

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

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Posted at: Aug 26, 2019, 7:50 AM; last updated: Aug 26, 2019, 7:50 AM (IST)

Sharing Partition narratives through archives

NRI Bhalla has been working towards preserving stories of carnage digitally



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Guneeta Bhalla addresses the audience at Majha House in Amritsar on Sunday. Vishal kumar

Divya Sharma

Tribune News Service

Amritsar, August 25

Documenting lives of Partition survivors through her non-profitable organisation, The 1947 Partition Archive, Guneeta Bhalla, reflected upon the need for oral histories, insights of the tragedy at Majha House on Sunday.

A non-resident Indian (NRI), Guneeta Bhalla, has been working towards preserving the stories of the carnage digitally. It took a mass misinterpretation of facts and lack of appropriate information on the Partition of India for her to leave her career as a Physicist and conceive the idea of The 1947 Partition

leave her career as a physicist and conceive the idea of The 1947 Partition Archive.

"I visited Japan in 2008 as a part of my research. I came across documentation of tragedies faced in the past by the nation. I wanted to fill in the void for August 1947 as I found disparity in history being written in my textbook as compared to the stories narrated back at home," shared Guneeta. Her team has been working in 12 different countries, collecting stories and preserving memories in the form of oral history.



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"Oral history is a legacy to be preserved. These stories pass on from one generation to the other. It is imperative for us to hear the narratives of our elders. Besides the painful incidents, there are multiple stories of kindness, people helping each other with compassion. I have come across more stories of love than hatred."

As a part of her initiative, past incidents narrated by historians and citizens are recorded to be uploaded so as to make it accessible to the public. The material is also shared widely on social media. A total of 8,000 real life incidents have been recorded under her organisation.

"In my opinion, polarisation in India is growing at an alarming rate. At such times, stories of compassion from across the borders can work wonders," added Bhalla.

An interactive session was followed by a presentation. Professor Sarbjot Singh Behl, Dean Academic Affairs, GNDU, Arvinder Singh Chamak, general secretary, Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Preeti Gill, founder of Majha House, authors Deepa Agarwal and Tahmina Aziz Ayub were among the prominent ones present on the occasion.

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A vertical advertisement for Barça Academy Football Experience Sessions. It features two children playing football, one in a red jersey and one in a blue jersey. The text "BOOK NOW" is prominently displayed in a yellow box, followed by "BARÇA ACADEMY FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE SESSIONS". Below that, it says "Age group - 5 to 17 years" and lists locations: Gurgaon, Delhi, Noida, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Pune.

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CITY FOCUS

Chandigarh

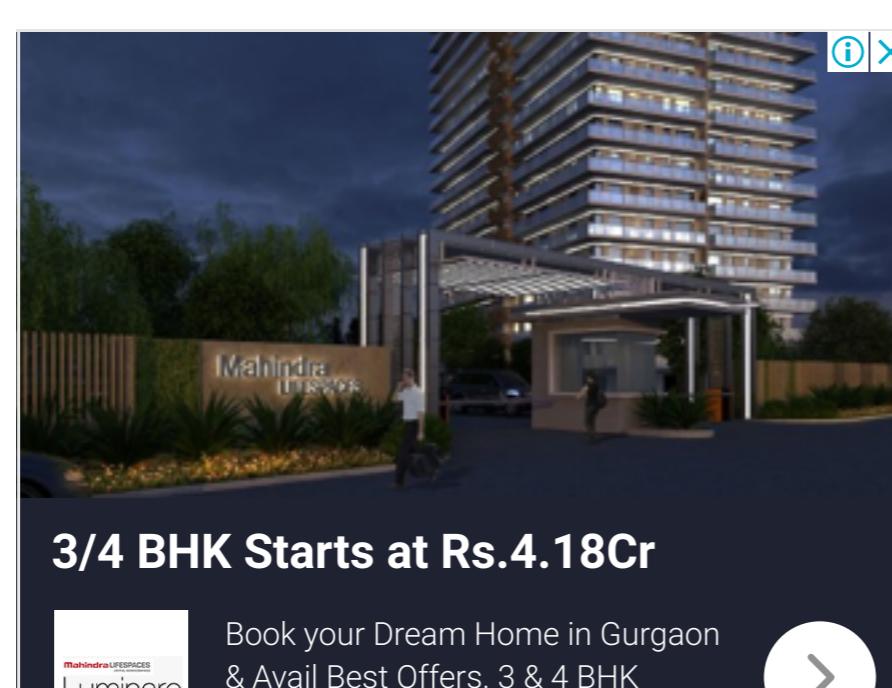
City water crisis deepens

27 Aug 2019 | 8:11 AM



CHANDIGARH: The water crisis continued in the city today with residents complaining of little or no supply. The residents got little help from the MC's helpline numbers, meant to provide water tankers.

- NGT gives MC two months
- Ludhiana MP acquitted in unlawful assembly case
- 2 brothers suffer burns in fire at rubber factory



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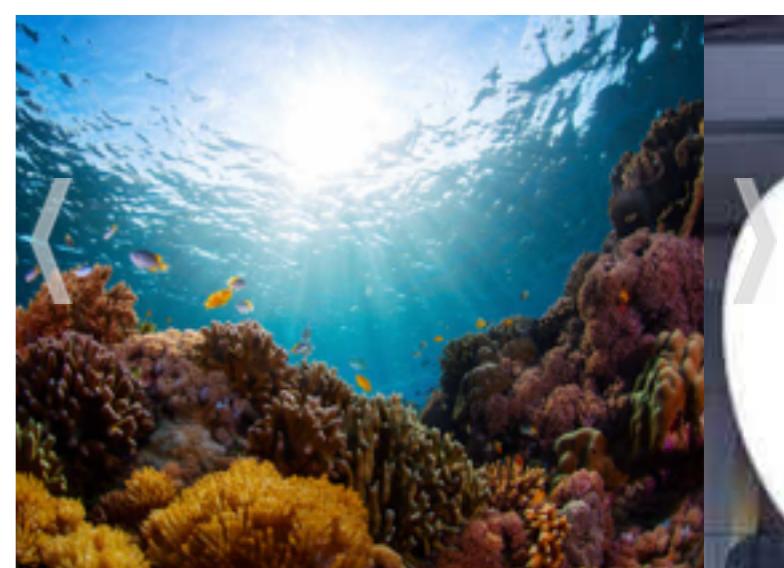
Mahindra LIFESPACES Luminara

A vertical advertisement for Mahindra Lifespaces Luminara. It shows a modern multi-story residential building at night. The text "3/4 BHK Starts at Rs.4.18Cr" is at the top, followed by "Book your Dream Home in Gurgaon & Avail Best Offers, 3 & 4 BHK". The Mahindra Lifespaces logo is at the bottom.

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- Man killed, 8 of family hurt in attack
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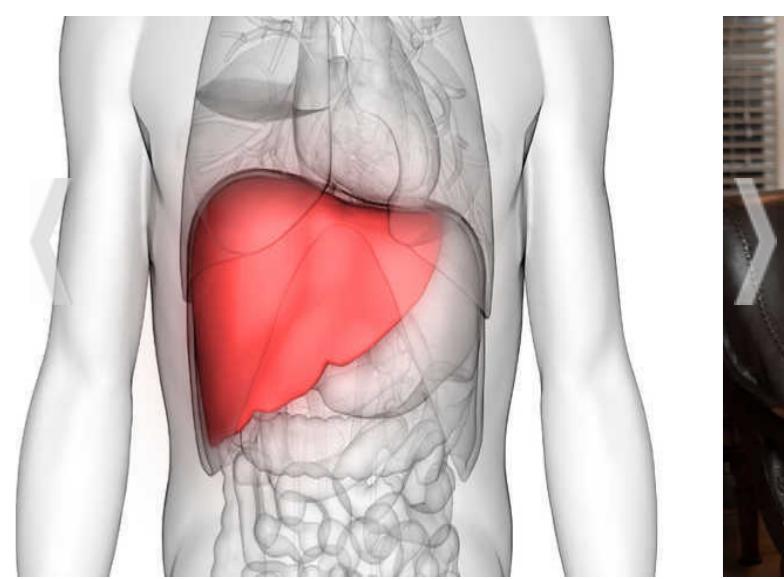
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