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4 PAGES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

weather

HIGH 32°C | LOW 26.3°C

FORECAST: GENERALLY CLOUDY

Sunset on Saturday 6:36pm

Sunrise on Sunday 6:02am



WILL WORK TO UNITE BICYCLE INDUSTRY: NEWLY ELECTED UCPMA CHIEF CHAWLA »p3

IS YOUR SHOPPING CART FESTIVE-READY? »p4

GRANDPARENT'S DAY OBSERVED AT DCM

NURSERY WING STUDENTS PREPARE CRAFT PIECES »p2

shortstories

'RECREATIONAL PARKS TO BE DEVELOPED'

LUDHIANA: To provide clean and green environment and places for exercise and spend free time to city residents, four recreational parks will be developed in Ludhiana (West) constituency. Announcing this here on Friday, Punjab food, civil supplies and consumer affairs minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu said work on two valleys had already been started, while work on the remaining two will start in a few days. He said the valleys were coming up near DAV Public School, Haibowal, near the Lodhi Club and behind Blocks D and E in Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar. »P3

HEALTH STAFF HOLD PROTEST

LUDHIANA: Members of the Punjab Health Department Subordinate Office Clerical Association staged a protest outside the civil surgeon's office here on Friday and raised slogans against the state government. »P3

debate of the week

SAFETY FIRST

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO ENSURE SAFETY OF STUDENTS?

The recent incident of students sustaining minor injuries due to bursting of a worn-out tyre of the school bus has yet

GLADA razes 32 illegal kiosks, shops near Jamalpur Chowk

CONFUSION Demolition drive stopped after Waqf officials claim a part of land belongs to the board

HT Correspondent
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LUDHIANA: Amid confusion over the ownership of land between Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA) and Waqf Board, the civic body razed 32 illegal kiosks and shops near Jamalpur Chowk on Chandigarh Road on Friday.

The civic body had to stop the drive in between after the Waqf Board officials reached the spot and claimed that a major part of the land belongs to them and GLADA cannot demolish the structures built on their land. As per the information, there are 85 shops in the alleged encroached area. Estate officer (regulatory), GLADA, Sonam Chaudhary said, "Following the high court (HC) orders, a demolition drive was conducted to remove encroachments from the GLADA land. During the drive, 32 shops, including kiosks were razed. Next course of action will be decided after a meeting with the Waqf Board officials."

Waqf Board estate officer, Ludhiana, Abdul Shakoor said, "As soon as I got information of the drive, I visited the spot. The GLADA officials were trying to demolish shops built on the board's land, however, the shopkeepers have been submitting the rent with the board."

"I have apprised the senior officials of Waqf Board about the incident and they will soon meet with the GLADA officials," said Shakoor.



GLADA workers demolishing illegal structures and; (below) shopkeepers carrying their belongings at Jamalpur Chowk on Ludhiana-Chandigarh Road on Friday. GURMINDER SINGH/HT

otherwise action will be taken against them. As none of the shopkeepers vacated the land, a GLADA team conducted the drive on Friday morning.

OFFICIALS REACH THE SPOT AT 6AM

The GLADA officials accompanied by heavy police force reached the spot at 6am. The shopkeepers rued that they were not given time to shift the material out from their shops. A shopkeeper said, "The demolition



STRAY CATTLE MENACE

Amid rise in plaints, civic body's lone vet officer resigns

Harsimran Singh Batra
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LUDHIANA: At a time when the city residents have been raising hue and cry over stray dog and cattle menace, the lone senior veterinary officer of the MC, YP Singh, has resigned. Singh submitted his papers to the MC commissioner on Thursday.

While Singh claims that he resigned from the post due to personal reasons, sources in the MC said, the officer took the step following a tussle with one of the MC officials. The official in question has been deputed at a senior post and Singh was supposed to report to him, said sources.

Singh had been working on contractual basis with the civic body for seven years and was handling major projects including, stray dog sterilisation project, lifting of stray cattle, establishment of slaughter house among other things. His contract was valid till September 30.

One of the MC officials pleading anonymity said, "He was overburdened due to rising complaints of the stray dog and cattle menace with no proper staff to handle the same."

> I don't have any issue with civic body officials. I resigned due to personal reasons. I have been unable to spend time with my family.
> YP SINGH, veterinary officer

"I don't have any issue with civic body officials. I resigned from the post due to personal reasons. I have been unable to spend time with my family. Also, my wife is keeping unwell," said the veterinary officer.

MC commissioner Kanwalpreet Kaur Brar said, "I have not accepted the resignation as we need time to find his replacement. Singh will be asked to serve the notice period so that the work of civic body is not disturbed."

Missing girl returns home after week

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LUDHIANA: A week after, a 14-year-old girl from Dugri had gone

THE 14-YEAR-OLD CALLED HER PARENTS AFTER REACHING CITY RAILWAY STATION

blatant violation of Safe School Vahan scheme. As per the scheme, the school buses are meant to comply with safety regulations.

However, school authorities continue to pass the buck in the name of outsourcing.

What kind of steps should be taken for effective implementation of the scheme?

Send in your inputs to ludhiana@hindustantimes.com by September 8.

claiming that a major part of land belongs to them but as per the GLADA records, the land was acquired by the civic body," said Chaudhary.

One of the GLADA officials said that action against 12 more shops has been postponed for now.

Earlier, following HC directions, GLADA had issued notices to the shopkeepers in Jamalpur Awana (Chandigarh Road) in August last week. The shopkeepers were told to vacate the shops on Friday morning."

Mostly shops here are rented out and the tenants claimed that they have been running business for over three decades.

"The civic body officials reached the spot at 6am and asked us to shift out the material in 30 minutes," said Gurdeep Singh, a shopkeeper.

"Many of the goods were buried under the rubble and we have suffered huge losses," said another shopkeeper Tarwinder Singh.



NO ACTION AGAINST GURU RAVIDAS GURDWARA

During the drive, no action was taken against Guru Ravidas Gurdwara and the shops adjoining it. Earlier, the members of Ravidas Gurdwara Committee had threatened to hold a protest after the GLADA had also asked them to present ownership documents of the land.

missing, the minor returned home on Friday.

She was missing since August 30. Police said, she had gone somewhere at her own will and returned home.

Police are still investigating about where she stayed for the six days.

Assistant sub-inspector of police (ASI) Anwar Masih said the girl called her parents after reaching the railway station here. Her parents took her home and informed the police.

The girl had left her house for tuition on August 30 but did not return. The tuition teacher had said that she did not turn up for the class either.

When her parents could not find her, they informed the police, following which a case was registered against unidentified accused under Section 346 (wrongful confinement in secret) of the IPC.

Police had ruled out kidnapping as no ransom call was made to the family members.

Four nihangs land in police net for threatening gurdwara manager

HT Correspondent
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LUDHIANA: Four nihangs were arrested for creating ruckus at Gurdwara Dukhniwaran Sahib here, said police on Friday.

The nihangs accused the gurdwara management of not respecting Guru Granth Sahib.

The accused have been identified as Gurpreet Singh, Prabhdeep Singh, Rajinder Singh and Sukh Sehajpreet Singh, all residents of Patiala.

BARGE INTO MANAGER'S OFFICE AND THREATEN HIM WITH A SWORD; NABBED BY THE DEVOTEES

Police said that one of the nihangs pulled out his sword to hit the committee members.

Manager at the gurdwara, Balbir Singh, said, "On Thursday late evening, four nihangs came to the shrine and started arguing with the devotees, who were offering prayers, stating that they are not following Sikh rituals."

"The accused barged into my office and started quarrelling with me. One of them threatened me with a sword but the devotees intervened and nabbed him," Balbir told the police.

When the gurdwara president Pritapal Singh Pali intervened, the accused also tried to attack him, said police. Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kamal Chetley also reached at the spot to interrupt.

Inspector Surinder Chopra, station house officer (SHO) at Division Number 2 police station, stated that an FIR has been registered under Sections of 451(trespassing), 506 (criminal intimidation), 34 (act done by several persons in furtherance of common intension) of the Indian Penal Code against the accused. All the accused have been arrested and an investigation is underway, Chopra said.

Chief principal secy to CM: Politics has compromises, but economics doesn't have

Mohit Khanna
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LUDHIANA: Politics has compromises, but economics doesn't have. This was stated by Suresh Kumar, chief principal secretary to chief minister of Punjab, while delivering his inaugural address at the 13th Indo-Japanese dialogue on "Indian Economic Development" at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) on Friday.

Speaking about the government policies and the reason of the current slowdown in the economy, Kumar said demonetisation had a serious impact on the unorganised sector.

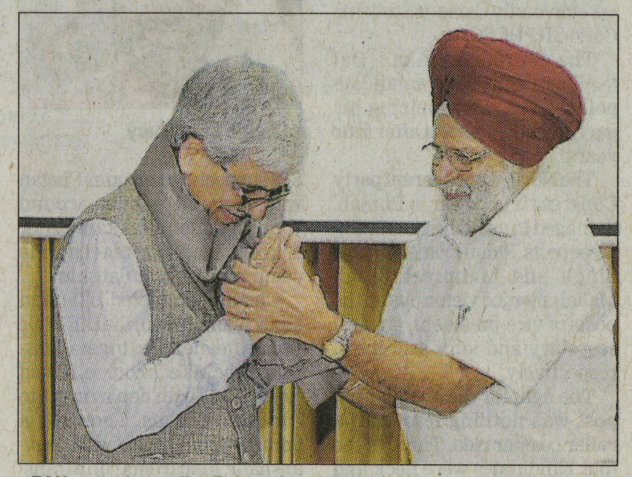
"In the current scenario, demonetisation has led to joblessness in the country. People with little knowledge and resources have suffered. There is a need to strengthen the moral fibre of the administration with thrust on stable government, stable policy-making, stable population and a stable country," he said.

The university kept his visit a closely guarded affair amid reports of his resignation from the Captain Amarinder Singh government.

Several attempts were made to ask him about his decision of offering resignation, but he avoided media queries.

'TRANSFER SUBSIDY MONEY TO FARMER ACCOUNTS'

Kumar supported the subsidy being given to farmers. He said, "Recently, I had a meeting with members of the World Bank wherein they suggested that, instead of offering electricity subsidy, the money should be directly transferred to bank accounts of farmers."



PAU vice-chancellor Baldev Singh Dhillon felicitating chief principal secretary to CM Suresh Kumar during an event in Ludhiana on Friday. HT PHOTO

"We are paying roughly ₹6,500 crore to the power corporation as electricity subsidy for farmers. Instead, this money should be directly transferred to bank accounts of farmers," Kumar said, adding the initiative like 'Paani Bachao, Paise Kamao' scheme was a path-breaking step, which encouraged judicious use of water and energy.

About Japan, Kumar said, "Japan has its national fabric. With rising aspirations, Japanese lead a simple life. But in India, corruption must disappear. Although the process may be cumbersome, yet corrupt practices must end," he stressed.

'WOMEN PROVIDE CLEANER GOVERNANCE'

Sharing his experience of 42 years in government, Kumar observed, "Where there are women, there is a cleaner governance and better performance."

He called for making efforts to address the gender bias as well as the generation gap in the country. Generating quality manpower and employment opportunities is need of the hour, he added.

An eight-member delegation from Japan visited PAU and participated in the dialogue, organised by the department of economics and sociology, PAU. Dr Baldev Singh Dhillon, vice-chancellor and Dr RS Sidhu, registrar, PAU, also graced the occasion.

During Session 1 on "Agriculture Economy of Punjab," Dr PS Birthal, national professor, National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi, said, "Due to price rise, there is inflationary pressure, which is discouraging diversification and encouraging natural resource depletion. Technological breakthrough is vital to enable Punjab's agriculture sector regain its lost glory."

FOUR BOOKED FOR ATTEMPT TO MURDER

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LUDHIANA: Four unidentified persons have been on charges of attempt to murder and snatching here, said police on Friday.

Complainant Deepak Beri, 43, a resident of New Hargobind Nagar, stated that he works as a scribe with a Hindi daily. Beri said on Thursday evening, when he reached near the fire brigade head quarter, a scooter-borne man hit his car at Jagraon Bridge.

When Beri objected to the same, the man started quarrelling with him and also called up three of his accomplices.

Beri said that the four accused started thrashing him and also hit him with metal knuckles. The complainant said that the accused also damaged his car. Following this, he raised an alarm for help and the passersby started gathering. On seeing people, the accused fled from the spot, leaving his scooter behind. The locals meanwhile informed the police who reached at the spot, impounded the vehicle and started investigation.

Beri has also alleged that the accused robbed him of money and gold chain.

The Division Number 2 police have registered a case against unidentified accused.

Sub-inspector Baljit Singh, who is investigating the case, said that a case under Sections 307 (attempt to murder), 379-B (snatching using force), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon) and 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against unidentified accused. The complainant has stated that he can identify the accused, said police.

Barwala sarpanch commits suicide

LUDHIANA: A sarpanch of Barwala village in Koom Kalan ended his life by consuming poison on Friday morning. He recorded a video message on his smartphone and also left a suicide note, wherein he accused four persons, said police. He mentioned names of four people — Balwinder Singh, Gurjit Singh, Kulwinder Singh and Gurdeep Singh — in the note and the video. The police have booked the accused and initiated investigation. In the suicide note, the victim mentioned that Balwinder Singh was not returning his money. He had helped Balwinder in buying a plot worth ₹12 lakh on Dehlon road. Balwinder had returned only ₹3 lakh and refused to return the rest, the note reads. He also mentioned that accused Kulwinder had borrowed ₹30,000 from him, but was reluctant to return it. Also, the accused Gurjit Singh did not return his ₹1.50 lakh.

Sub-inspector Randhir Singh said that a case under Section 306 (abetment to suicide) of the IPC has been registered against the accused. HTC

Woman ends life after dispute with hubby over addiction

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LUDHIANA: A 28-year-old woman committed suicide by hanging herself with the ceiling fan at her house on Noorwala Road in the wee hours of Friday, said police.

The woman took the extreme step following an argument with her husband.

The deceased was allegedly addicted to tobacco, due to which the couple had many fights as her husband used to dissuade her from doing the same, said police.

The duo was married in 2006, said police. The woman's husband works as a labourer. The couple had no child.

In his statement to police, the deceased's husband said, "My wife was addicted to tobacco. I often stopped her from consuming the same, but to no avail."

COUPLE USED TO HAVE FREQUENT FIGHTS OVER THE DECEASED'S TOBACCO ADDICTION

On Thursday night, when he came home from work, the duo had dinner. At around 10:30pm, the deceased's husband found her consuming tobacco, following which he asked the woman to stop, however, the latter started arguing.

On Friday morning, the deceased's husband found her hanging and informed the police.

Sub-inspector Arshdeep Kaur Grewal, station house officer (SHO), at Basti Jodhewal police station said, following a complaint by the deceased's husband, police have initiated inquest proceedings under Section 174 of the CrPC.

46-year-old dies under mysterious circumstances

LUDHIANA: A 46-year-old man died under mysterious circumstances in Isa Nagri on Thursday. The deceased Ravi Kumar, 46, worked as a labourer. He was in a live-in relation with Manjit Kaur, 50, of Isa Nagari, for more than two decades. Division Number 3 SHO Satish Kumar said, as per Manjit, Ravi was an alcoholic.

MURDER SUSPECTED

"On Thursday night, Ravi came home in an inebriated condition and went to sleep. When I tried to wake him up, he did not respond," Manjit told police.

Ravi was taken to hospital where the doctors declared him dead. On Friday morning, Manjit called Ravi's kin for his last rites. However, the kin found marks around Ravi's neck and informed police.

SHO Kumar said that the body has been sent for autopsy and cause of death will be ascertained after that. Police are suspecting that he was murdered. HTC