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NEWS BRIEFS

3-member judicial panel inspects Shahi Masjid area in Sambhal

SAMBHAL : Amid masive security, three-member judicial committee conducted inspection near the Shahi Masjid area in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal on Sunday where stone-peltling incident took place on November 24. The committee members visited the areas and spoke to the residents as well as officials regarding the incident. The panel was accompanied by security personnel as they visited the violence-hit area. Earlier Moradabad Divisional Commissioner Aunjaneya Kumar Singh said that the committee will visit the place to collect evidence today and all arrangements to ensure smooth probe process has been made.

Cyclone Fengal: Unprecedented Rainfall Paralyse Life In Puducherry

PUDUCHERRY: Normal life was crippled in Puducherry on Sunday due to heavy rains that lashed the union territory in the wake of Cyclone Fengal, which crossed the coast here on November 30 night. According to India Meteorological Department, Puducherry recorded 46 cm rainfall during the last 24 hours ending 9 am today. Cyclone Fengal triggered heavy rainfall leading to inundation of all residential areas on the outskirts of boulevard limits. Trees were uprooted at various places under the impact of the cyclonic storm. Power outage was reported in most of the localities since 11 pm on Saturday. Many housing colonies were waterlogged and residents could not step out of the dwellings for hours together.

Trump picks Indian origin Kash Patel as FBI director

UNI WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump has picked a former aide Kash Patel - the son of Indian immigrants - to lead the Federal Bureau of Investigation, media reports said on Sunday. A former US defence department chief of staff in the first Trump administration, Patel has been a steadfast supporter of the incoming Republican president, a BBC report said. He shares the president-elect's suspicion of government institutions. "Kash is a brilliant lawyer, investigator, and 'America First' fighter who has spent his career exposing corruption, defending justice, and protecting the American people," Trump posted on Truth Social, his social media platform, adding that Patel was "an advocate for truth, accountability, and the constitution". For Patel to take the job, the current FBI director Christopher Wray would need to resign or be fired - although Trump did not call on him to do so in his post. Separately, Trump said he plans to nominate Chad Chronister, sheriff of Florida's Hillsborough County, as head of the Drug Enforcement Agency.

PCB, BCCI agree on hybrid model for Champions trophy



AGENCY LAHORE, DEC 1

The cricket boards of Pakistan and India have agreed to play their future matches in ICC tournaments on a hybrid model, easing the way for next year's Champions Trophy to be held, media reports said on Sunday.

The two boards held dialogue on Saturday, a day after the International Cricket Council (ICC) convened a meeting on the issue, and came to a consensus on a hybrid model for the February 19 to March 9 Champions Trophy. The Indian government had earlier refused to allow its team to travel to Pakistan.

"The PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) has stressed that it will also like the same model to be applied for its team when tournaments are held on the other side of the border in the next three years," leading Pakistan news outlet Dawn said.

The final approval to the plan will

have to be given by the ICC Board to ensure it is implemented fully. The PCB had so long been sticking to its stance of not accepting the hybrid model after the Pakistan team went to India for last year's ODI World Cup.

However, now PCB has agreed on such a model, but also sounded the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) not to expect any "future favours" - the Pakistan team visiting India during ICC tournaments.

"The ICC has to give a solid guarantee that the hybrid model will be implemented in letter and spirit in future and no Pakistan team will go to India to play any matches of the ICC events and on the same pattern the Indian team will not come to Pakistan" a source in the PCB told Dawn.

The source added that the ICC had asked the two cricket boards to arrive at a decision based on mutual understanding, before its Board takes any decision. The

Jay Shah takes over as new ICC chairman

DUBAI: The BCCI's outgoing secretary Jay Shah on Sunday took charge as the chairman of the International Cricket Council, becoming the fifth Indian to head the global body. The 36-year-old Shah, who has been the BCCI secretary for the last five years, was the unanimous choice of ICC's Board of Directors and replaced New Zealand attorney Greg Barclay, who didn't wish to continue for a third consecutive term. Before Shah, businessman late Jagmohan Dalmiya, politician Sharad Pawar, lawyer Shashank Manohar and industrialist N Srinivasan had all headed the world cricket body.

ICC had convened a meeting online in Dubai on Friday but it was postponed for Saturday.

On Saturday it was again not held because the two cricket boards were in the discussion. "As there will be holidays in the UAE till Tuesday due to the country's national day, the meeting could be held at any time to announce the decision," the source informed.

India remains the most influential member of the ICC, earning a lion's share from the income of cricket's governing body, and the source added that Pakistan could ask for a greater share as the bulk of the earning comes from matches involving the two rivals.

FM to move Banking Laws Amendment Bill in LS today

AGENCY NEW DELHI, DEC 1

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to move the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the lower house of Parliament on Monday. As per the schedule issued by the secretariat, Sitharaman is expected to move the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, be taken into consideration and passing tomorrow in Lok Sabha.

Union Railways Minister Ashqini Vaishnav is also expected to move a bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, for consideration and passing, the schedule read.



Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbajit Choudhary is expected to introduce the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, in Lok Sabha on Monday. The Bill will seek to amend

the law relating to regulation of coastal shipping, promote coastal trade and encourage domestic participation therein, to ensure that India is equipped with a coastal fleet, owned and operated by the citizens of India for its national security and commercial needs, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Union Ministers S Jaishankar, Jayant Chaudhary and Pankaj Chaudhary will make statements on key matters. Jaishankar is likely to make a statement regarding "Recent Developments in India's Relations with China" while Jayant Chaudhary is expected to make a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 56th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour.

Eknath Shinde backs BJP Candidate for Maharashtra CM

AGENCY SATARA, DEC 1

Caretaker Chief Minister and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde reiterated his full, unconditional support to the chief ministerial candidate in Maharashtra, stating that the people have delivered a historic mandate in favour of the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance.

Shinde mentioned that he had retreated to his native village in Satara district to take a break following a hectic election schedule. He also confirmed that he had recovered from a fever and was in good health.

Speaking to reporters in Satara, Shinde

said, "I am feeling better now. I came here to rest after the busy election schedule. I didn't take any leave during my 2.5 years as Chief Minister. People are still visiting me here. This government will listen to the people. I have already given my unconditional support to the party leadership, and I will stand by their decision." Shinde, who travelled to his native village on Friday evening, also highlighted the unity among Mahayuti leaders, stating, "Our government's work over the past 2.5 years will be remembered in history. This is why the people gave us a historic mandate and denied the opposition even the chance to elect a Leader of the Opposition.

Pb CM reiterates commitment to make youth an active partner in socio-economic progress of state

BUREAU LUDHIANA, DEC 1:

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday said that the state government is making untiring efforts for making youth an active partners in socio-economic growth of the state.

The Chief Minister, while addressing the gathering during inter zonal youth festival at PAU, said that these youngsters possess inherent qualities to excel in every field and their capabilities must be utilized properly. He said that the students and youth are like planes and the state government will provide them a launchpad to go ahead in life. Bhagwant Singh Mann unequivocally said that he won't rest until the students of Punjab don't achieve their desired goals.

The Chief Minister asserted that every effort is being made to give wings to the ideas of youth and no stone is being left unturned for this noble cause. Bhagwant Singh Mann made a fervent appeal to youth to make all out efforts for carving an identity of their own to make a place in society adding that sky's the limit

for them. He urged the youth not to feel proud of their victory but to stay humble and work hard for more success. The Chief Minister said that it is a matter of great pride for him to be here as he is a



produce of such youth festivals. Recalling his college days, he said that the youth festivals act as a platform for grooming the overall personality of the youth. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that these youth festivals have helped him to excel in life as an artist and now as a politician. The Chief Minister said that the youth must use these platforms for their comprehensive growth and development.

RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL, DEC 1

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini while taking a jibe at the Opposition said that prior to 2014, regionalism and nepotism dominated the state's development. Over the past 10 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, the BJP government has eradicated these practices and focused on the welfare of all sections of society and the equitable development of all regions, he said.

The public has trusted our government's policies, and as a result, for the first time in Haryana's history, a party

has formed the government for the third consecutive time, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini while addressing the state-level programme organized on the occasion of Maharaja Shoor Saini Jayanti in Kaithal on Sunday.

The Chief Minister said that with the blessings of the people and such a massive mandate, our government has been given the opportunity to serve the people, and with their support, we will take Haryana forward on the path of rapid development. He said that fol-



lowing the Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas,' the state government will ensure the equitable welfare of all 36 communities.

The Chief Minister said that the opposition leaders are continuously raising questions about EVMs. He advised Congress leaders to look into their own actions to understand who is wrong. He said that Congress is merely spreading falsehoods and creating confusion among the

ED summons businessman Raj Kundra under PMLA in pornography case

AGENCY NEW DELHI, DEC 1

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) summoned businessman Raj Kundra to join investigation on Monday in a money laundering case linked to pornography against him, sources said on Sunday.

As per agency sources, Kundra has been asked to depose before the investigators at its zonal office in Mumbai at 11 am as part of the ongoing money laundering investigation.



alleged involvement in the creation and distribution of adult content through digital platforms.

Kejriwal rules out tie-up with Cong for Delhi polls



AGENCY NEW DELHI, DEC 1

AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday ruled out the possibility of an alliance between his party and the Congress for the Delhi Assembly polls due in February.

"There will be no alliance in Delhi," Kejriwal said at a press conference here.

AAP and Congress are part of the opposition INDIA bloc and fought the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi together earlier this year. Both parties drew a blank, with the BJP winning all seats.

Speaking on the arrest of his MLA Naresh Balyan, the former Delhi CM further defended Balyan saying that he was arrested because he was the victim of gangsters who

were demanding ransom from him.

"Yesterday, one of our MLAs was arrested. That MLA was also a victim of gangsters. He had made a written complaint to Delhi Police that he was getting calls from Kapil Sangwan. He had complained to Dhaliwal Sahib. The complaint said that on 23 May 2023, a call came from Nandu Gang after which he and his family were threatened," AAP National Convener Kejriwal said.

"For the last several days, I have been raising the issue of deteriorating law and order. The law and order situation has worsened in the last two to three years. I have been the CM of Delhi. Today people are in an atmosphere of terror.

Snowfall intensifies cold in Kashmir

UNI SRINAGAR, DEC 1

After snowfall on higher reaches the night temperature dropped significantly and triggered cold weather conditions across the Kashmir valley on Sunday, officials said.

The accumulation of snow has also shut the strategic Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road connecting Ladakh, Gurez-Bandipora and Sinthan roads temporarily, traffic officials said. They said the snow clearance operation is under way to make these roads traffic worthy.

The Meteorological Centre predicted the weather will remain partly

cloudy on Sunday with the possibility of light rain/light snow over the higher reaches and at the isolated places of Jammu and Kashmir.

It said a weak Western disturbance (WD) is likely to hit and can cause light rain and light snow over the higher reaches and at the scattered places towards late evening of December 2 to December 3 morning.

The weather will remain dry hereafter till December 7

On December 8 there is a possibility of another wet spell with the possibility of light rain and light snow over the higher reaches and at the isolated



places, the MeT office said and added the weather will remain dry till December 10. Kashmir valley continued to reel under the severe cold as the

day and night temperatures significantly dropped after yesterday's snowfall over the higher reaches with Konibal remained the coldest place at minus 3.5°C on Sunday.

Srinagar had a low of minus 1.3°C recorded during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday against the 1.0°C the previous night. This was 0.9°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season.

Srinagar's iconic Dal Lake and other parts were also engulfed with the fog disrupting normal activities.



KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI: A meeting of industrialists, commission agents, traders, dignitaries, and representatives of social and religious organizations was held at Taraori Grain Market to address concerns raised by a local commission agent regarding events organized in the market. Shiv Shakti Inter Globe Pvt. Ltd. CMD Ramesh Gupta criticized the objections as baseless, asserting that the grain market is a public space meant for all communities. He explained that events held in the market aim to bring prosperity to traders, commission agents, and the public, and such objections go against the spirit of inclusivity. Attendees included Naresh Bansal, president of the Taraori Rice Millers and Dealers Association; municipal chairman Virendra Bansal; commission agents' association president Sheeshpal Gupta.

Govt working to make Haryana Shikshit, Swasth, Surakshit and Swavalambi : CM

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL, DEC 1

Haryana Government under the leadership of Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday celebrated Maharaja Shoor Saini Jayanti with great grandeur in Kaithal district. The programme was part of the state government's plan of celebrating anniversaries of saints and great men under the Sant-Mahapurush Vichar Samman and Prasar Yojana. The scheme aims to propagate the teachings and messages of saints and great personalities to the masses. Paying tribute to Maharaja Shoor Saini, the Chief Minister said that the double-engine government has been consistently working for the development of all sections of society in the state, aiming to make Haryana 'Shikshit, Swasth, Surakshit aur Swavalambi' (Educated, Healthy, Safe, and Self-reliant) by following the path shown by the great leader. Also, while following the path shown by these great men and saints, the state government is continually taking steps for the welfare and upliftment of all sections with the



spirit of Haryana Ek-Haryanvi Ek, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini. The Chief Minister said that Maharaja Shoor Saini Ji was a very valiant and virtuous king. Everyone in his kingdom enjoyed equal rights. The region around Mathura was named Shoor Saini Pradesh after him. The history of the Saini community is ancient and glorious, he said. The Chief Minister said

that the state government has pledged to provide scholarships to students of Haryana belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Scheduled Castes (SC), who are pursuing medical and engineering education in any government college across India. To fulfill this commitment, a portal will be launched in the academic session 2025-26 to grant full scholarships to all SC and OBC students. Through this portal, these students can register themselves if they are studying in any government medical or engineering college in the country, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini. He said that the government has also given 27 percent reservation to backward classes in educational institutions and jobs. Furthermore, children of families with an annual income of up to Rs. 3 lakhs are eligible for loans up to Rs. 15 lakhs for pursuing education in India and Rs. 20 lakhs for studies abroad at an annual interest rate of 4 percent. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that under the leadership of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, the government is progressing with the spirit of 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas-Sabka Vishwas-Sabka Prayas.'

Rajput Sabha's good initiative to present pen not sword: Rana

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, DECEMBER 1

Karnal Rajput Sabha organised a felicitation ceremony for Haryana Government's Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana, Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana and Union Cabinet Minister Manohar Lal's representative Kavinder Rana in which they were presented with a turban, shawl and pen. Karnal Rajput Sabha's head Dr. Narendra Pratap Singh presided over the programme and the stage was conducted by General Secretary Advocate Brijpal Rana. Haryana Government's Chairman Amarpal Rana, Zila Parishad President representative Sohan Singh Rana, who were present on the stage, were also honoured by presenting a turban, shawl and a pen instead of a sword, a symbol of respect. In Rajput Sabha's programme, the guest was often honoured by presenting a sword, but this time Karnal Rajput Sabha has started a new tradition by presenting a pen to the guests. All the guests were also welcomed by the enlightened people of Rajput society by giving them flower garlands and bouquets. Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana assured Rajput Sabha of Rs 5 lakh from his voluntary fund, Chairman Amarpal Rana of Rs 1 lakh and MLA Yogendra Rana of releasing the pending money from MP quota soon for the development work going on in Maharana Pratap Bhawan and said that he will not back down from the responsibility that the society

will put on him and Chairman Sohan Singh Rana said that work is going on in Maharana Pratap Bhawan in many villages with the grant of Zila Parishad. Prithviraj Chauhan Bhawan is being built in Baragaon and he will always be ready for whatever responsibility the society will assign to him. Kavinder Rana said that he has had talks with Karnal MP and Union Cabinet Minister Manohar Lal regarding Rajput Sabha. He has a posi-

Cabinet Minister Shyam Singh Rana. Cabinet Minister Shyam Singh Rana, while talking to the media, said that the Haryana government is giving jobs without any slip expenses, for which the youth need to study and write. Seeing this need, Rajput Sabha has taken a good initiative today in which they have given me a pen instead of a sword, this will send a good message in the society. He said that the aware people of the country formed the gov-



tive attitude in this regard, whatever responsibility an MP has, he will fulfill it well. Rajput society players Samrat Rana and Ansh Rana were also honoured. In the programme, the head of Rajput Sabha, Dr. Narendra Pratap Singh presented the outline of the development work going on in Maharana Pratap Bhawan to the people of the society. He told what have been the achievements of Rajput Sabha during this year and what are their plans for the future. Regarding this, he also submitted a demand letter to

ernment for the third time under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government was formed for the third time in Haryana under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. This government believes in maintaining peace and getting development work done. MLA from Assandh Yogendra Rana said that his victory is the victory of the entire society. Which will work for the development of all sections. He asked all the people to pay attention to the education of their children.

Senior Officers Forum meeting held under Luthra



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, DECEMBER 1

The meeting of the Senior Officer Forum, an organisation of first class retired officers, was held under the chairmanship of LR Luthra. It was conducted by OP Anand. The club members sang songs. A cake was cut celebrating the wedding anniversary of ML Sharma. In the meeting, RS Gupta expressed his inability to take up the re-

sponsibility of the post of treasurer due to personal reasons. All the members including LR Luthra praised his services and welcomed him by presenting a memento. Vinod Kalra was unanimously appointed as the treasurer. It was decided in the meeting that the Senior Officer Forum will gift warm clothes to the needy people in the winter season. A campaign will be launched to create awareness about the ill effects of polythene.

Training programme organised to deal with cyber crime

MANISH KUMAR
AMBALA, DECEMBER 1

Cases of cyber crime are increasing day by day. Cyber criminals use new methods every day to make someone a victim of cyber fraud and swindle their life savings in a moment. To crack down on cyber criminals, as per the instructions of Honorable Inspector General of Police Ambala Division Shibas Kaviraj and under the leadership of Superintendent of Police Ambala Surendra Singh Bhorla, a two-day cyber training program was organized at Mulla University to enhance technical expertise and deal with the challenges posed by cyber crime.

Giving information, Inspector General of Police Ambala Division said that cyber criminals are adopting new methods every day to cheat people. To get rid of the new challenges, special cyber training has been given to the police personnel so that in the coming time they can attack the tricks



of cyber fraudsters and keep people safe from cyber criminals. He appealed to the general public to not fall into any kind of trap. Vigilance is the biggest protection

against cyber crime. Be alert and make people around you aware too. He said in case of any kind of cyber fraud, immediately call the helpline number 1930.

Our Kitchen Our Responsibility' event organised at Gymkhana Club

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, DECEMBER 1

Oil marketing companies successfully organised a culinary competition under the theme "Our Kitchen Our Responsibility" at Gymkhana Club today. The event aimed to raise awareness about safety in LPG handling and cooking while celebrating culinary skills. Enthusiastic participation was seen in the competition, with 11 participants showcasing their culinary talent while following safe LPG handling practices. A panel of judges including Dr. Saroj Bala Deputy CMO Kamal, Sudhakar Giri Divisional LPG Head, Ankit Mangala District Nodal Officer Kamal, Chef Vinay evaluated the participants on parameters like LPG safety, quality of dish, presentation and hygiene. Parul Gupta stood first place, Jyoti Philip second place and Shama Rani third. LG Head Sudhakar Giri said that under basic safety, you should change your pipe and keeping safety in mind, sleep by closing the regulator at night. Meena Chauhan, Director of Nigduhu Indane Gas, said that this programme has left a lasting impact on the participants and audience about the importance of responsible LPG use in everyday cooking. The organisers of the programme thanked all the participants, judges and all the distributors of Karnal present for making the program a success and contributing to the mission of the campaign to promote safety and awareness.



Anti Narcotics Cell team arrests accused with 18 grams of heroin

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, DEC 1

Giving information, the police spokesperson said that the district police is continuously taking strict action against drug smugglers and their smugglers. Working in this series, the team of Anti Narcotics Cell has succeeded in arresting an accused with 18 grams of heroin. A bike rider coming from Uttar Pradesh to Haryana to sell a consignment of drugs has been arrested by the Anti Narcotics Cell team from Kanalsi turn. 18 grams of heroin has been recovered from the accused. A case has been registered against the accused and he was produced in the court and sent to judicial custody.

In-charge Jaswinder Singh Lalar said that a youth will come to Haryana from



Kanalsi turn carrying drugs from Uttar Pradesh on a bike. On the basis of secret information, a team of Sub Inspector Satish Kumar Rajkumar,

ASI Jaipal Maratha Lalit Kuldeep Saini was formed. The team went to the spot and started checking the vehicles by blocking the road.

BJP aims to enroll over one lakh members in Nilokheri Constituency: MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi

KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI: A meeting to review the BJP's membership drive was held at Punjabi Dhamshala under the leadership of Nilokheri constituency

MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi. The gathering witnessed the participation of presidents of the constituency's four divisions, executive members, sarpanches, former sarpanches, zila parishad members, and municipal councilors. Senior BJP leader Shivnath Kapoor presided over the meeting. MLA Kabirpanthi received a grand welcome, with workers and sarpanches honoring him with floral garlands. Addressing the membership

campaign, Kabirpanthi emphasized treating the initiative as a grand organizational festival. He highlighted the four methods for enrolling members: online registration, the

Kabirpanthi urged workers to go door-to-door, spreading awareness about the BJP's ideology and the achievements of the double-engine government at the center and in the

person at the last rung of society, adhering to the principles of Dr. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

The MLA set a target to enroll one lakh members from the Nilokheri constituency and encouraged workers to put in their maximum effort to achieve this milestone. Any citizen above 18 years of age who adheres to the BJP's principles can become a member.

Prominent attendees at the meeting included Shivnath Kapoor, Balbir Maratha, Jaibhagwan Sikri, Praveen Gupta, Balwan Fauji, Satnam Ahuja, Rajbir Sharma, Devendra Kamra, and Omprakash Malhotra.



NaMo app, QR codes, and manual forms.

state. He stated that the party's primary goal is to uplift the

Closing ceremony of Sports Carnival at SD Public School

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, DEC 1

The closing ceremony of the two-day sports carnival was celebrated at SD Public School, Jagadhari. To enhance the beauty of this festival, SD. The head of the School Managing Committee, Arun Kumar Mittal was present as the chief guest. School's representative student Daksh and student Vanishika and the representatives of all the houses, along with the students of their respective houses, marched past and saluted the chief guest and the students sang a welcome song to welcome him. Thereafter, the chief guest gave permission to start the sports carnival program, released balloons in the open sky and hoisted the school flag. School's sports representatives Nikunj and Tanvi took a round of the ground with the torch and



placed the torch at a height and inspired to rise high. Before starting various games, the secretary of the school managing committee, Manoj Kumar Gupta, welcomed the chief guest and other guests. Saraswati Vandana was presented by the students to receive the blessings of Goddess Saraswati. Thereafter, the Principal of the school, Usha Sharma, introduced the chief guest and other dignitaries to the achievements of the school.

After this, various sports competitions were held for the students of classes VI to XII. The major ones were 100 meter race, 200 meter race, hurdle race, relay race, monkey race, ball balancing race, octopus race, chati race, three leg race etc. Gandhi House performed best in all these competitions and won the championship with 426 points. Shivaji remained in second place with 398 points and Tagore House secured the third place with 371

points. Nikunj among boys and Tanvi among girls were declared the best players. During this, 100 meter race, tug of war and three leg race were also conducted for the parents. In the parents' race, Param Gupta ji came first, Shri Chaman Lal ji came second and Kamal Gogiyan ji came third. Tug of war was also the main attraction. The enthusiasm of the parents was worth seeing. On this occasion, the students of the school demonstrated yoga while telling the secret of staying healthy. The audience was entertained by presenting Rajasthani dance, Haryanvi dance, Arunachal dance, patriotic dance under various cultural programs. A presentation called "Aakhir Kyun" was shown to present the condition of women from the Mahabharata period to the modern period. Which shook all the audience.



Selfie point at Municipal Park commendable initiative: Sandhawan



SURINDER DAMDAMI KOTKAPURA: Good Morning Welfare Club, an organization striving to maintain and enhance the beauty of Lala Lalpat Rai Municipal Park Kotkapura, has done a great and wonderful initiative by creating a selfie point with 'I Love Kotkapura'. Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kuldar Singh Sandhawan expressed these words on the occasion of inaugurating 'Selfie Point' at Municipal Park. On this occasion, Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhawan took a selfie and also admired the wonderful plants and unique grass around the point. He appreciated the efforts of club patron Gurinder Singh Mahindratra, president Dr. Manjit Singh Dhillon and chairman Pappu Loharia. Dr. Manjit Singh Dhillon said that the Good Morning Club has been making every effort to maintain and enhance the beauty of the park for the past two years. He said that this kind of selfie point is the first of its kind in Kotkapura city.

Aman Arora pays obeisance at Shri Devi Talab Mandir, seeks blessings of Maa Bhagwati



PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR: Punjab New and Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora on Saturday visited Shri Devi Talab Mandir in Jalandhar to seek blessings from Maa Bhagwati. The Minister also paid obeisance at Maa Tirmumalini Mandir situated in the Shri Devi Talab Mandir complex. He mentioned that visiting this sacred place always fills him with peace and joy. The Minister added that he felt fortunate to offer his prayers and emphasized the spiritual significance of the temple for millions of devotees. He mentioned that famous as Sidh Shaktipeeth, this temple as been a centre of devotion for million of devotees across the country. Upon his arrival, the temple's Management Committee extended a warm welcome to Mr. Arora and presented him with Maa ki Chunari as a token of reverence. Prominent amongst others present on the occasion included Senior AAP Leader Rajwinder Kaur Thiera, Deepak Bal, Dinesh Dhall, and Pawan Kumar Teenu.

Guru Kashi University honoured with 'Asian Leadership' Award



ANANTDEEP KAUR BATHINDA: Working in the field of educational outreach and research since long, the Guru Kashi University (GKU) was honoured with the 'Asian African Leadership' Award by the Asian-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry at a high level diplomatic meet held in New Delhi. This prestigious award was received by the Chancellor of the University, S. Gurbabh Singh Sidhu. Expressing his elation on this distinguished achievement; Mr. Sidhu said that since its establishment, the university has been making every possible effort to spread the light of education and knowledge to remove the darkness of illiteracy from the society. Apart from implementing the new Education Policy-2020, GKU is also committed to overall development and prosperity of the nation and society by encouraging not only the innovations in every department of education coupled with the stellar performances of the students of this university in the field of sports & other co-curricular activities, which was acknowledged by the University Grants Commission which conferred the status of Category-1 and NAC A++ on this university, said Chancellor Sidhu.

Air services to start from Amritsar and Chandigarh for Sri Hazur Sahib Nanded soon



AMRIK SINGH AMRITSAR: Takht Sachkhand Sri Hajur Abichalnagar Sahib, Nanded, on November 30 and December 1, 2024, two days of special Gurmati events dedicated to the Holy Martyrdom of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib were held. Honorable Jathedar Singh Sahib of Takht Sachkhand Sahib, Sant Baba Kulwant Singh Ji, under the patronage of Samunh Panj Pyare Sahibs and Dr. Vijay Satbir Singh Ji chief organizer, with the support of Mr. Jaswant Singh Bobby, Punjabi Promotion Council Delhi in the special Gurmati events held at Takht Sahib and Sri Guru Granth Sahib Bhavan, panth famous ragi jatha Bhai Devinder Singh Ji Khanwalee, Raghi Bhai Gursaran Singh Ji The people of Ludhiana listened to the kirtans of divine verses. Ardas Singh Sahib Bhai Ram Singh Ji Dhupia offered the prayer for the commencement of Gurmat events, after which Bhai Kishore Singh Ji Hajuri Ragi sang the words of the 9th Patishahi.

AAP launches scathing attack on BJP over Shaheed Bhagat Singh's statue

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, DEC 1

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the issue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh's statue at Chandigarh Airport. AAP MP Malvinder Singh Kang said that the BJP wanted to name Chandigarh Airport after their Haryana leader Mangal Singh, but thanks to the efforts of the Mann government, the airport was named after Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh. Kang questioned BJP leaders, saying, "After so many years, BJP is now raising the issue of Bhagat Singh's statue. I want to ask them why they opposed naming the airport after Shaheed Bhagat Singh during their 10 years in power with the Akali Dal?" He added that after coming to power, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann initiated the process of naming Mohali Airport after Shaheed Bhagat Singh and also installed his statue there. The Chief Minister is set to inaugurate the statue very soon. Kang ac-



cused the BJP of making an unnecessary issue out of it, stating that petty politics over the names of martyrs is inappropriate. Highlighting the RSS's historical opposition to Bhagat Singh, Kang said, "Today, BJP seems concerned about Bhagat Singh. However, the truth is that their people testified against him back then. It is shocking that BJP leaders are now invoking

Bhagat Singh's name! The fact is, they have harbored hatred against Bhagat Singh's name from the beginning." Kang further stated that BJP is trying to mislead the people of Punjab by using Bhagat Singh's name, but the people of Punjab are well aware of BJP's anti-Punjab stance. "These theatrics will no longer impact the people of Punjab. The BJP has been

Party condemns atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh, seeks Centre's intervention

CHANDIGARH: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) expresses grave concern over the alarming reports of atrocities against Hindu minorities in Bangladesh, including the arrests of Hindu priests. Punjab President and senior AAP leader Aman Arora stated that such acts of repression against any community are deeply distressing and unacceptable in any part of the world. "It is heart-wrenching to learn about the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh through media sources. Violence against any community undermines the principles of harmony and mutual respect. Every nation has a duty to protect its minorities and uphold the spirit of coexistence," said Aman Arora.

completely exposed. The people will never trust the BJP again," he concluded.

Punjab registered 62.93 pc hike in met GST in November: Cheema

CHANDIGARH, DEC 1

Punjab Finance, Planning, Excise and Taxation Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema announced on Sunday that the state has witnessed an impressive growth rate of 62.93 percent in net GST collection during November 2024 compared to November 2023. Additionally, the total net GST collection up to November this financial year reflects an increase of 10.30 percent compared to the same period of the financial year 2023-24.

Disclosing this in a press communique, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema revealed that the net GST collection for November this year amounted to Rs 2,477.37 crore, up from Rs 1,520.55 crore in November 2023, marking an increase of Rs 956.82 crore.

He further said that the total net GST collection up to November in this financial year is Rs 15,392.79 crore, compared to Rs 13,955.38 crore during the same period of FY 2023-24, reflecting an increase of Rs 1,437.41 crore.

Elaborating further, Minister Cheema highlighted that the total net collection from VAT, CST, GST, PSDT, and Excise in November this year is Rs 4,004.96 crore, while it



He further said that the total net GST collection up to November in this financial year is Rs 15,392.79 crore, compared to Rs 13,955.38 crore during the same period of FY 2023-24, reflecting an increase of Rs 1,437.41 crore.

was Rs 3,026.86 crore in November 2023. The net collection up to November has increased by Rs 2,509.09 crore, with the total amounting to Rs 27,481.57 crore in FY 2024-25, compared to Rs 24,972.48 crore in FY 2023-24. Minister Cheema also announced a significant increase in Excise revenue, with a 6.42 percent growth in November 2024 and an impressive 13.17 percent increase up to the month of November. The total Excise collection for November this year is Rs 795.37 crore, compared to Rs 747.37 crore in No-

vember 2023. The state has earned Rs 783.63 crore more in this financial year, with total Excise revenue up to November amounting to Rs 6,733.47 crore, compared to Rs 5,949.84 crore during the same period of FY 2023-24. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema credited the growth in GST and Excise collections to the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government's efforts to improve tax compliance and enforcement.

27th annual convocation celebrated in SLIET



RAVI GARG
LONGOWAL, DEC 1

A renowned institute in the field of engineering Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology, Longowal in which 33 PhDs, 70 post graduate degrees and 597 B.E degrees of engineering, sciences and humanities as well as Gold & Silver medals were awarded to students.

The chief guest of the occasion was Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Director, IIT, ROPAR, Guest of honour was Prof. Manish Gaur, Director, IIIT, Una(Himachal Pradesh), Dr. K. Radhekrishnan, chairman, board of management, SLI-

ET presided over the convocation. Prof. Rajeev Ahuja encouraged the students to embrace the moments of doubt, setbacks and failure in the future as every challenge is an opportunity for growth and ended up his speech by motivating the scholars by saying that let your journey inspire others, just as the legacy of SLIET will continue to inspire generations to come. Prof. Manish Gaur congratulated the students for the new phase and wished the students to deal sincerely with the coming challenges and never stop the process of continuous learning.

Government extends support to women sarpanches in state: ETO

AMRIK SINGH
AMRITSAR, DEC 1

Cabinet Minister S. Harbhajan Singh ETO invited women sarpanches from across the state to work collaboratively with the government, ensuring transparency in development works. He emphasized that the government will provide unwavering support to women sarpanches in their endeavors.

ETO praised the people of Punjab for electing 53% women sarpanches, making them the leader of their respective villages. He encouraged women sarpanches to take charge of their villages, working in tandem with the panchayat and the people.

The state government has pledged to provide full support to sarpanches for their good work. Minister also appealed to women sarpanches



to join forces in eradicating the scourge of drugs from Punjab, envisioning a drug-free state in the near future.

Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar, Mrs. Sakshi Sahni, assured women sarpanches of full respect in government offices and pledged to issue instructions to facilitate their

work. She emphasized the importance of collaboration between women sarpanches and the panchayat department. This initiative demonstrates the government's commitment to empowering women sarpanches and promoting their active participation in grassroots governance.

Goyal inaugurates pipeline project of Rs 1.54 cr in Mansa



NARESH GOYAL
MANSA, DEC 1

Punjab cabinet minister for soil and water conservation, Barinder Kumar Goyal inaugurated the project of laying pipeline for irrigation in village Kishangarh of district Mansa.

The project, estimated to be completed with a sum of rupee 1.54 crore would facilitate irrigating 2200 acres land. Talking to newsmen after inaugurating the project, Goyal arrested that with this project, the underground wa-

ter would be saved and it would save power consumption as well. "by using canal water for irrigation, we will be able to make our land more fertile and consequently the enhancement in production of agriculture output" stated the cabinet minister.

It is pertinent to add here that as the water distributories in the area were constructed long time back, hence they had become almost useless and a new system of water distribution to irrigate fields was badly required

Govt wants to hand over country's invaluable wealth to imperialist corporate world: Shamsher Sheri

GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA
LEHRAGAGA, DEC 1

Today, the Lok Sangram Morcha Punjab organized a memorial ceremony at the Shaheed Memorial of Comrade Shamsher Singh Sheri, a deceased Politburo member of the CPI (Maoist), in village Khokhar.

The event was attended by leaders and workers of various organizations, as well as prominent individuals from society. Speakers at the event strongly condemned the fascist character of the Indian government and its attempts to suppress the revolutionary movement. They pointed out that the government is trying to hand over the country's wealth to corporate forces, while the Maoists are a major obstacle in this path. The speakers emphasized that the



current parliamentary elections are a mere formality, and that the ruling classes will continue to exploit and oppress the people regardless of who wins. They called for a boycott of the elections and urged people to intensify their struggles against the fascist government. The speakers also highlighted the need for a revolutionary transformation of society, in which the people will have real power.

31 arrested under anti narcotics campaign: SSP

SUMER GARG
SANGRUR, DEC 1

The SSP Sangrur, Sartaj Singh Chahal while giving information to the press said that during the campaign launched by District Police Sangrur against drugs and anti-social elements, 22 alleged accused were arrested by registering 18 drug cases from 01.11.24 to 30.11.24 and 1397 grams of heroin, 2 Kg Opium, 82 Kg Poppy husk, 1 Kg Ganja, 6600 narcotic tablets and drug money of Rs. 4,15,000 were recovered from them.

He further said that by registering 11 cases against the liquor dealers, 9 alleged culprits were arrested and 126 liters of imported liquor, 38,750 liters of illegal liquor and 450 liters of country made illegal liquor



were confiscated. Apart from this, 4 alleged culprits involved in the betting business have been arrested and 4 cases have been registered and Rs.56,400 have been recovered from them.

SSP Sartaj Singh Chahal while urging to the citizens to cooperate in the anti-drug campaign said that the general public is being made aware of the ill effects of drugs by holding meetings with Panchayats, sports clubs and important men and various gazetted officers are making the youth aware of the ill effects of drugs by holding meetings with the general public in 115 villages and towns.

The police were encouraged to give notices to the smugglers dealing in narcotics, so that the bad evil of drugs can be eradicated from the roots. He said that while taking action against drug dealers and bad elements, concrete efforts are being made to prevent drugs and the war against drugs is continuing.

Mann govt fulfilled its promise by giving golden opportunity to register plots in unauthorized colonies without obtaining NOC: Raman Bahl

VERMA
GURDASPUR, DEC 1

Punjab Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab government has given a golden opportunity to register plots in unauthorized colonies without obtaining NOC. Welcoming this decision of the Punjab government, Punjab Health Systems Corporation Chairman Mr. Raman Bahl said that this will give great relief to the people.

Chairman Mr. Raman Bahl said that the Punjab government has amended the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act 1955, giving great relief to the people buying plots in unauthorized colonies, through which they have been given the opportu-

nity to register their plots without obtaining NOC. Mr. Bahl said that if a person has already registered a power of attorney, agreement on stamp paper or sale deed to purchase a plot up to 500 square yards in an unauthorized colony by 31st July 2024, then he can get his plot registered with the Tehsildar or Naib Tehsildar without taking NOC. He said that the time limit for registering the plot has been fixed from 1st December 2024 to 28th February 2025. Chairman Mr. Raman Bahl said that the Aam Aadmi Party's state government has fulfilled the promise made to the general public to register the plots falling in unauthorized colonies without obtaining NOC.



Annual function of GSS School Ajnoha concludes with sweet memories

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, DEC 1

The 12th Annual Prize Distribution Function of Government Senior Secondary School Ajnoha was celebrated with great enthusiasm under the leadership of Madam Sunita Rani, President of School Management Committee and School Principal Harmanoj Kumar.

On this Occasion Dr. Parminder Sood of SGR Hospital Mannahana attended the function as the chief guest. Eminent people of Ajnoha village and the area were present in this program. In the program, the students entertained the people present in the confluence by presenting cultural songs, choreography, patriotic songs, dance, gidda, bhangra, drama and other activities in a very impressive manner. In this program, Principal Guram Dass, Principal Inderjit Singh,



Harvinder Singh Khalsa, Principal Ashok Parmar, Headmaster Nirmal Singh Parmar, Harbhajan Singh, former Block Committee member Jaswinder Kaur, Manjit Kaur shared their views about education and moral values with the students and motivated them to work hard and bring glory to their parents, village and school. On this occasion, the school Principal told about the annual achievements of the students and the chief guest felicitated the students of class 6th to 12th by giving them mementoes for securing first position. On this

occasion, the chief guest, school management committee and school staff felicitated the newly elected Panchayat Ajnoha and Thandal and by giving them mementoes. Narinder Ajnoha conducted the program very well. On this occasion Sarpanch Rajwinder Kaur, Sarpanch Meena Kumari, Mamta Rani former Sarpanch, Gurmeet Singh, Satnam Singh, Gurdarshan Singh, Manjit Singh, Rajinder Singh, retired DSP Ajit Singh Virdi, Gurdeep Kaur, Rashpal Singh, Amarjit Singh, Master Mohan Singh, Sukhchain Singh etc.

Sant Baba Lakha of Nanaksar Kaleran Sect refutes allegations against him

SUKH NAHAR
JAGRAON, DEC 1

Renowned Saint of the Nanaksar Kaleran sect, Baba Lakha Singh has firmly denied the allegations charges made by a woman in a meeting with Bhai Amritpal Singh Mehron in a strong response.

He stated that he remains steadfast in his commitment to truth and the service of humanity, emphasizing that he has never engaged in any wrongdoings that would harm or deceive anyone. "I am 69 years old now and dedicated the last 50 years of my life to serving the Sikh community and humanity at large and have earned the trust of millions of followers not only in India but across the world," he added. He questioned why such serious accusations were being raised now, after 30 years of devoted service, and why no one had



ever voiced such complaints during his long career. Baba Lakha stated that the continuous attempts to defame him have failed over the years. He indicated that these new accusations are seen as part of a wider conspiracy against him, which has been ongoing for a long time. Sant Baba Lakhha Singh expressed his frustration that despite his lifetime dedication to Sikhism and humanity, he continues to be targeted and criticized.

Foundation laid for enterance gate of Historic Shri Brijraj Swami Temple



SANJEEV MAHAJAN NURPUR: The foundation stone for the main entrance gate of the historic and world-renowned Shri Brijraj Swami Temple in Nurpur was ceremonially laid on the Pathankot-Mandi Highway. The event was marked by traditional rituals performed by Temple Committee President Devendra Sharma, local resident Gulshan Mahajan, and Nurpur Municipal Council President Ashok Sharma. This 16th-century temple, built by Raja Jagat Singh, is unique globally as it is the only temple where Lord Krishna and Meera Bai have been worshipped together for centuries. Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Sharma stated that the people of Nurpur had long demanded a grand entrance gate for the temple along the national highway. He expressed satisfaction that the long-awaited project had finally begun, emphasizing that the gate would make it easier for pilgrims from outside to locate and access the temple. Devendra Sharma, Temple Committee President, explained that the lack of a prominent entrance often confused visiting devotees about the temple's location. He said the committee, along with local collaborators, had worked tirelessly to fulfill this demand, and the gate would soon stand as a welcoming landmark for devotees. Local resident Atul Sharma commended the temple committee for initiating this significant project. He remarked that Shri Brijraj Swami Temple is a center of devotion for people across the country and lauded the effort as a step toward enhancing the temple's accessibility and appeal. He added that this initiative, though overdue, reflected the collective faith and commitment of the community. The construction of the entrance gate is seen as a milestone in preserving and promoting the spiritual heritage of the historic temple.

Two stone crushers sealed in Nalagarh for non-compliance with regulations

SHANTI GAUTAM BADDI: The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) conducted a rigorous inspection of stone crushers in Nalagarh on Saturday, sealing two units for failing to comply with regulations. The operation, led by SPCB Member Secretary Anil Joshi, uncovered several shortcomings in compliance, prompting immediate action against the defaulting crushers. This inspection, which created a stir among crusher operators, was carried out under strict police security. The team, including Chief Environmental Engineer Praveen Gupta, Junior Engineer Roop Lal, and other officials, inspected 13 stone crushers in the area. The board's officials refrained from commenting publicly about the operation, as the findings are set to be submitted to the Himachal Pradesh High Court. The High Court had recently directed the SPCB to investigate irregularities in Nalagarh's stone crushing units.

Sukhu government violated people's rights in two years: Vishav Chakshu

SANAJY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA: State BJP media co-incharge and advocate Vishav Chakshu has strongly attacked the Congress government on completion of two years and called it the most unsuccessful tenure in history. He said that Sukhu government is organizing a function in Bilaspur on completion of its two years, but this function seems to be completely opposite to the real situation of the state. In which the government is going to sing false praises to hide its failures. He said that during the elections, Congress had claimed to take the development of the state to new heights after coming to power, but in two years, only debt has increased and people's rights have been violated. Sukhu government's guarantees have been shattered. People have lost their faith in the Congress government. Chakshu said that to grab power, Congress had promised to give 300 units of free electricity to the people of the state, unfortunately this guarantee has stopped the 125 units of free electricity being given by the previous government. The arrival of water bills has also put the villagers under financial pressure. Sukhu government's guarantee of giving Rs 1500 per month to women remained confined to papers. The women of the state, who had high hopes from this promise, are feeling cheated today.



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CM releases grading of libraries in govt degree colleges of state

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, DEC 1

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu chaired the Principal's Conference organized by the Department of Higher Education at Peterhoff, Shimla, on Saturday evening. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted that Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India to introduce ranking systems for educational institutions. This initiative would ensure self-assessment and auditing of institutions which allow them to identify their strengths and weaknesses. He said that the institutions with higher rankings would be rewarded with performance-based



grants. The Chief Minister also released the grading of libraries in government degree colleges and Sanskrit colleges. He emphasized that the state government was committed to bringing positive changes across all government sectors with the

aim of systemic transformation. A new numerical-based online system for recording Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) would soon be implemented, replacing the existing format, which is expected to yield numerous positive outcomes.

He said that the state government was planning to enhance the financial and administrative powers of college principals and promote decentralization within the education department. This approach would ensure good

Una to launch 100-day campaign for TB eradication from December 7

KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA, DEC 1

Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal announced a 100-day special campaign to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) in Una district starting December 7, 2024. The campaign aims to ensure early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of TB cases while raising awareness about the disease among the community. Speaking after a meeting of the District TB Elimination Committee at the CMO auditorium on Saturday, Lal shared that the initiative would involve ASHA workers conducting door-to-door visits to identify TB symptoms. Immediate arrangements will be made for testing and treatment if symptoms are detected. He urged active participation from panchayat



representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industrial establishments, and the general public to make the campaign a success.

Lal emphasized the importance of public engagement in spreading awareness about TB symptoms and the significance of early diagnosis. The campaign seeks to educate communities, dispel myths about TB, and normalize open discussions about the disease.

Efforts will also target reducing stigma and encouraging vulnerable populations to undergo TB screening and timely treatment. The initiative will focus on ensuring proper care and nutrition for patients while promoting TB prevention through practices such as cough etiquette, proper ventilation, preventive treatment, and healthy habits. As part of the campaign, various awareness activities, including Nikshay Camps, will be held across the district.

Work is being done under a detailed action plan: RS Bali

SANAJY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA, DEC 1

Cabinet rank RS Bali, Chairman of Tourism Corporation, said that works are being done under a detailed action plan to bring quality in the field of education and health so that better facilities can be ensured to the people. As the chief guest in the second cultural evening of the Conxus 2024 program at Tanda Medical College late Saturday night, Tourism Corporation Chairman RS Bali said that the state government is committed to providing excellent health services to the general public near their homes. For this, one health institution in each assembly constituency is being upgraded and developed as an



ideal health institution, in which one crore rupees have been made available for the arrangement of machinery and equipment. He said that emergency medicine departments are being created by upgrading the casualty department in all the colleges. In view of the increasing number of cancer patients, State Cancer Institutes are being established in the state

with state of the art facilities to provide them modern facilities. During his address, remembering Vikas Purush late GS Bali, he said that Medical College Tanda was the idea of Vikas Purush due to which this medical college became the leading medical college of the state and today thousands of people come here from far away places to get their treatment.

Meeting of Himachal Pradesh School Lecturers' Association, Una District held

JOGINDER DEV ARYA BANGANA: The Himachal Pradesh School Lecturers' Association (HPSLA) held a district-level meeting in Una under the chairmanship of District President Davinder Kumar Beli. The gathering focused on discussing various educational issues and devising future strategies. During the meeting, the members raised concerns

about improving the education system, expanding basic facilities in schools, and advocating for teachers' rights. Attendees included key office bearers and members of the association who shared their insights and suggestions. Addressing the meeting, Davinder Kumar Beli emphasized that the association is committed to protecting teachers' rights and will continue to fight for them.

Toy train installation starts at Palampur

AGENCY PALAMPUR, DEC 1

Installation of a toy train has commenced at Saurabh Van Vihar in this picturesque hill town of Himachal Pradesh, in a bid to promote tourism through a Rs 1 crore project.

After inspecting the toy train being installed, former state Chief Minister Shanta Kumar said on Saturday there was never any difficulty in implementing this project due to political goodwill.

He said the artificial lake and boating facility in Saurabh Van Vihar and the rock garden depicting the scene of the 1999 Kargil war with Pakistan already draw a good number of tourists. Now the installation of toy train will further increase its attraction.

He said while travelling in the toy train the tourists will be able to admire the



beauty of the Dhauladhar, while the marvellous pine and deodar trees will also showcase the scenery around the artificial lake.

A state forest official said the proect, being made on a BOT basis, will be operational by March 2025. He said 36 passengers will be able to travel together in this three-coach train which will cover a distance of about 850 meters.

On this occasion, Dr. NK Kalia, father of Kargil martyr Saurabh Kalia, expressed his happiness and gave the credit of this entire project to Shanta Kumar.

CM gives 3-G Formula to combat HIV

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, DEC 1

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presided over the 37th World AIDS Day programme organized in Shimla today, observed under the theme "Take the Right Path." During the event, the Chief Minister launched the 'Car Bin' initiative to promote HIV awareness and cleanliness. In the first phase, 4,000 taxis would be equipped with these bins free of charge, with plans to cover all 30,000 taxis in the state in a phased manner.

The Chief Minister said that the state has taken significant steps in the past two years to address HIV and improve overall healthcare. He said that targeted individuals were being provided with equal access to awareness, testing and



medication. In 2024 alone, 8 lakh people were made aware of HIV and from January 2023 to October 2024, 234 testing camps were organized, with a record 5,92,902 individuals tested for HIV. He said that the state currently has 55 testing and counselling centers along with two mobile testing vehicles offering free HIV testing services.

The Chief Minister gave the "3-G Formula" for HIV prevention, "Get Aware, Get Tested and Get Victory over HIV". He urged the youth to

adopt this principle and contribute in raising awareness. Sh. Sukhu said "Young people must be made aware of HIV so that they could encourage others in their communities to voluntarily undergo for HIV testing. He calls to ensure greater youth participation in initiatives such as the Red Ribbon Clubs." He also assured that HIV-positive individuals would be provided free treatment and medications through Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) centers immediately after

detection. Presently 5,897 individuals in the state are availing free treatment and medication facilities. He expressed concern over the link between substance abuse, syringe use and the spread of HIV. "The rising issues of drug use among the youth and substance abuse through syringes deeply concern us, which leads a serious impact on the future of our coming generations," he added. Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that HIV was not just a health challenge but also a socio-economic issue. He called for a united effort from all departments, institutions, educational bodies, representatives and community members to end discrimination and create widespread awareness. "Together, we will defeat HIV and gift our youth an HIV-free Himachal," he added.

'Eat Right Fair' in Una promotes nutritious food, local economy, and public health

KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA, DEC 1

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri emphasized the importance of encouraging self-help groups, rural products, and traditional nutritious dishes during his visit to the "Eat Right Fair" in Una. Speaking as the chief guest, he highlighted that such initiatives benefit public health and strengthen the local economy.

He urged the district administration to organize similar fairs in every assembly constituency of Una to promote health awareness and better dietary habits. The fair, held at the Government Senior Secondary School, was organized by the district administration in collaboration with the Food



Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). It aimed to inspire people to adopt healthy diets and lifestyles.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited various stalls, tasted traditional dishes, and appreciated the efforts of the district administration in organizing this unique event.

During the event, Agnihotri proposed transforming the state's

longest Una-Haroli bridge into a commercial center. He suggested creating exclusive food markets on either side of the bridge, where self-help groups could sell their products, turning the location into a scenic and functional destination for locals and tourists. The bridge, designed as an "engineering marvel," already features pathways for pedestrians, adding to its appeal as a leisure spot.

Development of Kangra district top most priority of government: CM

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, DEC 1

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today held a detailed discussion on the developmental projects of Kangra district with the senior congress leaders of District Kangra. He said that the state government was prioritizing the progress of the Kangra and has launched several schemes over the past two years to ensure its holistic development. He said that Kangra has been accorded the status of the "Tourism Capital" of Himachal Pradesh and various initiatives were underway to promote both adventure and religious tourism in the region. Thakur Sukhvinder Singh



Sukhu said that the present state government was making all possible efforts to expand the Kangra airport to facilitate the landing of larger aircraft, which would be a catalyst in the development and growth of the district. He said that the adequate compensation and support would be provided to the affected families during the airport expansion process. The Chief Minister said that

in another significant move, an international-level zoo was also being developed in Dehra at a cost of Rs. 650 crore. He said that the government was also planning to start water sports activities at Pong Dam, similar to those in Bilaspur. These ventures aim to create employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth and improve the

economic condition of local residents. Apart from this the government was exploring tourism potential in other parts of Kangra, including Palampur and Dharamshala.

The Chief Minister said that the state government was expediting the construction of the Matour-Shimla National Highway. He said that the government was establishing a milk processing plant with a capacity of 1.5 lakh litres in Dhagwar, with the foundation stone set to be laid soon.

Underscoring the government's commitment to health and education, the Chief Minister said that facilities at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College Tanda, Kangra. Medical College were being strengthened.

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, DEC 1

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla presided over the 13th Convocation of Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni in Solan district, today. Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi was present as Chief Guest on the occasion.

The Governor conferred 12 Gold medals to the meritorious students on the occasion. He also awarded 119 Ph.D. degrees in horticulture and forestry. Jagat Singh Negi also awarded degrees to the MSc and BSc students. Total 816 degrees were awarded in the Convocation. On the occasion while addressing the students the Governor lauded



their hard work and dedication and said that the ceremony plays a significant role in lives of the children and was one of the milestones achieved due to hard work and dedication. He expressed pride that the majority of gold medal recipients were female students which shows their increasing

prominence in higher education and research. He said that this was a promising sign for the progress of the nation, particularly in sectors like agriculture, horticulture and forestry, where women's contributions were invaluable. The Governor congratulated the university on its Foundation

Day and paid tribute to the founder and the first Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar for his remarkable contributions for the development state. He said that the present state government was also playing vital role in supporting universities and improve the standard of education in the state. He urged students to contribute to the nation's growth by sharing research-based techniques with farming communities. He called on students to actively address challenges faced by farmers and fruit growers by promoting solutions for sustainable practices and also asked them to suggest farming methods to increasing the earnings of the farmers.

International dance, music festival at CU bring global artists on one platform

LK BANSAL
MOHAL: International artists from various countries delivered mesmerizing performances during the International Dance and Music Festival – 2024 ‘One World, Many Cultures’ at Chandigarh University. In the event that Chandigarh University jointly organized in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the confluence of creativity and culture was at its zenith as troupes of artists from 11 countries enthralled one and all present with their cultural dance performances and musical renditions during the international cultural exchange event held at the varsity that attracted the talent and creativity from around the globe. Chandigarh University has been holding this event continuously for past 5 years. The cultural troupes of Colombia, Iraq, Slovakia, India and Sri Lanka among other countries dressed in their colourful traditional attires showcased the beauty of indigenous music and dance cultures of their respective countries. The event was held in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Govt providing free CT scan, MRI facilities and monthly financial aid of Rs. 2,250 for AIDS patients

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Health Minister, Ms. Arti Singh Rao said that the state government is working towards an AIDS-free future. In line with this objective, the state government is providing free CT scans and MRI facilities for AIDS patients, in addition to offering monthly financial assistance of Rs. 2,250 to 11,325 patients. The Health Minister said this while addressing the state-level World AIDS Day event organized by the Haryana State AIDS Control Society at Gurugram University. She also flagged off awareness vehicles from the event venue. During the event, the Health Minister praised the exhibition showcasing medical services. She said that the state government is committed to eradicate AIDS from the state. Free testing and treatment for AIDS are available through government initiatives, and the confidentiality of patient information is maintained at all times. She urged the youth to be aware and to stay informed about preventive measures against such diseases, while also encouraging them to spread awareness among others. She further stated that ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers are the backbone of this fight, and without them, ground-level changes in the fight against this disease would not be possible.

E-Library and main Gate to be built in village of Martyr Vijay: Panwar

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Development and Panchayat Minister, Sh. Krishan Lal Panwar, on Sunday, attended a felicitation ceremony in Poothar village, Panipat district. The programme was organized in honor of Kargil Martyr Havildar Vijay. Addressing the villagers, Krishan Lal Panwar said that martyrs are a source of inspiration for all of us, and their sacrifices should never be forgotten. He assured the villagers to set up an e-library and a main gate in the village after the name of martyr Vijay. The Cabinet Minister also laid the foundation stone for the Sainik Bhawan Complex, to be built in Balana village. He also gave Rs. 21 lakh from his discretionary fund for the complex. The Minister said that every tenth soldier in the Indian Army is from Haryana, and the Central Government has honored soldiers by implementing the One Rank One Pension scheme. He emphasized that both the Central and State Governments respect martyrs and their families. He acknowledged that the freedom we enjoy today is a result of the sacrifices and dedication of martyrs to the nation. The government ensures special care for martyrs' families, providing Rs. 1 crore as financial assistance and provisions for jobs to their family members.

Kejriwal is king of drama : BJP leader Manoj Tiwari

NEW DELHI: Following the attack on AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, Bharatiya Janata Party MP Manoj Tiwari on Sunday warned the people of Delhi to stay cautious of AAP chief and said that the former Delhi Chief Minister is the “king of drama.” On Saturday, a person was apprehended by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal’s security staff when he attempted to throw a liquid at Kejriwal during his padyatra (journey by foot). “Arvind Kejriwal is the king of drama. The way he has lost the trust of Delhi right now, he can do any drama... the investigation is going on. I have another fear that Arvind Kejriwal can do anything, he can even get bullets fired around him. Delhi should be cautious of Arvind Kejriwal,” Manoj Tiwari said. Meanwhile, AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar alleged that the Central government was behind the attack on the former Delhi CM. “Arvind Kejriwal has been raising questions on the collapsed law and order situation of Delhi. Instead of improving that Amit Shah made this attack happen on Kejriwal. This is not the first time...yesterday, a BJP member threw a liquid at Kejriwal...BJP should understand that they and Amit Shah have to stop attacks, not Kejriwal,” Kakkar said. On Saturday, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Chief Arvind Kejriwal criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah after being attacked by a bus marshal during his ‘padyatra’. In a post on X, Kejriwal wrote, “Amit Shah Ji, what will happen by stopping me? Stop crime in Delhi.

Cultural ‘Dhamaal’ at crafts mela draws unprecedented crowd



SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, DEC 1

Sunday, being a holiday, was the happening day for city folks, who thronged Kalagram on day 3 of the ongoing 14th Chandigarh National Crafts Mela, jointly organised by the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Chandigarh Administration. During the 10-day cultural ‘dhamaal’, music lovers from the tricity witnessed a flurry of fascinating folk dances of various states during the morning and evening sessions. States on focus were Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jarkhand,

Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Rajasthan and others, which kept the audience enthralled. The visiting guests, especially the tiny tots, enjoyed the ground performances, including ‘Kachi Ghorī (Raj), Behurupiyas, Nachar and Baajigis (Pb) Nagada and Been Jogis (Har). Enthusiasts made it sure to click a selfie with artistes. The typical Punjab village created at the venue had on public display the conventional spinning wheels, kitchen utensils made of copper and bronze and agricultural tools, ploughs, ploughshare, hand-driven ‘chakki’ and all other



gadgets reminiscent of the times gone by. Gaily dressed damsels sporting the traditional salwar-kameez attire with colourful ‘duppata’ fluttering across their heads shown with earthen pitcher at the village well, which enchanted the visitors. Terra cotta images of horses, elephants and other wild animals and wooden sculptures created during workshops dot the venue attracting the crowd. Food lovers had a gala time during the as they relished a fare of traditional cuisines at the food court offering a range of delectable dainties from the states of Maharashtra, Bihar, Sikkim, Pun-

jab, Haryana, Awadh, Hyderabad, Gujarat and so on. Artisans and craftsmen drawn from different corners of the country displayed a range of designer crockery, cutlery, fabric, woollens and other winter wear, artificial jewellery, carpets, rugs, mats, designer suits and sarees, Patiala ‘jutti’ for men and women. “We owe a big thank you for the organizers for hosting the annual Crafts Mela, a confluence of art-centric, cultural and culinary activity, which keeps us hooked for 10 days. The opportunity offers a glimpse of the rich cultural heritage of India.

BSF, Western Command Chandigarh celebrate 60th raising day

RN KHERA
CHANDIGARH, DEC 1

On the occasion of the foundation day of Border Security Force on 1st December, Western Command BSF organized the 60th Raising Day at BSF Campus Lakhnaur, (Mohali) and BSF Campus, Industrial Area, Phase-2, Chandigarh on 30th November and 01 December 2024 with great fervor.

On 30th November 2024, ‘Barakhana’ and cultural programme was organized as per the tradition of the force, in which BSF jawans, their families and retired BSF personnel participated and made the event successful. On 1st December, Shri Satish S Khandare, IPS, ADG BSF (WC) along with all BSF personnel paid heartfelt tribute to the BSF martyrs who



sacrificed their lives for the security of the nation and congratulated all Seema Praharis and their families on the eve of BSF Raising Day. After this, a tree plantation programme was organized by BSF (Western Command) in which the ADG and all available officers and jawans participated. Thereafter, a Press Conference was organ-

ized at BSF Complex Industrial Area Phase-II, Chandigarh under the chairmanship of ADG, BSF (Western Command). Shri Satish S Khandare, IPS, ADG BSF (WC) addressed the national & regional media representatives about BSF history and focused on Border Management under Western Command.

Partap World School Pathankot's Girls Brass Band first in state level school contest level school band competition



SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, DEC 1

Partap World School (PWS), Pathankot, has once again set a benchmark for excellence as its Girls Brass Band secured First Position in the State-Level School Band Competition 2024 held at Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab. Competing against 89 schools from across the state, the talented PWS team showcased unparalleled synchronization, musicality, and discipline, earning them the top spot. The competition, held amidst fierce rivalry and immense talent, was a testament to the exceptional skills and

dedication of the participants. The PWS Girls Brass Band impressed the judges and audience alike with their captivating performance, making their mark as the best in Punjab. At PWS, we believe in empowering girls* and providing them with equal opportunities to shine. This victory is a testament to our belief that girls are no less than boys they are unstoppable when given the right platform. Director Sunny Mahajan , Director Oshin Mahajan and Principal Subhra Rani, expressing his pride, said, “This victory is a reflection of the dedication and talent of our students.

5th annual function of Saint Warriors School Basrai held

VERMA
GURDASPUR, DEC 1

The 5th annual function of Saint Warriors School Basrai was a grand affair, marked by a vibrant cultural program and inspiring speeches. The event was graced by the presence of distinguished guests: ASP Dilpreet Singh IPS, the chief guest, and Jessu Jaskanwar Singh, Assistant Professor at Panjab University Chandigarh, the guest of honor.

The program commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by a mesmerizing showcase of talent by the school’s young prodigies. The students captivated the audience with their energetic performances, ranging from lively dances to thought-provoking skits. In his inspiring speech, ASP Dilpreet Singh IPS emphasized the significance of perseverance and resilience. He en-



couraged the students to embrace failures as opportunities for growth and to strive for excellence in all their endeavors. He also stressed the importance of gratitude towards teachers and parents, who play a pivotal role in shaping young minds.

Jessu Jaskanwar Singh, the guest of honor, motivated the students to work hard and stay ahead of the curve in the competitive world. He highlighted the need for continuous learning and adaptation to succeed in the 21st century. The event concluded with a well-deserved recognition of the students’ achievements. Medals were awarded to students who excelled in academics and ex-

Siliguri: Elephant enters residential area, causes extensive damage to crops

SILIGURI : An elephant entered a residential area, causing damage to crops in the Rangapani area in Siliguri, officials said on Sunday. Residents, gripped by fear, refrained from venturing out of their homes as the marauding elephants wreaked havoc, causing extensive damage to agricultural fields, trees, and crops. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by communities coexisting with wildlife in the region. In response to the situation, the Forest Department has initiated to divert route of the wild animal back to the forest. According to the forest officials, the elephant has deviated from its herd and entered residential areas.

Govt upgrading cooperative sugar mill Paniad at Rs. 402 cr: Kataruchak

VERMA
GURDASPUR, DEC 1

Punjab Cabinet Minister Mr. Lal Chand Kataruchak today inaugurated the 45th sugarcane crushing season of the cooperative sugar mill Paniad. On this occasion, he was accompanied by Punjab Health Systems Corporation Chairman Mr. Raman Bahl, prominent public leader and Aam Aadmi Party District President Urban Mr. Shamsheer Singh, senior AAP leader Harjit Singh Tikka, Sukhdev Raj, Block President Deepak Kumar, Sarpanch Gurnam Singh Singhowal, Sarpanch Gaurav Shahpur, Mill General Manager Sarabjit Singh Hundal, Engineer cum Purchase Officer Sandeep Singh, Chief Chemist IPS Bhatia and Chief Account Officer AS Matharu. Inaugurating the sugarcane crushing season, Cabinet Minister Mr. Lal Chand Kataruchak said that the Punjab government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is standing with its farmer brothers at all times. He said that the Punjab government is working in the interests of



the farmers and recently the price of sugarcane has been increased by Rs. 10 per quintal. He said that Punjab is the state that gives the highest sugarcane price to the farmers across the country. Lal Chand Kataruchak said that the Punjab government is spending about Rs. 402 crore to increase the capacity of Cooperative Mill Gurdaspur to 5000 TCD and this project will be completed very soon. He said that apart from this, a 120 KLPD ethanol plant is also being set up at the mill at a cost of Rs. 250 crore. He said that with the increase in the capacity of the mill, all the sugarcane of the

sugarcane growers of the area will be crushed, which will bring financial benefits to the sugarcane growers and the residents of the area. He said that with the implementation of this project, the savings of Rs. 15-20 crore being spent on transporting sugarcane being supplied to the outside mills will be different. On this occasion, Aam Aadmi Party District President Mr. Shamsheer Singh said that the farmers are completely happy with the decisions being taken in the interest of the farmers by the Punjab government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann.

Dr. Raju, supporters intensify efforts to give Amritsar status of 'Holy City'

CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA
AMRITSAR, DEC 1

The former IAS officer and member of the National Minority Commission, Dr. Jagmohan Singh Raju who is striving to get the status of ‘Holy City’ (Dharam Nagari) for Guru Amritsar intensified his efforts along with hundred of supporters outside Harmandir Sahib on Saturday. Nearly 400 supporters and devotees strengthened this mission and affirmed that they will put pressure on the State Govt favouring the Amritsar for the status of Holy City like other religious cities in the country. Earlier, while leading this campaign, Dr. Raju submitted a memorandum to Akal Takht’s Jathedar Sahib wherein he put forward his demands to which he also consented for this noble cause. Addressing the media, Dr. Raju



said that it is a matter of utter disappointment for Sikhism and city residents that the sanctity of the world famous Amritsar has not been recognized as a holy city. On the lines of Vatican, Jerusalem, Mecca, the pilgrimage of the Sikhs, Amritsar should also be given this status. Despite reminding the state government from time to time his efforts have been failed.

Meeting regarding Vishal Nagar Kirtan held at Gurdwara Baba Ajapal Singh Ghoriyawa Sahab



NABHA (RAKESH JINDAL): Dharama Prachar Committee Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Sri Amritsar with the support of all members of the constituency, Jathedar Gurcharan Singh Tohra Charitable Trust and Tohra Kabaddi Cup. Little Sahibzada BabMahan Nagar Kirtan, dedicated to the birth anniversary of Fateh Singh Ji and in memory of the martyrdom of the great martyrs of Sri Fatehgarh Sahib. From village Rohta to Gu. Till Sri Fatehgarh Sahib will start from Gurudwara Sahib Rohta at 8 am on Saturday, December 14. A huge gathering of people from Nabha Constituency took place today at Gurudwara Dera Baba Ajapal Singh Ghodrianwala under the leadership of Jathedar Satwinder Singh Taura regarding this Nagar Kirtan. Giving information about Nagar Kirtan, members of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Jathedar Satwinder Singh Taura and Randhir Singh Dhindsa said that this great Nagar Kirtan started from Gurdwara Patshahi Novini Rohta Sahib.

Thapar family adopts 'Apni Dukaan' on wedding anniversary

DAVINDER SHARMA
RUPNAGAR, DEC 1

Retired school principal Smt. Ramesh Kumari Thapar and retired Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry Shri Jai Krishna Thapar have once again demonstrated their commitment to social welfare by adopting Apni Dukaan for a month. The initiative, run by Naina Jeevan Jyoti Club, provides free essentials to those in need.

As per the club’s policy, any local resident who donates to cover the monthly expenses of Apni Dukaan gets it named after their family for that period, symbolizing their adoption of the initiative. Club representative Varinder Vyas expressed gratitude, mentioning that the Thapar family had also adopted Apni Dukaan last year and were inspired to do



so again on their wedding anniversary. The family considers this gesture a blessing and an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to society. In addition to running Apni Dukaan, the club actively promotes eye donation awareness and provides a freezer for

preserving the deceased, offering valuable support to the community. The occasion was attended by the Thapar family, along with Naina Jeevan Jyoti Club members Dhruv Narang, Atinderpal Singh, Varinder Vyas, and Sandeep Kakkar.

Constitution Day celebrated

CHANDIGARH, DEC 1

Constitution Day Celebrated at Punjab College of LawPunjab College of Law celebrated Constitution Day with great enthusiasm and reverence. The event was graced by Dr. Pramjeet as the chief guest, who was warmly welcomed by S. Nirmal Singh, who also presented bouquet a token of appreciation to him. Dr. Pramjeet delivered an insightful lecture on the significance of the Indian Constitution. He elaborated on the process of its framing and adoption, emphasizing that 16 articles were initially accepted on the first day.

He highlighted the pivotal role played by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Constitution, who was the 14th and youngest child of his parents. Dr. Ambedkar’s relentless efforts in advocating for the rights of the marginalized,



particularly in eradicating untouchability, were underlined. Dr. Pramjeet stressed the importance of equality, a principle that forms the bedrock of the Constitution, and explained how the provision of Fundamental Rights ensures justice and equality for all citizens. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Ravinder Kumar Grover, Principal of Punjab College of Law. He urged students to not only study the

Constitution but also embody its values in their professional and personal lives. He described the Preamble as the soul of the Constitution, urging law students to uphold its principles in their future legal careers. The celebration witnessed the presence of Dr. Sumandeep Kaur, Dr. Navneet Kaur, Dr. Indu Bala, along with other faculty members and law students, making it a memorable and enlightening event.

PM to launch Bima Sakhi Yojana from Panipat on Dec 9

CHANDIGARH, DEC 1

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi will be launching the Bima Sakhi Yojana from Panipat on December 9. Around one lakh women from the state are expected to participate in the program. Duties have been assigned at the booth level across the state, and at least 25 women from each booth will attend the event. Bima Sakhi Yojana inauguration programme will be no less than a Mahakumbh, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini while interacting with the media persons in Ladwa on Sunday. He said that the people of Haryana have paved the way for development by electing the BJP government for a third consecutive term.

Ayushman cards made for citizens above 70 years of age at Senior Citizen Society

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: Ayushman Cards were made for citizens above 70 years of age under the Prime Minister's Scheme by Help As India at Senior Citizen Society Barnala. Raju Singh State Project Coordinator and Madam Indjerjit Kaur State Executor Punjab also gave detailed information about cyber crime. Apart from this, Dr. Ravneet Kaur, an expert in mental and mental diseases under the Sarthak program, gave information about the symptoms of mental and mental diseases and their prevention. On this occasion, Sunam Senior Citizen Council President and former SSP Rupinder Bhardwaj and Kahn Das Bawa President Sant Samaj also specially attended. General Secretary Amrit Lal Singla. Welcomed the chief guests. On this occasion, President G.C. Goyal, General Secretary Amrit Lal Singla, Senior Vice President Amarjit Singh Bhullar, Vice President Rajinder Prasad Singla, Cashier Ashok Gupta, Amarjit Singh Cheema Press Secretary, Amrik Singh, K. K. Singla, Somnath, Ram Singh and a large number of members were present.

Our Toilet-Our Respect campaign till 10 December

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: District Council Chief Executive Officer Gaurav Kumar said that Our Toilet-Our Respect Campaign is being run on World Toilet Day. Cleanliness programs are being organized to make common citizens aware about cleanliness. He said that Our Toilet-Our Respect Campaign will be run till 10 December, Human Rights Day. He said that detailed information is being given about every aspect of cleanliness program in villages and cities, in which cooperation of Gram Panchayats and social organizations is also being taken. Discussions and cleanliness programs will be organized with rural women and along with members of self-help groups, Anganwadi workers and Gram Panchayat members, villagers are being made aware to identify houses in village which do not have toilets, to keep toilets properly clean. He called upon the people of the District Council, Block Committee Member, Gram Panchayat to fully cooperate in this campaign and ensure participation of maximum number of people.

Cultural programs are being organized under International Gita Mahotsav: Gajendra Phogat

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Additional Director of Haryana Kala Parishad, Rohtak Division and OSD to Chief Minister Gajendra Phogat said that International Gita Jayanti Mahotsav has started from November 28. Cultural programs are being organized at Lord Shri Krishna under International Gita Mahotsav. Cultural program was organized in Baholpur yesterday under the joint aegis of Haryana Kala Parishad, Rohtak Division and Art and Culture Department Haryana. Gagan Raheja's team gave religious presentations. He told that Dharmakshetra-Kurukshetra is spread over circumference of 48 Kos. There are 182 Mahabharata period pilgrimages in this area. During the Mahabharata war, Lord Shri Krishna preached holy Gita to Arjun in Kurukshetra for entire human race.

Our history books have done injustice to our heroes: VP Jagdeep Dhankhar

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, DEC 1

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday criticised the manipulation of Indian history, stating that it has been distorted to create a monopoly around a select few individuals being credited for India's independence. "Our history books have done injustice to our heroes. Our history has been manipulated and doctored, creating a monopoly of a few who are credited with gaining us independence. It is an unbearable pain on our conscience. It is a burden on our soul and heart. I am certain we must bring about significant change. There is no better occasion to reflect on this than the commemoration of the first Bharat Sarkar in 1915," Dhankhar said while



addressing the 138th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Dhankhar described Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh as a natural diplomat, statesman, visionary, and nationalist. He highlighted how Raja Mahendra Pratap epitomised patriotism, nationalism, and foresight by demonstrating what could be achieved for the nation.

Expressing his anguish

over the lack of recognition for unsung heroes of the freedom struggle, Dhankhar said, "What a travesty of justice, what a tragedy. In the 75th year of our independence, we have failed--miserably failed--to acknowledge the heroic feats of great men like Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh. Our history has not given him the place he deserves. The foundations of our independence, built on the

VERMA
GURDASPUR: Paramjeet Singh Gill, National Vice President of the Himalayan Family Organization and senior leader of the Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency, stated that after 2014, BJP has continuously formed governments in the country and

various states, and this has been possible due to the strategies of Prime Minister Narinder Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.He mentioned that the Modi-Shah duo has led BJP to power in the center three times, and has also played a significant role in



taking power in states like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, where BJP had been out of power for a long time. In the recent Maharashtra elections, the Modi-Shah duo worked so effectively that once again, a BJP-led government is going to form in Maharashtra,

which is known as the economic capital of the country. He added that there is no exaggeration in saying that the Modi-Shah duo has instilled such enthusiasm in the workers that they are working day and night to strengthen the organization at the booth level.

Gurdaspur Police busts interstate drug gang, arrests three with drug money and heroin



VERMA
GURDASPUR, DEC 1

The Gurdaspur Police achieved a major success when they uncovered an interstate drug gang and arrested three of its members, recovering Rs. 19.8 lakh in Indian currency, a .32 bore pistol, three live cartridges, and 288 grams of heroin. SP Balwinder Singh Randhawa reported that on November 28, the police had set up a blockade on the Panyad National Highway near the Sugar Mill. Shortly after, a Blareo car with registration number JK 02 DD 0839 appeared from the

Pathankot side. When the car was signaled to stop, the driver became nervous and tried to flee, but the police apprehended them. Three young men were inside the car. The arrested suspects identified themselves as Amandeep Singh, son of Didar Singh, a resident of Mirasab, District Jammu; Avneet Singh (alias Abhi), son of Bikram Singh, a resident of Jammu; and Davinder Kumar (alias Rahul Kumar), son of Darshan Lal, also a resident of Jammu. Suspecting the presence of narcotics in the vehicle, the Narcotics Cell of Gurdaspur informed DSP Ajay Kumar.

Primary School Rudeke Kalan will become School of Happiness

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: Under the able leadership of the Chief Minister of Punjab Hon. Bhagwant Singh Maan ji and due to the hard efforts of Education Minister Punjab Sh. Harjot Singh Bains, the foundation stone of the new building of Government Primary School of Happiness Rudeke Kalan was laid today by Sh. Labh Singh Uggoke at village Rudeke Kalan. On this occasion, he said that this building will be prepared at a cost of about one crore. He said that while schools of Eminence are being built at the secondary level by the Punjab government, schools of happiness are being constructed at the primary level. He said that these schools will be equipped with modern computer lab, modern library and many other facilities. District Education Officer Madam Indu Simak ji said that total 11 primary schools of the district are going to become Happiness Schools and four primary schools of the district in the first list are going to be developed as Schools of Happiness. In which Government Primary School Rudeke Kalan has also got this honor. On this occasion, Deputy District Education Officer Madam Neerja Bansal, BPEO Barnala S. Gurdeep Singh, Sarpanch Pradeep Kaur wife of Jagsir Singh, all Panchayat Members, Aam Aadmi Party Secretary Satnam Singh Mani, Gursevak Singh, S.M.C. Chairman Kulwinder Singh, Jaswinder Singh Dhurkot, Bhupinder Singh Bhaini Fatta, whole school staff and other dignitaries were present.



Celebratory firing crime, avoid it or face action: SP Varun Singla

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, DEC 1

Superintendent of Police Varun Singla has warned citizens against celebratory or "happiness" or celebratory firing during weddings and other events, emphasizing its illegality and the severe consequences it entails. In a press statement, SP Singla urged the public to act responsibly and refrain from such actions, which are punishable under the law.

He highlighted that anyone engaging in celebratory firing, even with a licensed firearm, would face strict legal action. Additionally, the licenses of offenders' firearms could be revoked. SP Singla reminded the public that firearms are intended for personal security, not for misuse during celebratory events.

The Superintendent of Police reiterated that celebratory firing at weddings or other functions would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He stressed that celebratory firing is a punishable offense, and strict measures would be taken against violators. Citizens were further reminded of existing



orders issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Kurukshetra prohibiting such actions. The police appealed to people to use licensed firearms only for self-defense purposes, urging them to comply with the law to avoid unnecessary legal complications.

This stern warning underscores the district police's commitment to ensuring public safety and discouraging irresponsible behavior during festive occasions.

SVS Bal Bharti School celebrates 36th annual function



MANISH KUMAR

AMBALA: Shri Vidyasagar Bal Bharti Public School organized its 36th annual function in grand manner in school premises. Former state minister Aseem Goyal graced function by attending as chief guest. Industrialist and social worker Anubhav Agarwal, Jai Gopal Bansal and Municipal member Sardul Singh were present as special guests. It started with lighting of lamp by chief guest Aseem Goyal. School students presented cultural programs. All presentations of cultural program were so spectacular that this program was successful in winning hearts of audience. Principal Rajni Sharma welcomed guests and told about achievements of school and future plans. Chief guest Aseem Goyal addressed the students and said that education is biggest means of our life. He urged students to work hard to achieve their goals and never give up, while on other hand, he gave a very good message to parents that instead of putting pressure on children to score maximum marks, we have to take them towards good values.

AAP govt fails to keep promises to medical practitioners: Dr. Dhillon

TAJINDER SINGH JOT
NAWANSHAHR, DEC 1

An emergency meeting of the Medical Practitioners Association, Punjab (District 295, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar), was held today under the chairmanship of District President Dr. Kashmir Singh Dhillon at Livasa Hospital. Representatives from all blocks of the district participated in the meeting.

The gathering focused on the unfulfilled promises made by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government to the association. Dr. Dhillon reminded attendees that before coming to power, the AAP had assured the Medical Practitioners Association that their demands, including registration-related issues, would be addressed on a priority basis. This



commitment was also included in the party's election manifesto.

However, nearly three years into their tenure, the government has failed to resolve the association's concerns. Dr. Dhillon highlighted that a memorandum was recently submitted at the residence of AAP MP Dr. Raj Kumar in Hoshiarpur, reiterating these issues. During this interaction, Dr. Raj Kumar had assured the practitioners that a panel meeting would be organized with Health Minister Dr.

Balbir Singh. Subsequently, on 26 November 2024, a meeting chaired by State President Dr. Dhanna Mal Goyal was held with Health Minister Dr. Balbir Singh at the Chandigarh Secretariat. During this meeting, the minister expressed confidence that the issues would soon be resolved, including initiating a short-term medical training program. Dr. Kashmir Singh Dhillon warned that if taxation and registration issues remain unaddressed, the association may have to consider further action.

Meeting of Nambardar Union (Ghalib) Unit Nabha held



RAKESH JINDAL
NABHA, DEC 1

Monthly meeting of Nambardars of Nabha Tehsil of Punjab Nambardar Association (Ghalib) under the chairmanship of Tehsil President Ugar Singh Ageta, District Vice President Baldev Singh Surajpur and Punjab body members. Gurdwara in the presence of Jasdev Singh AgetiBaba Ajapal Singh Ji took place at Ghodiawal Sahab.In which the rightful demands of the nambardars and the difficulties faced by the nambardars in their work were discussed. The Punjab government was urged to quickly implement the demands of Nambardars, making Nambardar genealogy, honorarium of Nambardars Rs 5000, waiving toll tax and bus fare of Nambardars. Numdar Jagtar Singh Ghamrauda, Ranjit Singh, Gian Singh Mandaur, Gurmair Singh Kalhemajra, Naib Singh Sangatpura, Tejwinder Singh Rohiti Mauran and Numdar Hakam Singh Sangatpura etc. were present in the meeting.

Muslim community and villagers come face to face for burying body

YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA, DEC 1

Dispute going on between Muslim community and villagers regarding burial of dead body has calmed down. People of community buried Rivaz's body in another village, Phoolgarh Bheriya. Atmosphere between Muslim community and villagers had become heated over burial of youth's body in Asmanpur village. People of community are saying that graveyard belongs to Waqf Board, while villagers are accusing of illegal occupation of this land. After getting information, heavy police force from police station Sadar, city and police posts reached spot. Police Sadar in-charge Vikrant tried to convince both parties, but they remained adamant on



their demand. After struggle of 3 hours, police summoned both parties to police station at 10 am today. Muslim community has kept body of youth in the mosque of Pehowa. Villagers say that land on which people of Muslim community are adamant to bury body by calling it a graveyard, is land of village. This land is adjacent to residential area of village. Therefore, it is absolutely wrong to build or

have a graveyard on this land. Also, youth and his family have no connection with village. They alleged that people of community want to occupy land. Former Sarpanch of the village Narendra Singh said that people of Muslim community do not live in his village. These people are migrants and live on rent. Even before this, these people have buried bodies of small children here.

Punjab Police honours several officers who served in Barnala



KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA, DEC 1

Punjab Police has honoured various police officers with commendation discs by the DGP Punjab for their good performance. It is worth mentioning that some of the honoured officers have served in Barnala district. Such as ADGP Surinderpal Singh Parmar, SP Sangrur Palwinder Singh Cheema, SP Patiala Rajesh Chhibber and current SSP Sandeep Kumar Malik are particularly noteworthy. When our journalist spoke to the above officers, their reply was that the police force is such a force that if one works honestly and fearlessly in it, then it can be felt as a matter of pride. For these reasons, the government adorns the police officers with various types of awards etc. to encourage them. SSP (Barnala) Mr. Malik said that to solve the problems of the people, their mentality should be understood, so that they cannot hide anything by considering the police as their friends.

Govt College of Nursing, Patiala hosts memorable fresher and farewell ceremony 'Crescendo 2024'

RAKESH JINDAL
PATIALA, DEC 1

The Government College of Nursing, Patiala organized a combined fresher and farewell ceremony for students of B.Sc. (Nursing) and Post-Basic B.Sc. (Nursing) students on 30 Nov, 2024 named "Crescendo 2024" Dr. Balwinder Kaur, Principal, Government College of Nursing Patiala, extended a heartfelt welcome to all guests and students, providing an overview of the college. Dr. Ramandeep Kaur Dhillon, Director Principal of Ajit Nursing Institute Sunam, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Other prominent dignitaries included Dr. Rajan Singla (Director Principal,



Government Medical College) and Deputy Medical Superintendent, Rajindra Hospital, Patiala along with faculty from dental college and Psychiatric department of medical college who joined to encourage the students and added prestige to the event. The fresher's party commenced with the lighting of ceremonial lamps by the guests. The chief guest warmly welcomed the

students, emphasizing that nursing is a noble profession that combines service and respect while offering excellent career opportunities. The coordinators of the event Mrs. Amandeep Kaur and Dr. Seema, all teachers and students of Government College of Nursing, Patiala played a pivotal role in ensuring that Crescendo 2024" was a resounding success.

Satish Kumar Rana and Taekwondo players honoured

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, DEC 1

National President of SK Martial Arts Foundation of India, International Master Satish Kumar Rana and his National Taekwondo players were honoured by Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini and Energy Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at Karan Kamal Karnal for their numerous achievements in the field of sports for the country, for creating a world record, for becoming International Master from Korea Kuki One and for preparing national players for the country. Master Satish Kumar Rana and his national players Aryan Rana, Siddharth, Manvi, Mankirat, Aarti, Mahika were honoured with medals. CM Naib Singh Saini and Energy Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar congratulated all players and motivated them to participate in sports enthusiastically and wished them a bright



future. Master Satish Kumar Rana thanked Chief Minister and Energy Union Minister and informed them about works of his SK Martial Arts Foundation by giving a letter.

Editorial

Vacuous verse

Has Calliope, the muse of poetry, showered her blessings on Artificial Intelligence? According to a paper in Nature Scientific Reports, non-expert readers were unable to distinguish poetry written by AI from that written by canonical poets like Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, T.S. Eliot and Sylvia Plath. In fact, it was found that lay readers tended to prefer poetry written by AI — at least until they were told it had been composed by a machine. Should the poet's quill, then, tremble in fear of being rendered obsolete? To answer that question, several other issues need to be pondered first.

The foremost, and most fundamental, among these is — what is poetry? Is it merely a set of rhyming lines or words with an element of musicality? William Wordsworth had called poetry “the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings”; William Hazlitt described it as “the language of the imagination”. Is AI blessed with the powers of feeling or imagination? No, not yet. What AI did in the study in question is ‘reverse engineer’ well-known works by human poets: that is, it churned out words and sentiments from existing poems in the style of certain poets. Since AI is as yet incapable of complex thinking or feeling the emotions behind words, its compositions were simpler, easily understood and, by extension, well-liked by ordinary readers. AI’s ‘achievement’, in this instance, is thus that of a curator gathering or assembling verse instead of writing it. Termining this poetry would be poetic injustice.

The esoteric shroud over poetry — it is usually considered the literary form that is most unfamiliar and difficult — leads to the second question that must be raised. What is the purpose of poetry? Walter Benjamin had said that it “is not statement or the imparting of information.” Rather, great verse opens within the reader newer possibilities of meaning and feeling. The preference for AI’s poetry could well be a testament to the layman’s inability to comprehend poetry’s mysteries, even denseness. That explains the opprobrium that poets have had to suffer through the ages. Keats was told he would be better off as an apothecary than a poet; Eliot’s poetry was described as “borderline insane”; Whitman was rejected for his unrhyming, free-flowing verse; while Dickinson was deemed too unconventional. Unlike forms of prose, whose meaning is easily discernible, poetry requires a deeper, exceptional engagement. In an age when people consume wisdom in the form of 30-second reels, it is not surprising that AI’s vacuous verse was preferred to meaningful but complex poems.

Janakpur gets facelift for first ‘Bibah Panchami’



With the countdown begun for the 'Bibah Panchami,' Janakpur—the maternal house of Goddess Sita is getting a facelift. Artists are busy painting murals on the walls around the city depicting the scenes from the holy scripture of Ramayana giving a fresher and new look to the ancient city.

Poonam Jha, an artist, is busy these days engraving the walls of Janakpur with the murals depicting the major events of Ramayana utilizing the Mithila Art technique.

"Every five years, the wedding procession from Ayodhya leaves for Janakpur for Bibah Panchami. In order to showcase the events of Ramayana we have scripted it on the walls. From the birth of goddess Janaki to her marriage (with Lord Ram), Dhanush Yagya, Ban-

bas to the Agniparikshya, I have been working to show all the major events of her life through the art," Jha told.

The Mithila Paintings which utilizes colour pigments and resonate the daily lives of the people, temples and other architecture are being scripted on the walls to make the city more attractive.

"Baaratis, or people in the wedding procession from India are arriving Janakpur for the Bibah Panchami celebration. To make the city more beautiful and attractive like it was in the Treatayuga for the Bibah Panchami, this time also we have the aim to make it same like that. We cannot make it exactly like those days but we are trying to give a facelift," another artist, Sonam Karn told ANI. This will be the first Bibah Panchami celebrations to be



made after the Pranpratistha of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya earlier this year. Every year, on the fifth day of the Margashirsha month, devotees celebrate Bibah Panchami, the day of the divine wedding.

The 'Baraat' of Lord Ram has departed for Janakpur to marry Goddess Sita, with great pomp and show. Around 500 devotees from Ayodhya, who have come from various corners of India, have set out for Janakpur Dham as 'baraatis' in the wedding of Lord Ram. The wedding procession is expected to reach Janakpur Dham on December 3, where the people of Janakpur will also welcome the procession.

"The Baarat of around 500 people are arriving Janakpur. They will be welcomed and felicitated at multiple loca-

tions- Batsar, Darbhanga, Bisoul, Sitamarhi, on December 2 in Matihani and are scheduled to arrive at Janakpur on December 3. As in Tretayuga when Kishori Ji (Goddess Sita) and Lord Ram along with the baraatis were welcomed, the same would be resonated, for which we have made all the arrangements and would give them a grand welcome," Ram Roshan Das, Uttaradhihari of Janaki Temple told . This is the first time such a grand celebration of Lord Ram and Goddess Sita's wedding is being held, after the Pran Pratishtha at Ayodhya's Ram Temple. Forty Vedic Brahmins from Tirupati will be performing the marriage of Sita and Ram in Janakpur Dham. These Vedic Brahmins will directly reach Janakpur to conduct the marriage rituals.

Literature & Health

Generative AI will impact regional local job markets differently across OECD

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) will impact regional local job markets differently across OECD countries, exacerbating existing urban-rural income and productivity gaps as well as the digital divides between regions, according to a new OECD report.

Job Creation and Local Economic Development 2024 finds that, following a decade of employment growth, over half of OECD regions had reached employment rates above 70 per cent by 2023, with more women joining the workforce, narrowing the gender gap in labour force participation in 84 per cent of OECD regions.

The employment boom has also led to regional labour shortages and gaps, particularly in densely populated urban regions such as Lombardy (Italy) and Hamburg (Germany), as well as in regions struggling with population decline and ageing. Against this backdrop, Generative AI has the potential to help tackle labour shortages and boost productivity. However, the report highlights significant regional disparities in the extent to which



jobs are affected by Generative AI, with the share of workers with jobs exposed to AI ranging from 45 per cent in urban regions such as Stockholm (Sweden) and Prague (Czechia), to 13 per cent in rural regions such as Cauca (Colombia). Urban workers are more likely to be affected, with an average of 32 per cent already exposed to Generative AI, compared to just 21 per cent of rural workers. This trend could risk worsening existing urban-rural income and productivity gaps, as well as digital divides between regions.

Pakistan: Court approves physical remand of 156 workers of Imran Khan's party

An Anti-Terrorism Court in Islamabad has granted the physical remand of 156 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers who were arrested during the protest in Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported.

ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Supra led the hearing in the cases registered against the PTI activists. PTI lawyers, including Ansar Kiyani, Mirza Asim Baig and Sohaib Ilyas appeared in court for the party activists.

During the hearing, the investigating officer request the judge to approve the physical remand of the suspects, citing the recovery of anti-riot kits and sticks from the PTI workers.

Judge Supra said, "What else is to be recovered?



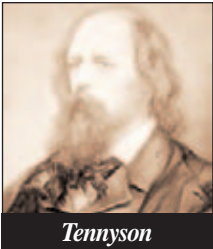
There aren't as many anti-riot kits in Islamabad as have already been seized." The judge approved a four-day physical remand for 139 PTI activists who were arrested. Furthermore, the court granted an additional four-day remand for 17 others. However, the judge rejected the request for physical remand of two women detainees and sent them on

judicial remand, The Express Tribune reported. The women activists of PTI said that they were detained on November 24 and they were not being given food or water. The PTI workers were arrested while they were holding protest at D-Chowk in Islamabad and cases have been filed against them at the Secretariat Police Station.

POEM

Sir Galahad

My good blade carves the casques of men,
My tough lance thrusteth sure, My strength is as the strength of ten,
Because my heart is pure. The shattering trumpet shrilleth high,
The hard brands shiver on the steel,
The splinter'd spear-shafts crack and fly,
The horse and rider reel:
They reel, they roll in clanging lists,
And when the tide of combat stands,
Perfume and flowers fall in showers,
That lightly rain from ladies' hands.
How sweet are looks that ladies bend
On whom their favours fall!
For them I battle till the end,
To save from shame and thrall:
But all my heart is drawn above,
My knees are bow'd in crypt and shrine:
I never felt the kiss of love,
Nor maiden's hand in mine.



By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

"Cooperatives build Better World"

The above title is the theme of the international year of cooperatives to be celebrated all over the world in the forthcoming year 2025. The United Nations General Assembly declared this in the month of June 2024 through its resolution on cooperatives in social development. It is for the second time in the history of United Nations after 2012 the General Assembly focused on this issue for promoting cooperatives and raising awareness of their contribution to the implementation of the sustainable development goals and overall socio-economic development of the masses all over the world. The theme highlights the greater global impact of cooperatives and emphasize that the cooperative model is a crucial solution for addressing various global challenges. In changing scenario, it underscores the significant role the cooperatives can play in advancing the implementation of the SDG by 2030.

The Ministry of Cooperation of Govt. of India took the initiative for celebrating 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) under the aegis of the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025 so that the achievements of the cooperative movement of the country could be reached at the global level. Recently Prime Minister of India inaugurated 18th International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Global Cooperatives Conference 2024. The five-day conference was observed with the collaboration of ICA and multi-state cooperatives of India like IFFCO, KRIBHCO and AMUL from 25th of November to 29th of November at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi in

which 200 speakers and 3000 delegates of 100 countries marked their presence to grace the occasion. The role of the cooperatives was thoroughly debated in context of present circumstances and global challenges and a general consensus was developed how this movement can foster inclusive economic growth, social equality, prosperity and sustainable development through the primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS).

The modern cooperative movement in India was originated at the time of British in the first decade of 20th century when the primary cooperative credit societies were established for providing credit to the peasantry.

Though these societies could not improve the economic conditions of the peasantry at that time but the eco of this movement could be heard during the swadeshi movement of freedom struggle which mobilizes the poor peasantry to seek their rights from the dispensation. After the independence of the country this movement took Nehruvian legacy and started on the pattern of former USSR's model of social and economic development of masses at the grass root level. The movement has shown its significant strength since the green revolution era by increasing production and productivity of the food grains and the story is continued till date. Now the country has become self-sufficient in the production of food grains and this has reduced the starvation to a large extent. The fullest potential of the country in food grain production has also helped the gov-

ernments to provide subsidized food grains and ration to the poorest strata of the society.

The cooperative model of the country is based on the seven principles of ICA among which democratic member control in cooperatives has an important role to play for fostering autonomy, co-operation among cooperatives and having concern for the community etc. This has enlightened the ownership spirit among the members to control the affairs of the cooperatives. The movement has also been pioneering in producing globally acclaimed leaders and entrepreneurs like Verghese Kurian, a dairy engineer and social entrepreneur who led the initiatives that contributed to increasing milk production in the country termed as white revolution.

This has helped the farmers in improving the breed of livestock through scientific innovations thereby increasing milk production and at the end providing purchasing centres in the form of milk societies at the village level. Since its inception at the central level, the Ministry of Cooperation has realized its vision through Sahkar Se Samridhhi (Prosperity through Cooperation) to send the signals of the movement in each corner of the country by helping in forming the cooperatives in every sphere of the economic activities so that the upliftment of the masses at the grass root level be carried out. This initiative has been becoming successful day by day and proving helpful in reducing the severe poverty of the masses in the countryside, a goal of SDG. Though the cooperation is a state subject under the con-

stitutional scheme of things but the decision of the union government to set up a separate ministry at the central level is commendable as large chunk of budgetary allocation has been earmarked towards cooperative sector of the country every year.

The Ministry of Cooperation has realised that there are structural impediments, regional disparities, different regulatory frameworks and other lacunas in different states of the country which are proving to be hurdles in the implementation of the policies regarding cooperatives.

To address these challenges certain regulatory and policy decisions are undertaken by the ministry with the concurrence of the state governments like model bye-laws for PACS has been adopted throughout the country for making them multipurpose and multidimensional entities, modern infrastructural facilities through the computerisation of PACS have been installed to make them economically vibrant and transparent, for better access to e-services in villages common service centres have been set up in PACS, for establishing world's largest decentralized grain storage plan in cooperative sector funds have earmarked to the cooperatives under AIF (Agricultural Infrastructural Fund) scheme, new farmer producers organizations are formed by PACS for increasing the income of the farmers, propagation of nano fertilizers as a replacement of traditional fertilizers to increase soil fertility and environmental conservation, at the middle and apex level, initiative have also been

undertaken for strengthening cooperative banks and revival of cooperative sugar mills etc. Further at the national level, three new cooperative bodies namely National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL), National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) and Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) have been established through which farmers of India will be able to increase their access to the domestic as well as global market.

In the recently concluded conference, it was discussed and pledged that the cooperatives are the only solution for eradicating the poverty of the masses and removing regional economic disparities and will further pave the way in bringing the empowerment of women and vulnerable sections of the society and thus enabling them to live with dignity and respect.

It is now being observed by the world community that the cooperatives can be true light house for the achievement of the targets of the sustainable development goals within stipulated period of time. No doubt the achievement of the targets of the sustainable goals is a bigger task for the developing nations of the world but the policy makers, promoters of the capitalism and the corporate sector must ponder over the famous quote of Mahatma Gandhi 'Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.'

Harjeet Singh,
Researcher, Law Dept.
Punjab University, Patiala

Various leaders share grief with MLA Dev Mann



RAKESH JINDAL
NABHA: Last day Gurdav Singh Dev Mann MLA Nabha's father Lal Singh passed away today at his house in Nabha. Leaders of various political and religious organizations shared their grief today. Brother-in-law of Tarlok Singh, Karanjit Singh, President of Anaj Mandi Nabha, SurinderGupta Ex-President, Bikar Singh Khanora, Ser Singh Ghundar, Sumit Singla Shetty, Jaswinder Singh Aochal Sarpanch, Baljinder Singh Mann, Gurmukh Singh Bhojo Majri, Balwant Singh Hiyana, Brij Khurana, Raman Jindal Bhola, Master Amrik Singh, Surjan Bhan Singla Social Sevi , Master Pishora Singh, Tejinder Singh Khaira, Dhaminder Singh SukhewalJasvir Singh Wajidpur, Bhupinder Singh Kallar Majri, Sukhdeep Singh Khaira and a large number of leaders of social service organizations were present.

Himachal Pradesh Building and other Workers Welfare Board to offer Rs. 4 lakh assistance to eligible women for construction

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: District Labor Welfare Officer Una, Aman Sharma told that widow, divorced and single women of the district who have worked for 90 days in MNREGA or other construction works in the last 12 months will be given assistance of Rs. 400000 for building construction by Himachal Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. To avail the benefits of this scheme, the age of women should be between 18 years to 60 years. Their family income from all sources should not exceed two and a half lakhs. All such eligible women can contact the Labor Department Office in Una.

Reckless driving claims life

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER BARARA: In a tragic accident last night, an Amaze car driver recklessly collided with an Alto car, leading to the death of the Alto driver, Samay Singh, a resident of Aarti Enclave, Barara. Vivek Kumar, the owner of Blue Bird Palace, Barara, reported the incident to the police. He stated that around 10:30 PM on November 30, he was riding his bike from Adhoya to Barara. Near the Army Canteen, he witnessed an Amaze car speeding and ramming into an Alto car. The impact caused the Alto to veer off the road and crash into a eucalyptus tree. Vivek stopped his bike to check on the Alto driver, but the Amaze car driver fled the scene. However, Vivek managed to note the license plate of the Amaze car. Police arrived at the scene shortly after receiving the information and rushed Samay Singh to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Based on Vivek's complaint, a case has been registered, and an investigation is underway to trace the accused driver.

Aman Arora describes education as catalyst for overall development of youth

PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR: Punjab New and Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora on Saturday termed education as the key for overall development of a person. He was addressing the gathering during 22nd annual function of Swami Mohan Dass Model School wherein he urged students to be socio-economic change in the society by acquiring education in their lives. He lauded the Swami Mohan Dass Model School for inculcating Indian values in students along side world class education. He said with the blessings of Swami Mohan Dass Ji and under the leadership of Guru Maa Soma Devi Ji, this institute has emerging pioneer in the field of education besides infusing Indian values among children, thereby making them a responsible citizen. Accompanied by Senior AAP leader Deepak Bali, Rajwinder Kaur Thiara, Pawan Kumar Teenu, the Minister said besides ensuring comprehensive development of a person education open new vistas for the individual in varied fields. The Minister said that the Punjab Government has already prioritized field of education and Health by bringing revolutionary transformation in this sector. Opening of school of eminence, smart schools, training of school teachers in abroad, etc. are some of the key steps that have ensure promising results in the education segment.



Gita recitation festival will be organized on Dec 11



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: Addressing the meeting at Sri Krishna Kripa Dham in Sector 9, Mahamandaleshwar Geeta Manishi Gyananand Maharaj on Sunday said that on December 11 at 11 am, a Gita recitation would be organized for one minute simultaneously in which all the schools, colleges, hospitals, showrooms, shopkeepers and all the houses of the district will participate and recitation of the shlokas of Gita together in this festival of Gita. Everyone has been assigned responsibility for this. All the teachers were also called upon to train all the children to recite Gita together in this Gita festival. On this day, in the evening everyone should light three or 18 lamps in every house because Gita also has 18 chapters. He told all the members that hoardings with saloks and time written on them should be put up in all temples on time so that people can benefit. Institutions and people came out of their homes to join the Gita Paath. This is called Shobha Yatra. On this day, houses, temples and institutions should be decorated with beautiful lights so that this festival of Gita can be celebrated with pomp and show.

News

CHANDIGARH, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024 PAGE 10

Jalandhar Cantt Railway station will be dedicated to public soon: Ravneet Bittu

J S SODHI
JALANDHAR, DEC 1

Jalandhar Cantonment Railway Station new building will be dedicated to the public by First quarter of 2025. Disclosing this after taking a whirlwind tour of the ongoing project, Shri Ravneet Singh Bittu, Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries said that officials have been asked to carry out quality work in a timely manner. The redevelopment of Jalandhar Cantt Railway Station as a world-class railway station is in full swing. Jalandhar Cantt Railway Station currently handles around 7,400 passengers per day, with an average of 141 trains passing through, including 2 Humsafar and 1 Vande Bharat train. During the financial year 2024-25 till the month of



October, the average passenger revenue per day is Rs 16.30 lakh and the average per day from parcel service is Rs 0.51 lakh. At a total cost of Rs 99 crore, once completed Jalandhar Cantt Railway Station will have segregation for both arrival and departure of passengers. Construction of iconic station building with world-class passenger facilities and culturally based artefacts, integration of both

sides of the city and green building with gold rating maximizing use of natural ventilation and lighting on both sides of the station, all passenger facilities ie retail, Cafeteria, entertainment facilities construction of luxurious concourse for large gatherings at one place, 10 lifts and 9 escalators for passenger convenience, ample parking with pick and drop facility for smooth traffic

Proud moment for me to meet Governor of Punjab: Romesh Mahajan

VERMA GURDASPUR: It was really a proud moment when H.E the Governor of Punjab invited me on Friday morning at Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh , said Romesh Mahajan, National Awardee and a prominent citizen of Gurdaspur district. This was a cordial meeting with His Excellency in which the Governor initiated made a positive discussion on improvement in all the spheres like boosting Industrial growth, generate employment and for the overall welfare of children. H.E expressed his desire to work for down trodden families and to boost the economy of the district. For this they want Mr Mahajan' s assistance who has whole heartedly given his consent to work for the upliftment of society which he is already doing. He has shown his concern to start more projects for upliftment of society especially for children belonging to poorest of poor families.



Development works worth Rs 45 lakh launched in Jagadhri by Kanwar Pal

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, DEC 1

BJP Jagadhari Mandal President Vipul Garg said that former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gurjar had approved a grant of Rs 45 lakh for various development works in Ramnagar, Atmanagar, Green Vihar Jagadhari of Jagadhari city before the assembly elections but that approval was not implemented due to the sudden implementation of the code of conduct for the assembly elections and this work could not be started at that time, but now after the elections, today he inaugurated the above development work by breaking a coconut.



BJP Jagadhari Mandal President Vipul Garg said that former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gurjar has got record breaking development works done in Jagadhari assembly constituency during his time and this pace of development works would continue in the future as well. BJYM district president Nischal Chaudhary said that

former cabinet minister Kanwarpal Gurjar has developed Jagadhari city as a guardian Under the leadership of Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini, the BJP government has been working to take Haryana forward by taking all sections along. The BJP state government was implementing schemes for the upliftment of every section.

Workshop held on prevention of sexual harassment at workplace

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR: Women and Child Development Department organized a one-day workshop on the prevention of sexual harassment at workplaces at Kalyan Bhawan, Bilaspur. The event brought together officers, employees, and stakeholders from



various departments to raise awareness about the provisions and responsibilities under the law.

The workshop was inaugurated by Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Manisha Goyal, who emphasized the importance of creating a safe and respectful work environment for women. She highlighted that the law on preventing sexual harassment is a crucial

constitutional initiative to safeguard women's rights and dignity in workplaces. Participants, including representatives from the SC/ST Corporation, Childline, and the District Child Protection Unit, were educated on the provisions of the law and their role in ensuring its effective implementation.

Development works will be done at faster pace in Gharaunda: Speaker

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, DEC 1

Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan said that development work would be done at a faster pace in Gharaunda Assembly. The public has elected him as MLA for the third time and sent him to Haryana Assembly. He will live up to the expectations of the public and will solve the problems of the common man immediately. Efforts will be made to resolve the issue. Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan had arrived at the felicitation ceremony organized in Rajiv Puram of Gharaunda Assembly constituency.

On the arrival of the Speaker of the Assembly, the public welcomed him with enthusiasm. Addressing the public during this time, Speaker of the Assembly Harvinder Kalyan said that



whatever problems were in the constituency, submit a memorandum related to them. It was his responsibility to get these works done. Whatever problems there were in the constituency will be resolved on priority basis.

He said that instructions were being continuously given to government officials regarding development works and problems related to the

constituency. Along with this, the ongoing development works are also being reviewed continuously. He said that the benefits of government schemes should reach the last person standing in the queue. The government was moving ahead with this objective. He also heard the problems of the people of Ward-3 and Ward-4 and issued necessary directions to the officials.

Modern Sandeepni School organises grand education fair



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT: Modern Sandeepni School (Mamoon) Pathankot under the supervision of Principal Dr. Neeraj Mohan Puri was organized a grand education fairby Sandeepni Videsh Services from 10 am to 4 pm. This foreign education fair was organized by Sandeepni School manager Salil Mahajan and Navjot Kaur Mahajan. In which candidates who want to study, live and go abroad took advantage of this golden opportunity. In this, about a thousand students from different states of Himachal Pardesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab arrived in this foreign education fair with their parents. Representatives of more than 80 foreign universities participated in the fair and on the occasion provided offer letters to students who wanted to study abroad. Those who want to go abroad are seeing their dreams come true at the ground level through this fair.

NSS holds camp at Shaheed Udham Singh Govt College

MAINPAL KASHYAP INDRI: As per the instructions of Principal Dr. Mahendra Singh Bagi, a one-day camp was organized by the first and second unit of National Service Scheme at Shaheed Udham Singh Government College, Mataf Majri, Indri, Karnal. This camp was organized keeping in mind the NAC related activities to be held in coming month 12-13 December, the purpose of which was to make the college neat and clean. About 200 volunteers of National Service Scheme participated in it. Work of painting trees in college was done. Stripes were made on trees with white and red color which looked very beautiful and some unnecessary items were collected at one place in college. Volunteers also emphasized on keeping the college plastic free. In this, National Service Scheme in-charge Prof Dimple and Profe Vandana Saini motivated children and said that we should keep our surroundings, houses, streets, neighborhoods and our college clean. Cleanliness should be taken care of and efforts should be made to make it beautiful and better.



Globe Heritage International school holds annual function



VIJAY KAUSHIK LADWA: Globe Heritage International School's annual function Pratibimb 2024 was organized with great pomp on the school premises in which BJP leader Nepal Singh Rana, representative of Haryana Government's Agriculture Minister, was the chief guest. Dr. Pratima, Principal of Guru Nanak Khalsa College Yamuna Nagar Sharma was the special guest and RP DAV College Shabbad Markanda's Vice Principal Dr Ravinder Kawatra and DAV Girls College's Associate Professor Dr Mani Vashisht were present as special guests. The program was presided over by Managing Committee's head Ranjana Goyal, General Secretary Sanjeev Agarwal and board member Sarika Agarwal and Shubhangi Agarwal. The program was inaugurated by the guests and management committee members by lighting the lamp.

Dr. Arvind Sharma sanctions Rs. 31 lakh for DSC Society Library



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA GOHANA: Cooperation Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma emphasized collective efforts for societal upliftment, stating that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is committed to ensuring fundamental rights for every community and integrating them into the mainstream. To support this mission, Dr. Sharma announced ₹31 lakh from his ministerial fund for the construction of a library at the DSC Society Hostel. The announcement came during a felicitation ceremony organized by the DSC Society at Kabir Dharamshala on Meham Road. The event witnessed a grand welcome for Dr. Sharma, with prominent members of the community and Swami Swadesh Kabir in attendance. Addressing the gathering under the aegis of the Dhanak Samaj Shiksha Sabha, Dr. Sharma highlighted the BJP's nationwide efforts to uplift all communities. He specifically mentioned initiatives for nomadic and denotified tribes in Haryana, along with measures to secure the rights and representation of the DSC community.

School Management Committees play vital roll for education system: Rajesh Dharmani



AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR: Urban Planning, Housing, and Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani emphasized the pivotal role of School Management Committee's (SMCs) in strengthening the education system, stating, "These committees are instrumental in ensuring better management, transparency, and improved educational outcomes in schools." He encouraged the adoption of activity-based teaching methods to make learning more engaging and holistic for children. Dharmani was presiding over a day-long training camp for SMCs was held at Government Senior Secondary School, Ghumarwin in Bilaspur today. The event was organized by the Education Department aimed to improve school management and educational quality. The camp saw the participation of around 500 SMC representatives and heads of 160 schools. Training sessions covered various critical topics, including SMC roles, mid-day meal management, quality education, health and hygiene, vocational education, NEP 2020, and combating drug abuse.

Everyone should come forward for eye donation: Jamil Bali



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHARPUR: A function of Rotary Eye Bank and Cornea Transplant Society was held under the Chairmanship J. B. Bahl. In which with the blessings of the Almighty God, a 12-year-old boy from Jammu and Kashmir, Master Amir Malik, got his eyes treated and was able to see this beautiful world. The patron of the society, Dr. Jameel Bali was specially present on this occasion. Chairman J.B. Bahl said that this child Aamir was unable to see with one eye since childhood and even had very little vision from the other eye. For this reason, he was a victim of inferiority complex. His father, Hamid Malik, contacted the Rotary Eye Bank, which took it seriously and provided free treatment to the child. On this occasion, Dr. Jameel Bali said that till date, more than 30 people of Jammu and Kashmir, Rajouri, suffering from corneal blindness have been treated free of cost by the society. Most of them were young children belonging to the Muslim community.

Monthly Bhandara organised with Kanya Pujan at Govindanand Ashram



YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI PEHOWA: Shri Govindanand Thakur of Pehowa organised monthly Bhandara with Kanya Pujan at Ashram today under guidance of Mahamandaleshwar 1008 Swami Vidyagiri Maharaj and in presence of Mahant Banshi Puri Maharaj, State President of Bharat Sadhu Samaj and Mahant Sarveshwari Giri Maharaj of Ashram. Mahant Sarveshwari Giri Maharaj said that for past several years, on 2nd Sunday of every month, hundreds of girls are worshipped in Ashram premises in form of Maa Bhagwati and along with fruits, Dakshina, summer and winter clothes, shoes and books for education are distributed to needy girls from time to time. Mahant Sarveshwari Giri said that Bhajan Sandhya Kirtan Prabhu Sumiran Paath is also being performed every evening at Ashram. Mahant Banshi Puri Ji Maharaj informed devotees about the importance of worshipping girls and earning virtue by serving cows and inspired them to follow the path of truth and told them that a person who walks on the path of truth remains stress-free as well as disease-free.

NEWS BRIEF

Syed Modi India International: Sindhu breaks BWF tour title drought, India secures three crowns in total

Lucknow : India's two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu ended her Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour drought of over two years by defeating China's Wu Luo Yu in the finals of the Syed Modi India International badminton tournament in Lucknow here on Sunday.

In the title clash lasting for 47 minutes, Sindhu defeated Luo Yu by 21-14, 21-16, within two straight games.

This was Sindhu's first BWF World Tour title since the Singapore Open title in July 2022, which was a BWF Super 500 tournament, as compared to Syed Modi India International, which is a BWF Super 300 tournament. In 2023 and this year, she had reached the finals of the Spain Masters and Malaysia Masters but failed to win the title.

Coming to men's singles, India's Commonwealth Games champion and Olympian Lakshya Sen secured the title, his first since the Canada Open last year. He defeated Singapore's Jason Teh by 21-6, 21-7 in an extremely one-sided match in just 31 minutes.

Also, there was some great news coming from the doubles competition as well, as the Indian women's doubles pair of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand secured the title.

Melbourne Renegades crowned champions of Women's Big Bash League 2024

Melbourne : Melbourne Renegades crowned champions of the 2024 edition of the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) as they beat Brisbane Heat by 7 runs at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. It was the all-round performance of Hayley Matthews that helped the Renegades clinch their maiden WBBL title. <https://x.com/WBBL/status/1863104193369915425> After winning the toss Brisbane Heat sent the Renegades to bat first at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. Hayley Matthews (69 runs from 61 balls, 8 fours) opened along with Courtney Webb (9 runs from 8 balls, 2 fours). Even though Webb failed to perform, it was Matthews' blitz knock that propelled Renegade to 141/9 in the first inning. Georgia Wareham (21 runs from 21 balls, 3 fours) and Naomi Stalenberg (16 runs from 12 balls, 2 fours) also played a crucial role in the inning as they helped Matthews build a partnership and add some crucial runs on the board. Matthews' knock came to an end in the final over of the inning, it was Charli Knott who managed to take the crucial wicket but it was too late and the devastation was already done as the Renegades put up 141/9 on the scoreboard.

Hockey India announces 20-member squad for Junior Asia Cup in Muscat, Oman

New Delhi: Hockey India (HI) announced a strong 20-member squad for the upcoming Women's Junior Asia Cup, set to take place in Muscat, Oman, from 7th to 15th December 2024. As the defending champions, India enters the tournament with high hopes after securing their maiden title last year, defeating South Korea 2-1 in the final. This tournament serves as a qualifier for the FIH Hockey Junior World Cup 2025. The competition will feature 10 teams divided into two pools: India is placed in Pool A alongside China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh, while Pool B consists of South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, and Sri Lanka. The Indian Junior Women's team will be led by Captain Jyoti Singh, with Sakshi Rana serving as Vice-Captain. Goalkeepers Nidhi and Aditi Maheshwari will provide a strong presence in goal, while the defence will be marshalled by Manisha, Jyoti Singh, Lalthantlang, Pooja Sahoo, and Mamata Oram. The midfield features a talented lineup with Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sumitla Topro, Ishika, Rajni Kerketta, Sakshi Rana, and Khaidem Shileima Chanu. Up front, India will rely on forwards Deepika, Beauty Durgdung, Kanika Siwach, Mumtaz Khan, and Lalinpui to lead the attack.

India lose to USA in first match of ITTF Mixed Team World Cup 2024 in China

Chengdu : Team India suffered a 3-8 defeat against the United States in their opening match of the first stage of the ITTF Mixed Team World Cup 2024 table tennis tournament in Chengdu, People's Republic of China, on Sunday. With seasoned players such as Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Sharathi Kamal, and Sathyan Granasekaran opting out of the tournament, a young Indian table tennis team is representing the nation in Chengdu.

In the mixed doubles opener, India's Snehit Suravajjala and Poymanitsee Baisya lost 2-1 (12-10, 11-8, 4-11) to the USA's Nareesh Nandan and Ke Tiffany. In the singles rubbers, Yashaswini Ghoshade and Jeet Chandra were defeated by identical 2-1 margins against Sally Mayland and Xiangxing Zhang, respectively.

World No. 88 Ghoshade was upset 11-9, 11-8, 7-11 by the 198th-ranked Mayland, while World No. 312 Chandra fell 11-8, 11-9, 7-11 to Zhang, ranked 469th in men's singles.

The men's doubles rubber saw Snehit Suravajjala and Jeet Chandra lose 2-0 (11-9, 11-9), capping off a disappointing day for India.

Authoritative performances from Rana, Gill, Nitish help India seal win over PM's XI in pink-ball warm-up match

AGENCY CANBERRA : Canberra : A four-wicket haul from pacer Harshit Rana and authoritative knocks from a returning Shubman Gill, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Yashasvi Jaiswal helped India secure a five-wicket win over Australia's Prime Ministers' XI in their pink-ball warm-up match at Canberra's Manuka Oval on Sunday.

The match was initially supposed to be a two-day affair, but due to rain on Saturday and Sunday, it was reduced to a 46-overs-per-side match.

In the run-chase of 241 runs, the Indian team opened with Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul, the pair which started the first Test at Perth. The duo played some fine cricketing shots, with a much-attacking intent. They brought the team to the 50-run mark in just 13.1 overs.

The U19 World Cup-winning pacers Charlie Anderson and Mahli Beardman were smashed for three fours each by Jaiswal and KL in the 13th and 14th over.

The partnership ended at 75 runs, with Jaiswal caught by Jack Clayton for 45 in 59 balls, with nine fours. Charlie got his first



wicket. India was 75/1.

KL also soon retired hurt for 27 in 44 balls, with four boundaries, bringing the pair of skipper Rohit Sharma, batting at number four and Shubman Gill at the crease.

However, Rohit's return to cricket after the birth of his second child did not last long, as he gave Anderson his second wicket after

being caught by Oliver Davies for an 11-ball three. India was 90/2.

Gill and Nitish Kumar Reddy formed yet another partnership, playing some really authoritative shots. India reached the 100-run mark in 23 overs. Nitish started from where he had left in Perth, smashing Llyod Pope's spin for three brilliant fours.

India reached the 150-run mark in 29.4 overs.

Gill retired hurt after making a half-century, scoring 50* in 62 balls, with seven fours.

Nitish was cleaned up by Pope for a 32-ball 42, with five fours and a six. India was 182/3 in 33.1 overs. This inning proved to be another confidence booster for Nitish, who impressed with

scores of 41 and 38* in the Perth Test and continues looking comfortable.

Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja, two spin-bowling all-rounders, took India to the 200-run mark in 36.3 overs.

Their partnership ended with Matt Renshaw taking the wicket of Jadeja for a 31-ball 27, with three fours. India was 219/4 in 41 overs.

Jay Shah becomes new ICC chief, starts tenure from today



AGENCY DUBAI: Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah on Sunday started his tenure as the new International Cricket Council (ICC) chief.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) today - 1 December - marked the beginning of Jay Shah's tenure as ICC Chair," an ICC statement read.

As ICC Chair, Shah outlined his priorities for his term, including leveraging the sport's inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games as a pivotal opportunity as well as further accelerating the growth of the women's game.

opportunities and take the sport to new heights," he added.

Shah brings extensive experience in cricket administration, having started his journey in 2009 with the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA). During his tenure, he oversaw the development of the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad.

In 2019, Shah joined the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), becoming its youngest-ever honorary Secretary.

Shah will now succeed Greg Barclay as ICC Chair. Barclay was in the role from November 2020, and Shah acknowledged his contribution to ICC's achievements over the last four years.

"I would also like to thank Greg Barclay for his leadership in the role for the past four years and the milestones achieved during that period. I look forward to working closely with the ICC team and the Member countries to expand the game's reach and evolution on the global stage," he said.

In August 2024, Jay Shah was elected unopposed as the next Chairman of the ICC.

Joe Root overtakes Sachin Tendulkar to achieve elusive record in Test cricket

AGENCY CHRISTCHURCH : Star England batter Joe Root on Sunday overtook Sachin Tendulkar to achieve an elusive record in Test cricket.

Root played an unbeaten 23-run knock from 15 balls in the fourth inning of the Christchurch Test against New Zealand and helped the Three Lions clinch an eight-wicket win over the hosts.

The 33-year-old became the leading run scorer in the 4th innings of Test cricket, with 1630 runs. Earlier, legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar held the record of leading run scorer in the 4th innings of Test cricket with 1625 runs.

Former England batter Alastair Cook stands in third place on the chart with 1611 runs. Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith holds the fourth with 1611 runs. Former West Indies Shivnarine Chanderpaul is



currently the fifth-highest run-scorer in the 4th innings of Test cricket, with 1580 runs.

Root made his Test debut in 2012 against England, following that, he has played 150 long format matches and scored 12777 runs at a strike rate of 57.23 and an average of

He found his style in the second innings : Ricky Ponting on Virat

AGENCY MELBOURNE : Ahead of the second Test of the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Adelaide, ICC Hall of Famer Ricky Ponting highlighted Virat Kohli's game-changing knock in the second innings in Perth as an example of batting with intent. Kohli ended a prolonged century drought with an unbeaten 100, his first Test century since July 2023 and his third in five years.

The second Test, scheduled to take place from December 6 to 10 at the Adelaide Oval, will feature the day-night format under lights.

"In the first innings, he was too focused on countering the opposition bowlers and deviated from his natural style. In the second innings, he rediscovered his rhythm and scored a hundred," Ponting said on the latest ICC Review episode.

With four Tests remaining in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and a potential spot in the World Test Championship final at stake, Ponting had a clear message for the Australian batters. "Now it's over to Marnus Labuschagne, Steven Smith, and others to find their own way again and score some runs," he added.

India's comprehensive victory in the first Test has set the tone for the series, with Kohli's innings playing a crucial role in the team's success. His ability to perform under pressure and

lead by example was once again evident in this remarkable feat.

The win in Perth not only gave India a vital lead in the series but also boosted the team's morale.

In the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India won the toss and elected to bat but managed only 150 runs. Nitish Kumar Reddy (41 off 59 balls, six fours, one six) and Rishabh Pant (37 off 78 balls, three fours, one six) added a crucial 48-run partnership for the sixth wicket. Josh Hazlewood (4/29) was Australia's standout bowler, while Pat Cummins, Mitchell Marsh, and Mitchell Starc took two wickets each.

Australia's response was poor, collapsing to 79/9 before a late partnership between Mitchell Starc (26) and Alex Carey (21) took them to 104, conceding a 46-run lead. Jasprit Bumrah led India's bowling with 5/30, while debutant Harshit Rana impressed with 3/48.

India dominated the second innings. KL Rahul (77 off 176 balls, five fours) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (161 off 297 balls, 15 fours, three sixes) put on a 201-run opening stand. Kohli's unbeaten 100 (143 balls, eight fours, two sixes), supported by Washington Sundar (29 off 94 balls, one six) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (38* off 27 balls, three fours, two sixes), propelled India to 487/6 declared, setting Australia a daunting target of 534.

India outclass Chinese Taipei 16-0 in Junior Asia Cup

MUSCAT (OMAN), DEC 1 (UNI) The Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team continued their dominant performance at the Men's Junior Asia Cup as they convincingly beat Chinese Taipei 16-0 in their pool A match here.

Dilraj Singh (17', 40', 45', 57') starred in the match with four scintillating goals while Indian defence held sway with goalies Bikramjit Singh and Prince Deep Singh ensuring a clean slate.

Riding on their 3-2 win against a tough opponent like Japan in their previous pool A match, India began with early attack on Saturday night that fetched positive outcome. In only the 7th minute of the match, the team's forwards secured a PC which was finely struck by Yogember Rawat. The early 1-0 lead gave India the right momentum for a high-scoring game.

Though there were no more goals in the first quarter, India Colts showed aggression in the second



quarter scoring as many as four goals. It was mercurial forward Dilraj Singh, instrumental in India's performance in the recent Sultan of Johor Cup, who was the cynosure of the team's attack against Chinese Taipei.

He scored the team's second goal in the 17th minute. Sourabh Anand Kushwaha (20', 28') scored twice in this quarter while Rosan Kujur (23') too added to the team's 5-0 lead by half-time.

India continued to demolish the Chinese Taipei's defence with back-to-back goals in the third quarter. They played with pace, relied on short-passes to create space in the circle. They pumped a goal just a minute into the third quarter through Talem Priyobarta's PC. Rosan Kujur scored his second goal in the 32nd minute taking India's lead to a formidable 7-0.

Arshdeep Singh arrived to the party in the 37th minute with a PC goal which was followed by a

penalty stroke in the 39th minute by Sharda Nand Tiwari. This took India's lead to 9-0. The team scored four more goals in this quarter through Dilraj Singh (40', 45'), Rosan Kujur (42') both of whom completed a hat-trick of goals. Arshdeep too added to the scoresheet in the 44th minute giving India a 13-0 lead before entering the last quarter of the match.

The remaining 15 minutes was only a formality with the strikers scoring three more goals taking India's scoreline to an impressive 16-0. Stylish forward Araiyeet Singh Hundal entered his name on the score sheet in the 54th minute through a field goal while Dilraj scored his fourth individual goal in the 57th minute while Sourabh Anand too completed his hat-trick with a 58th minute field goal. This high-scoring win ensured India remained on top of the points table with nine points in pool A.

England rise in latest ICC WTC 2025 points table following win against New Zealand



AGENCY CHRISTCHURCH : After winning against New Zealand in the first Test of a three-match series at Hagley Oval on Sunday, England rose to sixth position in the latest ICC World Test Championship 2025 table on Sunday ahead of the final of the competition. The first Test of each of the four ongoing Test series is complete and has altered the face of the World Test Championship 2023-25 Standings. While India and South Africa's emphatic wins have boosted their chances of making it to Lord's next year, defeats for Sri Lanka and Australia mean the two sides need to lift their game to improve their point percentage in the World Test Championship.

On the other hand, New Zealand's recent loss to England means that they cannot cross the 60% mark on the WTC table, and is a severe hit to their chances. With a victory over Bangladesh at home, West Indies have lifted themselves from the bottom of the WTC standings. First - India - 61.11% of possible points Remaining matches: Australia (away, four Tests) Best possible finish: 69.30% After an unprecedented 3-0 series whitewash at home in October against New Zealand which pushed them down a spot in the WTC table, India have bounced back in the race for Lord's with a comprehensive win in Australia. An all-round display from the batters and the bowlers in Perth has rekindled India's hopes for a third straight appearance in the WTC Final. Having started their five-Test tour Down Under on a winning note, India needs to win three off their remaining four matches to ensure qualification.

Dharmendra shares throwback pic with ‘Guddi’ co-star Jaya Bachchan

Veteran actor Dharmendra left his fans in awe with a touching throwback post featuring his “Guddi” co-star Jaya Bachchan. Taking to Instagram, the ‘Sholay’ actor shared a picture that appears to be from the sets of ‘Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani’, where the two recently



worked together. Along with the picture, the actor added an adorable caption that read, calling Jaya Bachchan his “loving doll” and praising her talent. “Guddi, will always be my loving doll. She is a world-class artist, and she always talks high about me. (From Guddi to Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani),” he wrote. Dharmendra and Jaya’s bond dates back to the 1971 film ‘Guddi’, where Jaya played a schoolgirl with a crush on Dharmendra, who portrayed himself in a special role. Directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, ‘Guddi’ was a turning point in Jaya’s career and is remembered as a tale of youthful dreams and reality. In 2023, the two reunited on screen in Karan Johar’s ‘Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani’, a family drama that saw Dharmendra and Jaya portraying pivotal roles. ‘Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani’ starred Ranveer and Alia in lead roles, and was released on July 28, last year. The film received much love from the audience, becoming a major hit.

Justin Timberlake cancels third tour show following back injury

Justin Timberlake has cancelled another stop on his ‘Forget Tomorrow World Tour’ after injuring his back. The singer, who has been battling health issues since October, announced the news to his fans over the weekend. Taking to Instagram, Timberlake shared that his show in Oklahoma City on December 2 will not take place. “I’m so sorry Oklahoma City... I have to cancel the show on 12/2. I hurt my back in NOLA, and my doctors have instructed me to rest a little bit longer,” he wrote on his Instagram Story. He added, “Thank you for your support - y’all know I hate doing this,” with a heart-hands emoji. The cancellation follows earlier tour delays. According to Deadline, Timberlake postponed an October 8 show due to an undisclosed injury and rescheduled several dates in late October after suffering from bronchitis and laryngitis. Despite the setbacks, the singer is expected to resume his tour on December 4 at Houston’s Toyota Center. Fans affected by the canceled show will receive refunds, as noted on his website. The Forget Tomorrow World Tour is Timberlake’s first in five years and promotes his album Everything I Thought It Was, released earlier this year. The tour is scheduled to run through 2025, covering stops across the U.S., South America, Europe, and the U.K. Rescheduled dates from October have been moved to February. This isn’t the first time Timberlake has apologized to fans for health-related delays. After the October 8 cancellation, he told fans, “I’m so sorry to postpone tonight’s show. I have an injury that is preventing me from performing. I promise to make it up to you and give you the show y’all deserve.” Timberlake has also faced personal challenges this year. In September, he entered a plea deal for a DWI charge, resulting in a \$500 fine and 25 hours of community service, reported Deadline.



Pushpa 2: Allu Arjun expresses admiration for Bhushan Kumar

Actor Allu Arjun on Friday made a captivating presence at the pre-release event of ‘Pushpa 2’. At the event, he expressed his admiration for Bhushan Kumar and T-Series for being the music partners of the film. He said “For the longest time I wanted my albums to be released on a platform like T-Series which has the highest reach. Today when it happened with Pushpa it filled my heart with absolute joy.” The event was also graced by ‘Pushpa 2’ lead actress Rashmika Mandanna. From recreating ‘Pushpa’ signature step to setting the stage on fire with dance, both Allu Arjun and Rashmika left no stone unturned to entertain the audience. In the visu-

als captured by ANI, Allu Arjun and Rashmika could be seen shaking a leg on Angaaron song from the film. Recently, Rashmika took to her Instagram Stories to share her five-year journey with the Pushpa franchise and expressed the bittersweet feelings she experienced on her “last day” of filming. In her long note, Rashmika revealed the busy day she had before heading to the sets for her final shoot. She also shared about the whirlwind schedule that included a flight to Chennai for an event, followed by a return to Hyderabad late at night. Despite only having a few hours of sleep, Rashmika pushed through exhaustion and arrived on set for the final day of shooting. “Dear diary, 25th Nov

This day for me was so overwhelmingly.. I just still don’t know how to react on it.. ok I’ll explain 24th evening after an entire day of shoot we took a flight to Chennai and we had such a lovely event in Chennai Flew back the same night back to Hyderabad Went home slept for about 4 or 5 hours.. woke up rushed to shoot for my last day of Pushpa :(We shot a crazy amazing song (you’ll all get to know about this very very soon) My whole day till late went in shoot.. and I knew it was my last day but somehow it didn’t feel like the last day you know.. like hmm I don’t know how to say Out of the 7/8 years Last 5 years being on this set almost made this set my home in the industry and finally it was my last day...” read a part of her note.

Tenali Rama, the timeless Indian genius - What makes him relevant still?

CHANDIGARH : In today’s fast-paced world where we turn to the internet and technology for solving our daily issues, a man who used his wit and intelligence offering smart solutions way back in the 16th century is still revered. The tales and life of Tenali Rama—the beloved advisor to the king of Vijayanagar offers valuable lessons which are relevant in modern day as well. Known for his sharp wit, compassion, and creative problem-solving, Tenali, one of the greatest geniuses that India has ever seen, remains an icon whose legacy is timeless. Bringing Tenali’s evergreen stories to television audiences is Sony SAB as they return with new episodes of their celebrated show Tenali Rama, showcasing how his wisdom resonates even today.



creative problem-solving earned him respect not only in the royal court but also among the common people. Outwitting neighboring kingdoms with clever strategies or resolving internal disputes with humor and fairness, Tenali’s unique blend of wisdom, wit, and empathy made him an irreplaceable advisor. Abhimanyu Singh, CEO Contiloe Entertainment and the producer of Sony SAB’s Tenali Rama, reflects on Tenali’s genius, saying, “One of Tenali’s greatest feats was his ability to outwit invading kings without resorting to violence. For instance,

when a king threatened Vijayanagar, Tenali devised a clever ruse involving disguised soldiers to trick the enemy into retreating. This shows that brainpower can often defeat brute force—something that remains true in our world today.” **Tenali’s Core Values: Empathy and Humor** Abhimanyu describes Tenali as a rare combination of intelligence, humor, creativity, and empathy. “Tenali wasn’t just a problem-solver; he navigated complex situations

with his heart. His ability to relate to everyone, from royalty to commoners, makes him a hero for all generations. Beyond his wit, Tenali’s empathy for the marginalized set him apart.” Abhimanyu said highlighting a lesser-known tale, “Tenali defended a poor farmer against unjust taxes by using satire to expose the flaws in the system. His solution inspired change, proving that even serious issues can be tackled with compassion.” He continued, “Another remarkable trait of Tenali was his use of humor to defuse conflict. When a neighboring kingdom mocked King Krishnadevaraya’s court, Tenali responded with a witty riddle that not only silenced critics but also fostered mutual respect. This ability to resolve tension through humor, rather than anger or force, is something we can all learn from.” **Why Tenali’s Wisdom Matters Today** Abhimanyu explains, “Tenali’s values—justice, resilience, and

thinking outside the box—are universal. In a world where we often face polarization, his ability to find common ground offers hope.” He further added, “When offered a choice by Goddess Kali between wealth and wisdom, Tenali amusingly requested both, reasoning that wisdom without resources—or vice versa—would be incomplete. This balance is a guiding principle even in modern life. Even in the show we continuously strive to combine historical authenticity with contemporary storytelling. While costumes and settings reflect the grandeur of the Vijayanagar Empire, the narratives are crafted to resonate with modern challenges. For instance, in the upcoming season, Tenali mentors a group of children, teaching them discipline and creativity without being overly strict—a lesson relevant to parenting in modern times.” **A Hero for All Ages** Above all, Tenali Rama’s story is one of resilience. Rising from humble beginnings to becoming a trusted advisor to King Krishnadevaraya, he faced ridicule and challenges, yet never lost his sense of purpose. “For younger audiences, Tenali is like a mentor,” says Abhimanyu. “He offers guidance with a touch of amusement, showing that solutions don’t have to be rigid or severe.

What do actors keep in their wallets?



CHANDIGARH: Our wallets often hold essentials, but for many, they also carry something far more meaningful—a personal keepsake. Whether it is a photograph, a small note, or a cherished memento, these little items serve as daily reminders of the things that truly matter in our lives. &TV artists, celebrated for their exceptional talent and strong on-screen presence, also treasure personal keepsakes that accompany them wherever they go. These include Ravi Mahashabde (Krishan Bihari Vajpayee from Atal), Amit Bhardwaj (Mewa from Bheema), Geetanjali Mishra (Rajesh from Happu Ki Ultan Palatan), and Rohitashv Gour (Manmohan Tiwari from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Ravi Mahashabde, who plays Krishan Bihari Vajpayee in Atal, shares, “The one thing I always carry in my wallet is a photo of Lord Ganesha, which has been with me since my teenage years. It holds an incredibly special place in my heart—not just as a spiritual symbol, but as a constant reminder that his blessings are always with me. There have been times when my wallet was empty, but his presence has never wavered. Lord Ganesha, known as the remover of obstacles and the god of wisdom, has always been a guiding force in my life. Carrying this photo feels like carrying faith, protection, and positivity with me wherever I go. It fills me with a sense of calm and strength, especially in challenging moments, and reminds me to keep moving forward with confidence.” Amit Bhardwaj, who plays Mewa in Bheema, says, “The one thing I always carry in my wallet is a family photo that includes my wife and daughter. This picture holds immense emotional value for me. It is more than just an image; it is a constant source of strength, hope, and joy. Whenever I feel low, uncertain, or overwhelmed by life’s challenges, a glance at their smiling faces instantly lifts my spirits and fills me with courage and positivity. This photo is my anchor, reminding me of the love and support that surrounds me, no matter where I am.” Geetanjali Mishra, aka Rajesh from Happu Ki Ultan Palatan, adds, “The one thing I always carry in my wallet is a pressed flower, gifted to me by a dear friend during my college days. Though delicate and fragile, it holds immense emotional value and is a constant reminder of a chapter in my life that was filled with dreams, laughter, and unbreakable bonds. Those were the days when life felt limitless, and every moment was infused with hope, friendship, and the excitement of the unknown. This flower, though small, represents the essence of those golden years. It was given to me during a casual, carefree moment—a token of friendship and a symbol of shared memories. Over the years, as life became busier and more complicated, that little flower has remained a constant companion, quietly reminding me to cherish the little joys and simple moments that make life beautiful.” Rohitashv Gour, who plays Manmohan Tiwari in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, adds, “One thing I always carry in my wallet is a small photograph of my parents.

Singers mesmerize audience with S.D. Burman’s songs



CHANDIGARH: A special evening filled with melodious performances was presented by singers who performed compositions by the legendary music director S.D. Burman. The event, organized by the Murchhana Cultural Society, Chandigarh, took place at Punjab Kala Bhawan, Sector 16, Chandigarh, yesterday. Forty-two singers from Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, and Kolkata showcased their talent by singing the superhit songs of the legendary S.D. Burman. Dr. Arunkant and his team received immense praise for the musical arrangements. The audience, comprising music lovers, showed their unwavering support for the performers throughout the evening. The chief guest of the event was Sh. Navratan Munjal, President & Managing Director of the pharmaceutical group Indo-Swift. Other special guests included Dr. S.S. Prasad, IAS (Retd.), Mrs. Ranju Prasad, Dr. Anil Sharma, Dr. G.S. Mavi, and Sh. Shantiram Manjhi. The event was hosted by Jagriti, who conducted the stage with grace. Sucheta Mukhopadhyay, the General Secretary of the society, left no stone unturned in ensuring the program’s grand success. A warm welcome and a vote of thanks were presented by Dr. V.P. Nagpal, President of the society.

Naga Chaitanya, Sobhita Dhulipala’s pre-wedding festivities begin with haldi

Wedding bells ringing for Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala! The duo is all set to tie the knot soon, and their pre-wedding festivities have already commenced. Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala’s fan pages on social media are flooded with pictures and videos from the couple’s pre-wedding ceremonies including haldi. In the visuals, Sobhita looked exquisite in a bright red saree. She completed her look with a chunky choker and a mang tikka. For another look, she opted for a yellow outfit for the ceremony. Chaitanya was seen in a white kurta and pyjama. Both Sobhita and Naga were seen beaming with joy as their friends and family members showered flowers on them. Recently, Sobhita took to Instagram and shared pictures from her ‘Pasupu Danchadam’ ceremony. “Godhuma Raayi Pasupu Danchadam And so it begins,” she captioned the post. For the ceremony, Sobhita donned a vibrant saree with a gold and green border. Pasupu Danchadam is a traditional Telugu pre-wedding ceremony that marks the beginning of wedding festivities. Pasupu means turmeric and danchadam signifies crushing. The phrase roughly translates to “crushing wheat, stone, and turmeric together.” In August, Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita got engaged at a private ceremony in Hyderabad in the presence of the couple’s families and friends. Veteran star Nagarajuna Akkineni announced this exciting news by sharing pictures of his son Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala from their engagement ceremony on his X handle.

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