit Barphukan was a master tactician and war strategist whose military zeal infused a sense of immense responsibility in his army, says a new book on the Ahom general of Assam who led his force to victory over a numerically larger and superior Mughal army.

In his book "Bravehearts of Bharat: Vignettes from Indian History", historian Vikram Sampath profiles 15 unsung heroes and heroines of India from varied time spans who fought to uphold the tradition and culture of their land.

The book comes at a time when the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit is being celebrated in the national capital from November 23 to 25 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to attend the valedictory function.

In the chapter on Barphukan, the author describes how Assam's "man of destiny" stood up to be

counted and to create history for himself and his clan.

Sampath also goes on to give a brief overview of the Ahom kingdom, which, he says, was highly regimented in its structure.

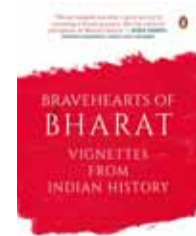
The Barphukan was the military and civil commander of the Ahom army. Assam was invaded several times by the Delhi Sultanate up to the 16th century, but this met with no success. The inhospitable and inaccessible terrain, and the warrior spirit of the people who fiercely guarded their independence enabled them to maintain their dogged resistance against all attacks.

By December 1636, Kamrup was occupied by the Mughals. According to the Treaty of Asurar Ali, enacted in 1639 CE between the Ahom general Momai Tamuli Borbarua and the Mughal commander Allah Yar Khan, the whole of western Assam, beginning Guwahati, passed into Mughal hands. A most humiliating

The book comes at a time when the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit is being celebrated in the national capital from November 23 to 25 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to attend the valedictory function

treaty was concluded in January 1663 at Ghilajhari Ghat according to which the Ahoms were forced to give up western Assam to the Mughals. But there was a revival after Chakradhwaj Singha became the king. Lachit, born in 1622 CE, was the youngest son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua. He was first made the Soladhara Barua, the scarfbearer of the king, a position akin to that of a private secretary.

In due course, Lachit also held various positions like Ghora Ba-



Bravehearts of Bharat: Vignettes from Indian History
By Vikram Sampath
Penguin Viking, 512 pages, Rs 799

rua (in charge of the royal stable), commander of Simalgarh Fort and later the Dolaksharia Barua (Superintendent of the Royal Household Guards) to Maharaja Chakradhwaj Singha.

During Mir Jumla's invasion, Lachit had engaged in his limited capacity with the enemy at Dikhowmukh and earned considerable success. Sampath cites an anecdote of a test that Lachit underwent before being formally anointed as the Barphukan.

Lachit was asked to present himself in the royal court before the king, and as he knelt before him, in a planned move, an attendant rushed from behind and snatched away Lachit's headgear. "This was, and still is, considered as a grave affront to a man's dignity and self-respect,

in Assamese traditions. The king wanted to check Lachit's sense of self-worth and his reflexes. The young man leapt from his knees, unsheathed his sword and rushed to cut off the head of the errant attendant, who had by now safely plonked himself at the king's feet seeking his shelter.

"The king was deeply satisfied by this act and he formally installed Lachit as his general and Barphukan, presenting him a gold-hafted sword and the customary paraphernalia of regal distinction," the book, published by Penguin India, says.

The author also mentions that among those engaged by Lachit was a person named Bagh Hazarika, whose real name was Ismail Siddique.

"The Ahom spies had managed to render several of the Mughal cannon as unworthy by filling water in their muzzles. This was led by one Bagh Hazarika, whose real name was Ismail Siddique, and so called because he had once killed a tiger barehanded. When the Ahoms attacked, the Mughals realized to their horror that their cannons were all rendered utterly useless," he writes.

Actor Randeep Hooda's 'Cat' exposes how drug cartels penetrated Punjab

MUMBAI: Actor Randeep Hooda, is set to bring an intense and authentic story from Punjab with his upcoming crime thriller series 'Cat'. This will be Randeep's second venture in the streaming space after 'Extraction', in which he shared the screen with Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth.

The trailer of the series was unveiled on Friday and it shows Randeep's character of Gurnam Singh, a simpleton, who is compelled to infiltrate the drug cartels of Punjab as he works for the police in a bid to save his brother.



While Gurnam is not new to this, the stakes are high, this time around. He finds himself plunged into the dark world of politics, corruption and crime. The trailer is laced with drama, gore, thrill and brings together the world of Punjab's underbelly, politics, police and drug lords.

Commenting on the occasion of trailer release, Randeep said: "Gurnam Singh is fierce yet calm, he is strong yet fragile

and while you will find a familiarity with this character, you will not be able to guess his next move. I am thoroughly excited with 'Cat' and that Balli (Balwinder Singh Janjua, the creator) has brought authenticity and genuineness to each and every scene."

Created and helmed by filmmaker Balwinder Singh Janjua, the series goes beyond the romanticised version of Punjab and puts forth a story of a brother's love, remission and espionage.

Speaking about his foray into direction, creator Balwinder Singh Janjua shares, "Cat' is a very unique story and I am glad we could collaborate with Netflix to bring this story to life. As a writer and director, I will define 'Cat' as a story of relationships - be it family, friendship or deceit! It's a story set in Punjab and explores two timelines as well as the underbelly and its complexities through well defined characters."

"We've shot in over 80 locations across Punjab to bring authenticity and flavour to the fore. Working on 'Cat' has been a rewarding journey and I can't wait for the audience to experience it," he added.

Indian men's hockey team faces Australia test ahead of World Cup



ADELAIDE: The Indian men's hockey team will get another chance to reassess its strength and weakness ahead of the World Cup when it squares off against world number one Australia in a five-match series, starting here on Saturday. It has always been a herculean task for India to challenge the might of the Australians, who are dominant force in World hockey. It will be the first time they meet since Australia thrashed India 7-0 in the CWG final in Birmingham. World No.5 India will clearly start as underdogs against the Kookaburras though Graham Reid's team has been a force to reckon with since winning a historic bonze in the Tokyo Olympics last year. India are coming into the match after two victories against New Zealand and mixed results (1W, 1L) against Spain in Bhubaneswar in the fresh FIH Pro League season. Both Spain and New Zealand are lower-ranked sides -- at eighth and ninth respectively -- and facing Australia at home will be an altogether different proposition for the Indian side. Talking about the series, India head coach Reid said, "There is no better place to come than Australia for preparation for the World Cup."

Ready to return to directing, Bollywood actor Anupam Kher

Bollywood actor Anupam Kher, whose this year's credits include successful Indian films - 'Kashmir Files', 'Karthikeya 2' and 'Uunchai', says he is ready to return behind the camera.

Speaking to 'Variety' on the side-lines of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Kher said, "I would love to direct. After a long time, a story has come to me. My niece is autistic and I have a story about a grandfather and his autistic granddaughter who live together. I have a rough structure already. Once I write the script, I may start by the end of this year or next year."

Such a move would come twenty years after his feature directing debut, 2002's 'Om Jai Jagadish', reports Variety.

Before that, he will close out this year with the release of Tamil horror 'Connect' (December 2022), in which Kher



plays a priest conducting an exorcism via Zoom.

He's also on board to start shooting Canadian filmmaker Eisha Marjara's 'Calorie', which was in the Co-Production Market at Film Bazaar in 2016.

Produced by Joe Balass of Compass Productions and Filmoption International, it is an inter-generational story of three women whose past lives collide during an emotionally-packed summer trip to India. "It's a very good script. Unfortunately, it has been delayed, but I will shoot for that. It will be filmed in Canada and India," Kher said.

TAC Security CEO Trishneet Arora meets US Vice President Kamala Harris

KULBIR SINGH KALSI
Chandigarh

It was a heart-warming moment for 29-year old Trishneet Arora, the founder and CEO of TAC Security, when he met Indian origin US Vice President Kamala Harris in Albuquerque recently. Two iconic personalities with common Indian roots discussed ways and means to tackle cyber security challenges effectively. TAC Security has its corporate office at Mohali near Chandigarh and offices in other parts of India and US.

The young entrepreneur expressed his joy through a tweet after meeting Harris. He tweeted, "Glad to have



met the Vice President Kamala Harris during my recent visit to the United States. @VP is empowering women across the world and stands as a strong inspiration for them.

Actress Khushboo Atre credits her obsession with sports as her secret to fitness

Cinema and sports go hand in hand in more ways than one, and there is no denying the fact that one activity that a lot of Bollywood actors indulge in is sports. Fitness plays a key role in every B-town actor's life, indulging in sports is a great source of fitness and a medium for them to improve their personal and interpersonal values. Many Bollywood celebrities are currently keen sportspersons, one of whom is Khushboo Atre. The actress is known for her character Ratna in criminal justice. And now she talks about her second

love, which is 'Sports'. Khushboo has worked in many series and movies and will be next seen in the movie, 'Capsule Gill', working along with Parineeti Chopra and Akshay Kumar. The actress now shares her thoughts about her second love, besides acting. She says, "As actors, we have long schedules and hectic days at work; and playing a sport is also an extremely effective stress-buster. "Fitness is a crucial component of a healthy lifestyle, as we all know. I view sports as a healthy way of life and believe in staying fit. It



is a voyage of self-control, relaxation, and mental peace."

Khushboo has also been an avid sportsperson since she was in school. She was

highly active and sports-oriented. She also served as captain of her college's cricket team. We would love to see such sports enthusiast in a sports film.

On the work front, Khushboo has had prominent roles in movies and series like Criminal Justice season 2, Raazi, Illegal, Shamitabh, and Vodka Diaries. Currently, the actress is shooting for Bollywood films, and she just completed the shooting for one of them, which is Capsule Gill along with Akshay Kumar and Parineeti Chopra.

Anupam Kher, Kay Kay Menon criticise Richa Chadha's 'Galwan says hi' tweet

MUMBAI: Actors Anupam Kher, Kay Kay Menon and Ranvir Shorey are the latest cine personalities to criticise Richa Chadha over her comment on the 2020 deadly Galwan Valley clash. Chadha, in her now deleted tweet, had written "Galwan says hi" in response to the Northern Army Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi's statement that the Indian Army is "waiting for orders from the govt (sic)" in reclaiming Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).



Kashmir and Bollywood - A never ending love story

SRINAGAR: The love story between Kashmir and Bollywood began way back in 1949 when Raj Kapoor shot parts of his film 'Barsaat' in the Valley, taking its beauty to a wider audience. Ever since, the Kashmir Valley became the focus area of many film producers.

In the 60s and 70s, several Bollywood films, including 'Kashmir Ki Kali' (1964), 'Jab Jab Phool Khile' (1965) and 'Bobby' (1973), among many others, were shot in Kashmir. The songs of these films remained favourites for generations to come.

Not only this, there are many places in Kashmir which are known by movie names or characters, like the landmark 'Bobby Hut' in Gulmarg, where the song of the super hit movie 'Bobby' - 'Hum tum ek kamray main...' - was filmed, or the 'Betaab Valley' in Pahalgam where the Sunny Deol-Amrita Singh starrer 'Betaab' was shot.

This beautiful relationship between Kashmir and Bollywood lasted until Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 'Khamosh' in 1985, after which the unfortunate



circumstances that ensued due to terrorism in the region brought a temporary end to this love story. Bollywood made a comeback to the Valley post 2000, when films like 'Mission Kashmir' and 'Haider' were shot in Kashmir. This relationship is also unique because this time the subject of these films was not the beauty of the Valley, but Kashmir itself.

During the last few years, many popular Bollywood films and web series have been shot in Kashmir, while many local actors also rose to prominence.

Notable among them are Mir Sarwar, who acted in films like 'Qaisari' and 'Bajrang Bhaijaan', and Zaira Wasim, who acted in Aamir Khan's 'Dangal' and 'Secret Superstar', among others. Film screening also got a boost in the region this year with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurating cinema halls in Srinagar, Shopian and Pulwama districts. Also, a new film policy has been implemented in Kashmir, besides the announcement by Sinha about opening cinema halls in every district of the UT.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui: Initially accepted small roles for survival

PANAJI: While recalling the journey of becoming actor, Nawazuddin Siddiqui on Tuesday said that initially, he accepted small roles for survival as he had no other alternative.

He was speaking on the topic - 'Journey as an Actor' in International Film Festival of India, underway in Goa.

"I was offered small roles which I accepted for survival then. I had no other alternative. But I never got disappointed. It is the difficult time that makes you strong," he said. He said "if you have to begin from zero, you have to first unlearn what you have learnt". Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who has appeared in some of Bollywood's major films such as 'Black Friday', 'New York', 'Peepli Live', 'Kahani', and 'Gangs of Wasseypur', spoke about struggles and challenges.

Nawazuddin said that after graduating from a college, he worked as a chemist in a petrochemical company for a short while. However, to fulfil the dream of becoming an actor, he got associated with theatre.

Eventually, he got admitted to the National School of Drama (NSD) in Delhi.

Responding to a question on how 'Gangs of Wasseypur' turned out to be a turning point



in his acting career, he said that the movie made him believe in himself. "I was confident that my struggles will get over after this and people will appreciate this movie," he said. Nawazuddin also shared his experience of working in web-series on Netflix and other OTT platforms.

He said that initially he was hesitant to work in series on OTT platforms as he had no idea about them.

However, Anurag Kashyap convinced him for working on these platform. It is to be noted that Sacred Games web-series turned out to be a big hit on Netflix.

Nawazuddin also shared his words of wisdom on playing versatile roles in biopic 'Manto', where he played role of prominent Urdu author Saadat Hasan Manto, and 'Thackeray', in which he played the role of Bal Thackeray.

POTPOURRI

SGPC did not give permission to run Dastaan-E-Sirhind film

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has clarified that no approval has been given by the Sikh body to run a film named Dastaan-E-Sirhind.

SGPC spokesperson Harbhajan Singh Vakta issued an official statement saying that the SGPC takes a decision only after a thorough review of every aspect of any film related to Sikh history, hence no approval has been given to run the film Dastaan-E-Sirhind. He said the matter of Dastaan-E-Sirhind film is connected to the religious sentiments of Sangat, therefore, the SGPC is mindful.

The SGPC statement has been issued after receiving some questions about whether the Sikh body has given any approval to the said film or not.



Season 2 of school drama 'Crushed' to have more twists and turns



The second season of school drama 'Crushed' announced on Thursday promises more twists and turns as teenagers come to grips with adulthood.

Amazon miniTV - Amazon's free video streaming service is set to stream the second season of the series from December 2. Created by Dice Media (Pocket Aces), the series will feature showrunner Akshata Samant, Aadhya Anand, Naman Jain and Urvi Singh, among others. Directed by Mandar Kurundkar and written by Tatsat Pandey, Abhinav Vaidya, Sankalp Raj Tripathi, Akshata Samant being the showrunner, Dice Media. The show will take everyone through the lives of Aadhya (Aadhya Anand), Jasmine (Urvi Singh), and Prateek (Naman Jain) as they experience the highs and

lows of adolescent love. In the second season of Crushed, these youngsters will be facing their future and evolving as individuals as fate presents new challenges in their lives. Facing roadblocks that challenge their friendship, love, and all other relationships they build, Season 2 of Crushed promises high entertainment and drama throughout. Commenting on the launch of Crushed Season 2, Aadhya Anand shared, "The last season was incredibly successful and got so much love and adulation from the audiences. The second season of Crushed will show how our characters evolve as individuals while preparing for the board exams. I hope that the viewers will love the new season just a little more than they loved and enjoyed the last one."

Urvashi Rautela's airport look along with a Fendi Sunshine Tote Bag



Urvashi Rautela, Bollywood's youngest superstar is well-known for her fashion choices. The stunning actor is widely adored for her brave and edgy sartorial choices. She has unquestionably established the most stylish example for Gen Z women. Recently, the gorgeous actress was sighted at the Mumbai airport, where she once more won the hearts of her admirers with her fashionable clothes.

Urvashi was seen wearing a body-hugging, full-sleeved, black iki chicstylish mini dress with a square neckline and silver tassels at the bottom. The garment cost about 30, 000. Urvashi selected a straightforward cosmetic style

to enhance her looks. The actress was wearing a gorgeous outfit that let her long, toned legs stand out. Urvashi looks sensational and radiant in her glamorous outfit as she strikes a candid pose.

She paired her look with a Fendi x Versace Gold Baroque & FF Motif Fendace Sunshine Tote Bag worth 5 lakhs. She wore a Chanel bracelet, earrings, and sunglasses to complete the ultra-chic set, with the accessories alone costing 3 lakhs. The entire airport look costed worth 8.5 lakhs. There is no question in our minds that she looks amazing and amazes us. She welcomed her admirers and the photographers in a very beautiful and happy manner.

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

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