

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 26, 2024
CHANDIGARH
VOL. XXIX, NO. 332
12 PAGES, ₹2.00

YUGMARG

CHANDIGARH PUNJAB HARYANA HIMACHAL PRADESH DELHI JAMMU & KASHMIR UTTARAKHAND

Plane with 67 on board crashes in Kazakhstan, over 30 dead

AGENCY
AKTAU, DEC 25

The Embraer 190 plane was en route from Azerbaijan's capital Baku to Grozny in Russia's Chechnya but was rerouted due to fog in Grozny. Sixty-two passengers were onboard the plane along with five crew members. "According to preliminary information, there are 32 survivors of whom 22 have been hospitalised," the ministry said on Telegram. As per reports over 30 persons have lost lives in tragedy.

A video showed the aircraft rapidly losing altitude and started banking to its right. It crashed into an open field and burst into flames.

The crash took place near the airport. The plane reportedly took several circles, requesting an emergency landing, but it stalled and crashed.

The Kazakh transport ministry said that of the plane's passengers, 37 were from Azerbaijan, six from Kazakhstan, three from Kyrgyzstan and 16 from Russia, AFP reported.

The plane transmitted a distress signal before the crash due to a collision with a flock of birds and a steering malfunction. The pilots tried to gain speed and altitude until the very end, but the controls completely failed.

Another video showed the aircraft trying to gain altitude. It rapidly ascends but starts stalling. Later the pilot tries to control the aircraft to gain height. The aircraft started circling near the airport and later crashed.

"The Embraer 190 aircraft operated by Azerbaijan Airlines, flight numbered J2-8243 on the Baku-Grozny route, made an emergency landing approximately 3 kilometres near the city of Aktau. Additional information regarding the incident will be provided to the public," Azerbaijan Airlines said.



Visuals showed ambulances at the crash site and some people were being rescued and deboarding from the emergency exit located at the rear end of the aircraft. The aircraft registration number, 4K-AZ65, visible in the video matches the data available on FlightRadar24.

Data from the online flight tracking website, FlightRadar24, showed the aircraft flying over the Caspian Sea and heading towards its destination, in Chechnya. The aircraft entered the territorial borders of Russia and started circling near the airport, requesting an emergency landing. At 6:28 am UTC (11:58 am), the flight crashed near the Caspian Sea shore, a few kilometres away from the airport. FlightRadar24 said the aircraft was exposed to "strong GPS jamming, which made the aircraft transmit bad ADS-B data."

Visuals showed ambulances at the crash site and some people were being rescued and deboarding from the emergency exit located at the rear end of the aircraft. The aircraft registration number, 4K-AZ65, visible in the video matches the data available on FlightRadar24.

3 killed, 24 injured as bus falls into gorge in Bhimtal

NAINITAL: Three people died and 24 got injured when a roadways bus fell into a deep gorge in Bhimtal's Saldi area on Wednesday, police said. The Uttarakhand roadways bus with 27 people on board was going from Almora to Haldwani when the driver lost control and the vehicle plunged into a 1,500 ft deep gorge, they said.

Bhowali Circle Officer Sumit Pandey said the injured are being rushed to the Community Health Centre in Bhimtal. Some of them are in critical condition.

Vajpayee architect of India's transition into 21st century: PM Modi

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, DEC 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the architect of India's transition into the 21st century and said the BJP stalwart ushered in reforms that set the stage for India's economic surge, abandoning an economic philosophy which encouraged cronyism and stagnation.

In an article which appeared in several newspapers on the 100th birth anniversary of Vajpayee, Modi said he spent his long parliamentary tenure largely in the opposition benches but never carried any trace of bitterness even though the Congress stooped to new lows by going to the extent of calling him a "traitor".

Modi said, "He stands tall as a statesman who continues to inspire countless people."

The prime minister said Vajpayee provided stable and effective governance at a time when people were getting impatient and sceptical about the government's ability to deliver due to the political instability of the 90s when four Lok Sabha polls were held in about nine years.

Coming from humble roots, Vajpayee realised the struggles of the common citizen and the transformative power of effective governance, Modi said, adding that



the long-term impact of his leadership is visible in several sectors.

His era marked a gigantic leap in the world of information technology, telecom and communications, he said.

"The NDA government under Atal ji made the first serious attempt to make technology accessible to citizens. At the same time, there was foresight in connecting India. Even today, most people recall the Golden Quadrilateral Project which connected the length and breadth of India," he said.

He also cited initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the push for Metro connectivity by doing extensive work for

the Delhi Metro, which stands out as a world-class infrastructure project.

He said, "The Vajpayee government not only boosted economic growth but also brought distant regions closer, fostering unity and integration." An initiative like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan highlights how Vajpayee dreamt of building an India where modern education is accessible to people across the nation, particularly the poor and marginalised sections, he added.

His government's decision to carry out nuclear tests and its handling of the aftermath provide a wonderful example of his leadership, Modi said.

Delhi CM Atishi may be arrested in fake case: Kejriwal

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, DEC 25

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal claimed that Delhi Chief Minister Atishi would soon be arrested in a fake transport case as the BJP was rattled by the party's announcement of welfare initiatives like the Mahila Samman Yojana and the Sanjeevani Yojana. Addressing a press conference with Atishi by his side, Kejriwal claimed that the ED, CBI and the Income Tax department recently held a meeting and "orders were received from the top" to arrest the Chief Minister and raid senior AAP leaders.

Accusing the BJP of trying to distract the AAP from its poll campaign, Kejriwal claimed that Atishi might be arrested in a



"fake case related to free bus rides for women". "I will not let the scheme of free bus rides for women stop till I am alive," he said.

The development comes amid a row over two Delhi government departments issuing public notices in newspapers, saying the Mahila Samman Yojana and the Sanjeevani Yojana were "non-existent". The notices ask citizens not to provide personal details to anyone on the pretext of registration.

Reacting to the controversy, Atishi claimed the BJP got the notices published by "putting pressure" on a few officers. "The notices issued in newspapers today are wrong. Administrative and police action will be taken against these officers. The information that Mahila Samman Yojana has been notified by the Delhi Cabinet is in the public domain," the Chief Minister said.

Good Governance demands sensitivity and empathy, says Haryana CM

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, DEC 25

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna awardee and former Prime Minister, Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, today addressed the State-level Governance Day programme in Gurugram. In his speech, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of sensitivity and empathy in government administration, urging officers to view their roles as an opportunity to uplift society and ease the hardships of the common people. The Chief Minister urged the officers to view each case with compassion, stating that when someone approaches their office with a problem, they should



not simply see it as a piece of paper. Instead, they should recognize it as a symbol of the individual's pain and hardship. He said that if we can understand the story behind that paper, we will have truly succeeded in our efforts towards good governance.

20 passengers injured as private bus overturns in fields on Jammu NH

CHANDIGARH: As many as 20 passengers were injured when a private bus overturned in fields near Kurala village on the Jalandhar-Jammu National Highway on Wednesday. According to Station House Officer of Tanda police station, Inspector Gurvinderjit Singh, nine injured passengers were admitted to the Civil Hospital in Dasuya, while 11 were taken to the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Tanda for treatment. The four critically injured passengers Vipin Kumar (36) of Amb (Himachal Pradesh), Rishu (29) of Pandori Arayan, Shanti Devi (65) of Kairo Bhusan, and Surinder Kaur (53) of Ludhiana were referred to the Government Hospital in Hoshiarpur from the Civil Hospital in Dasuya.

EPFO adds 13.41 lakh net members in October 2024

UNI
NEW DELHI, DEC 25

Retirement fund manager Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) added 13.41 lakh net members during the month of October 2024, as per official data released on Wednesday.

"This signifies increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by EPFO's effective outreach initiatives," said a release from Ministry of Labour & Employment.

As per the official data, EPFO enrolled around 7.50 lakh new members in October 2024.

At 5.43 lakhs members, the 18-25 age group accounted for 58.49% of the total new members added in October 2024 indicating that most in-



dividuals joining the organized workforce are youth, primarily first-time job seekers.

The payroll data highlighted that approximately 12.90 lakh members exited and subsequently rejoined EPFO during the month of October this year. These members switched their jobs and re-joined the establish-

ments covered under the ambit of EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus, safeguarding long-term financial well-being and extending their social security protection.

Gender-wise analysis of payroll data unveils that out of the new members added

during the month, around 2.09 lakhs are new female members.

State-wise analysis of payroll data denoted that net member addition in the top five states/UTs constitutes around 61.32% of net member addition, adding a total around 8.22 lakh net members during the month. Of all the states, Maharashtra led by adding 22.18% of net members during the month. The states/UTs of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Haryana, Telangana and Gujarat individually added more than 5% of the total net members during the month.

"Month-on-month comparison of industry-wise data displays significant growth in the members working in establishments engaged in the industries viz. road motor transport.

Has your bank account become inoperative?

Contact the bank

Update your KYC to activate the account.

- » Bank account becomes inoperative if there is no transaction for more than two years.
- » Get your KYC updated at any branch of your bank or through video KYC.

RBI Kehta Hai...
Jaankaar Baniye, Satark Rahiye!

For more details, give a missed call to 14440 or visit <https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/ia>
For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in

Issued in public interest by
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

NEWS BRIEFS

EC clarifies on voter turnout data, says due process followed

CHANDIGARH: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has clarified on the misconceptions regarding mismatch of voter turnout data for General and Assembly elections. In a detailed response, the ECI said while the VTR (Voter Turnout) app is merely a facilitative measure for updating voting trends at regular intervals on polling day, Form 17C is the immutable and only statutory source of total votes polled at any polling station and is made available to candidates before polling booth is closed. The VTR app displays voter turnout data on the basis of votes cast on EVM only, as postal ballots continue to be received till the time of commencement of counting. The ECI said an increase in voter turnout from 5 pm to 11.45 pm is normal as it is a part of the process of aggregation of voter turnout, adding that there can be bona fide but inconsequential differences in votes polled and votes counted.

Digital India vision has brought smiles on faces of poor: Suman Saini

VIJAY KAUSHIK
LADWA, DECEMBER 25

Haryana Chief Minister's wife Suman Saini said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Digital India is being realised in Haryana. Due to this vision, the family identity card is a new example of the digital revolution in Haryana. Due to this digital revolution, smiles are now visible on the faces of lakhs of poor. These people are now getting the benefits of all the government schemes while sitting at home. Suman Saini was speaking at a massive blood donation camp organised on Good Governance Day on behalf of Telu Ram Memorial Trust at the Rest House of Public Works Department, Ladwa, on the occasion of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday. Before this, Chief Minister's wife Suman Saini honoured the blood donors by giving them badges and appreciation letters. In this camp, Chief Minister's office in-charge Kailash Saini, Municipal Council President Sakshi Khurana, BJP Mandal President Narendra, Praveen Panchal, Devendra Sharma, Jaswinder, BJP leader Paramjit Kaur Kashyap, Arun Saini also honoured the blood donors



by giving them badges. More than 60 people donated blood in this blood donation camp. During this, social worker Suman Saini and all the guests paid homage to Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by offering flowers to his picture. Suman Saini congratulated the people of the constituency on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and great freedom fighter Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and said that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is working day and night to serve the people to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream come true. His thinking is that the government's schemes should be taken to the last person of the society so that every person can develop and contribute to the progress of the country

and the state. He said that the foundation of good governance was laid in Haryana in the year 2014. After this, with time in this state, this system kept reducing the distance between the citizens and the government. Due to which today e-governance is a strong pillar of administration. BJP leaders and dignitaries were present on this occasion.

Govt departments honoured on Good Governance Day



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, DECEMBER 25

On Good Governance Day, the Horticulture Department, Health Department, Women and Child Development Department were honoured with awards and mementos for their excellent work in the auditorium of the District Secretariat. Cabinet Minister Krishan Kumar Bedi was speaking at the Good Governance Day programme on the occasion of the birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya in the auditorium of the District Secretariat on Wednesday. Earlier, he offered flowers on the portrait of Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and inaugurated the program by lighting a lamp. He said that today is the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. He wished both the great personalities on their birthdays and said that during the tenure of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, people started getting special achievements in government services. He also shared his experiences with Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

He said that when India becomes a truly developed country, people will stop coming to politicians with work. The dream of a developed India will be realised only when people can do their work

at home and not face any kind of problem and people's trust in the government will increase. For this, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has set a target of 2047. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has also worked to reach the last person in the state with the help of Parivar Pehchan Patra to fulfill the Prime Minister's target. Now BPL cards are being made at home without any recommendation. Eligible people are getting an old age pension and other pensions without having to visit any office. The government has taken care of people's health and for this, Ayushman Bharat and Chirayu Health Scheme have been implemented, now a poor person can avail health benefits of up to Rs 5 lakh in a year under this scheme. The Cabinet Minister said that during the tenure of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, people started getting special achievements of government services. He said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee had worked to convert the shortage of LPG gas, sugar, oil etc. into abundance. He said that the introduction of the Kisan Credit Card was also started during the time of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He said that the work of honouring soldiers was also started by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Cabinet Minister Krishna Kumar Bedi honoured the Horticulture Department with the first prize of Rs. 31,000 cash, Health Department with the second prize of Rs. 21,000 and Women and Child Development Department with the third prize of Rs. 11,000, memento and certificate for their excellent work.

Help stray cows reach gaushalas : Swami Krishnanand Puri

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, DECEMBER 25

Swami Krishnanand Puri Ji Maharaj urged cow devotees to support the cows roaming helplessly on the roads and catch them and take them to the nearest cowshed to earn virtue. He said that cow worship has great importance in Sanatan Dharma and it is our duty to catch them and take them to the cowshed instead of letting them roam around helplessly on the roads. It is often seen that cows go to the fields and damage the crops of the farmers, as a result of which the people who protect the farming hurt them, but instead of doing this, they should catch these helpless animals and take them to the cowshed and become their support. He



said that the condition of animals remains very delicate in winters because the cold is getting more intense, in such a situation it becomes our duty to come forward to protect them and do pious work and help them as much as possible. Swami Krishnanand Puri Ji Maharaj said that 33 crore gods and goddesses reside inside cows, so if we serve them, we will attain virtue.

At a very young age Swami Krishnanand Puri Ji Maharaj took sanyas after completing his classical studies from Ayodhya and now he is engaged in cow service. The service work done in the cow shelter by Samadhi Baba Bhagwan Giri Math and Gaushala director and Mahant Swami Krishnanand Puri Ji Maharaj has also become a model for other cow shelters.

Cooperative awareness will open way for uplift of people

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25

To implement the 'Sankalp of Prosperity through Cooperation' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Cooperative Minister of Haryana Dr. Arvind Sharma has decided to run a district level cooperative awareness campaign with the aim of increasing the participation of villages, women, farmers and youth in the state, in which cooperative institutions will show the path of self-reliance to a large population on a single platform. This campaign is going to start from Gohana. The government led by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is providing employment opportunities to the youth in the state on the basis of merit without any slip and without any expenditure, while now the Cooperative Ministry of the state has geared up to provide immense possibilities to the youth in the field of self-reliance. Dr Arvind Sharma, who is handling the Ministry of Cooperation in the BJP government for the third consecutive time, has started a grassroots campaign to seriously fulfill the goals of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah. On the instructions of Cabinet



Minister Dr Arvind Sharma, the Cooperative Minister of Haryana, is seen speaking at a podium.

Minister Dr Arvind Sharma, the Cooperative Minister of Haryana, is seen speaking at a podium. Registrar of Haryana Cooperative Societies Rajesh Joggal has informed that the first district level cooperative awareness campaign is being organized by cooperative institutions on December 26 in Gohana, Sonapat. In this programme, through 10 stalls, detailed information will be given about the schemes of cooperative institutions and the opportunities available in them for the development of rural areas, farmers, women, especially youth. On this platform, representatives of successful self-help groups, PACS etc. of different schemes will give detailed information about their respective projects. In this campaign, HAFED, Dairy Federation, Harco Bank, Labour Federation, Haryana State Cooperative Agriculture Rural Development Bank along with the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and youth have been invited to participate.

Students should respect all religions: Preeti Gupta

KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI, DECEMBER 25

Christmas celebration was held at St. Paul Divine School Taraori. All the children of the school were seen dressed as Santa Claus. All the children and teachers participated enthusiastically during the program. School Principal Preeti Gupta said that we should respect all religions. All festivals should be celebrated together. She said that being a true Indian, it is our duty to respect all religions. She appealed to the children to celebrate all festivals



Punjab Government
led by
Chief Minister
BHAGWANT SINGH MANN
pays glowing tributes to

SARBANSDANI DASMESH PITA

SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S

YOUNGER SAHIBZADAS
BABA ZORAWAR SINGH JI
&
BABA FATEH SINGH JI
and his Revered Mother
MATA GUJRI JI
on their supreme sacrifice

Join Chief Minister
Bhagwant Singh Mann's
official WhatsApp channel

Department of Information and
Public Relations, Punjab

Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

NEWS BRIEF

BJP is misleading public on every issue:Avatar Nanere

RAKESH JINDAL
NABHA: The BJP government at the center is misleading the people of the country on all sensitive issues. Ex-Secretary Punjab Congress Committee expressed during the press meetAvatar Singh Nanere said that recently senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is fighting to save the country and the constitution, was falsely charged. He condemned this action in the entire country regarding the reprehensible words used by Amit Shah against Baba Sahib Ambedkar. There are ongoing protests against Amit ShahRahul Gandhi raised his voice in the Parliament regarding the demand for resignation from Amit Shah and therefore did not make people aware of the truth, therefore in a bluff to keep him out of the debate on the matter of Baba Ambedkar Sahab. This false action has been taken which is highly condemnable.

Complete ban on transportation of cows: Selling / buying China Door, using it at stores also banned

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: According to the orders issued by District Magistrate Barnala Mrs. Punamdeep Kaur, the movement of cattle without any documentary proof has been banned within District Barnala and the movement of any type of cattle after sunset in the evening and before sunrise in the morning has been banned. There will be a complete ban on transportation. She said that those who are rearing cows should get their registration done with the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry so that no untoward incident can happen regarding cows. According to another order by District Magistrate Barnala, a complete ban order has been issued on the sale/purchase, storage and use of synthetic/plastic door/China door and manjha (thread coated with glass powder) used for flying kites/gudias within the district. This ban will not apply to threaded doors. These restrictive orders will remain in force till 20 February 2025.

Ward number 4 AAP councillor Jaspal Jassu weighed with laddles

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL: Aam Aadmi Party Municipal Councillor Jaspal Singh Jassu of Ward Number Four at village Phul. Sarabjit Sarba Mithe member was weighed with laddus by the family and congratulated on the victory. The mouths of the ward residents present in large numbers were sweetened. On this occasion, MC Jaspal Singh Jassu said that under the leadership of MLA Balkar Singh Sidhu, the victory flag has been hoisted from ward number 4. So all the ward residents deserve congratulations. He said that according to the rules, the Municipal Council House will be formed. After that efforts will be started for the development of the ward. Jassu said that he will always be present in the service of the ward residents. It may be mentioned that Jaspal Singh Jassu got 433 votes which gave him victory. On this occasion, Billa Pandit, Sukhpal Singh Mittha, Kali, Robin Sodhi, Goldie Bhatia, Jagtar Singh, Satish Garg, Rampal Singh, Bunt Member, Ranjit Singh, Sikander Singh, Kavish Singla and a large number of his supporters were present.

Students create TV program to honour Sahibzada Martyrdom

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL: Students from Government Senior Secondary School Girls Mandi Kalan (Bathinda) recently participated in the recording of a state-level original text program, Kavi Darbar, dedicated to the martyrdom of Sahibzade. The program was held in Patiala, where the children's works, written by Simarjit Kaur, Amaninder Kaur, and Jashnpreet Kaur, were presented. These works were crafted under the guidance of their literature teacher, Gurvinder Singh Sidhu, who also prepared and edited the content. The initiative was jointly organized by Sukhi Bath, founder of Punjab Bhavan Canada, and Jagjit Singh Dardi, chairman of Chardoli Kala Time TV. The project was a tribute to the martyrdom of the Sahibzades, aiming to inspire students to take lessons from the lives of Guru Sahibs and Sahibzades and become better human beings. A total of 15 students from the International Children's Writers' Conference participated in the program under the theme Naviyan Kalama Nawi Vahaga. The project received special support from in-charge Unkar Singh Tej.

Govt to start indoor services at six veterinary polyclinics soon : Khudian

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, DEC 25

To ensure the health and well-being of pets and animals in a comfortable setting in the state, Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government will soon commence indoor services at six Veterinary Polyclinics in the state.

Disclosing this major development today, Punjab Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Minister Mr. Gurmeet Singh Khudian said that funds worth over Rs 1.85 crore have been provided for ramping up services at veterinary facilities and equipments are also being provided to start the indoor services at Veterinary Polyclinics in Patiala, Amritsar, Bathinda, Sangrur, Gurdaspur and Ludhiana.

These polyclinics will offer a range of indoor services for pets and animals including acute illness management, surgeries, post-operative care, lab tests, X-rays and ultrasound facilities soon. Highlighting the achievements of the Animal Husbandry



bandry department, S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian said that all the cattle-heads were administered with goat pox vaccine doses twice free of cost to prevent the lumpy skin disease. All the eligible animals have also been vaccinated with Foot and Mouth vaccine twice a year. During current year, 126.22 lakh doses of Foot and Mouth Disease vaccine were inoculated free of cost to the livestock in two rounds to protect them from FMD. He further informed

that 1,75,000 doses of frozen sexed semen (to produce only female calves) were procured at a cost of Rs. 11.81 crore to improve the economic condition of the livestock farmers of the state as well as to solve the menace of stray animals. 326 new Veterinary Officers, 538 Veterinary Inspectors and 59 Group C posts have been filled and recruitment of 405 more Veterinary Officers is under process to provide better animal healthcare services to the livestock

farmers, he added. The Animal Husbandry department's Principal Secretary Mr. Rahul Bhandari said that dewormers have been purchased with Rs. 6.37 crore and distributed to all the livestock farmers in the state under the Mass Deworming Campaign. Apart from this, medicines worth Rs 3 crore have been provided to hospitals/dispensaries for the treatment of animals and medicines worth Rs 1 crore are also being purchased.

maintain groundwater levels with the help of cooperative societies. This event was part of a nationwide initiative to strengthen Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and establish new Multipurpose Agricultural Cooperative Societies (mPACS). At the Sahikarta Samelan Punjab held at Punjab Bhawan here today, Mr. Alok Shekhar commended the achievements of dairy-based societies and emphasized the importance of revitalizing the state's extensive network of ponds to boost fisheries and

over time, necessitating urgent rejuvenation efforts. He said that reviving these ponds would not only support fisheries but also contribute to maintaining groundwater levels and ecosystem balance in rural areas. To achieve this goal, Mr. Shekhar advocated for encouraging existing PACS and establishing new mPACS. He said that these societies can play a vital role in establishing fish farms, marketing produce.

Kaur taught students to follow the path of righteousness and to follow the teachings of Gurus obediently. At this occasion, the entire school staff was present.

Punjab becomes fifth state in country to provide piped water supply to every rural household

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, DEC 25

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Water Supply and Sanitation Department has achieved major targets in providing clean drinking water and better sanitation facilities to the rural population in the year 2024.

Disclosing the achievements of the department during the year, Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Hardip Singh Mundian said that under 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme, Punjab has become the fifth state in the country to provide 100 percent piped water supply to rural households.

To address the issues of water quality and water scarcity, 15 major canal water projects covering 1706 villages are underway of Rs. 2174 Cr.

These projects will benefit about 25 lakh population and 4 lakh families.

Mundian further said that all the villages of the state have achieved ODF (open defecation free) status



under Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural). A total of 5.64 lakh individual household latrines and 1340 community toilets have been constructed.

More than 10435 villages of Punjab have become ODF Plus (desirable) and 1289 villages have achieved ODF Plus (model) status. Waste management facilities have been provided in 3366 villages for solid waste management and 9909 villages for grey-water management.

The Minister said that a network of 31 NABL accredited

Mundian further said that all the villages of the state have achieved ODF (open defecation free) status under Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural). A total of 5.64 lakh individual household latrines and 1340 community toilets have been constructed.

ited water testing labs is operational. Apart from this, two mobile water testing labs are currently testing water on the spot in villages. There is one NABL accredited operational laboratory in each district.

Mundian further said that with the support of PEDA, 20 biogas plants have been set up at the district level for managing cow dung in cow sheds. About 23 plastic waste management units have been set up at the block level for managing plastic waste in rural areas.

Dist police returns 60 stolen cell phones to their owners



MANSA (NARESH GOYAL): District Mansa police has played a significant role by returning 60 cell phones to their owners that it had traced. These cell phones were recovered by the police with the help of Central Equipment Identify Register (CEIR).

Stating this, Mansa's Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) disclosed that that portal CEIR was actually launched in April 2023 and with the help of this portal, dist police has been able to trace 463 cell phones which were handed over to their original owners after proper verification. Police Inspector Pushpinder Kaur, who handled the process of giving away traced cell phones today, however, divulged that market price of 60 cell phones handed over to their original owners is nearly 9 lac. She also stated that these cell phones were recovered with the joint efforts of district police and cyber crime cell. Kaur further told that in case anybody's cell phone is lost, its report can either be uploaded on CEIR portal or the same can be brought to the notice of nearest police post.

Punjab to focus on boosting fisheries sector through multipurpose cooperative societies: Alok Shekhar

CHANDIGARH, DEC 25

As Punjab continues to explore innovative strategies for agricultural growth through diversification and rural development, Punjab Additional Chief Secretary, Cooperation, Mr. Alok Shekhar on Wednesday said that the state would focus on boosting the fisheries sector with the help of existing Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and establishing new Multipurpose Agricultural Cooperative Societies (mPACS).

At the Sahikarta Samelan Punjab held at Punjab Bhawan here today, Mr. Alok Shekhar commended the achievements of dairy-based societies and emphasized the importance of revitalizing the state's extensive network of ponds to boost fisheries and



maintain groundwater levels with the help of cooperative societies. This event was part of a nationwide initiative to strengthen Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and establish new Multipurpose Agricultural Cooperative Societies (mPACS).

Shekhar said that Punjab boasts an impressive 13,000 villages, with approximately 18,000 ponds that hold immense potential for fisheries development, however, most of these ponds have dried up

over time, necessitating urgent rejuvenation efforts. He said that reviving these ponds would not only support fisheries but also contribute to maintaining groundwater levels and ecosystem balance in rural areas.

To achieve this goal, Mr. Shekhar advocated for encouraging existing PACS and establishing new mPACS. He said that these societies can play a vital role in establishing fish farms, marketing produce.

Gauri Shankar Seva Samiti organizes mega medical camp on Christmas

VERMA
GURDASPUR, DEC 25

Like every year, Gauri Shankar Seva Samiti organized a large-scale medical camp this Christmas in memory of Ravinder Kumar Mahajan. The event was held at Mission Road Church with the cooperation of Amandeep Hospital. The purpose of this medical camp was to provide free healthcare services to the poor and needy.

A team of various specialist doctors conducted health check-ups for over 500 patients at the mega camp. Doctors Yuktah, Sarven, Narinder Sharma, Warinder Kumar, Rohit, Vinay, Rahul Davera, and other specialists were part of the medical team. Free medicines were provided to the attendees, and appropriate treatment was given. This camp proved to be an invaluable opportunity, especially for those who lacked the resources to access medical care. During the camp, the chief guest, Ranjna Mahajan, expressed pride in Gauri Shankar Seva Samiti's Chairman, Sanjeev Malhan, for making a significant impact in the field of social service. She mentioned that Sanjeev Malhan has dedicated his life to serving others and wished him a long life so that he could continue his noble work and bring about positive change in society. Master Subhash also shared his thoughts and praised Sanjeev Malhan, stating that dedicated social workers like him are rare.



valuable opportunity, especially for those who lacked the resources to access medical care. During the camp, the chief guest, Ranjna Mahajan, expressed pride in Gauri Shankar Seva Samiti's Chairman, Sanjeev Malhan, for making a significant impact in the field of social service. She mentioned that Sanjeev Malhan has dedicated his life to serving others and wished him a long life so that he could continue his noble work and bring about positive change in society. Master Subhash also shared his thoughts and praised Sanjeev Malhan, stating that dedicated social workers like him are rare.

Swami Roop Chand Jain School pays tribute to Sahibzadas

SUKH NAHAR
JAGRAON, DEC 25

Swami Roop Chand Jain Senior Secondary School commemorated Sahibzaade while observing a day dedicated to their martyrdom and supreme sacrifice. School principal Rajpal Kaur said that the aim of observing the day was to let the students know about their prestigious history and sacrifices made by Sikh community. She informed the students about bravery and sacrifice of the Sahibzaadas and the entire Sikh community.

"The students recited 'Mool Mantra' followed by distribution of 'Karha Parshad'. Students recited poems dedicated to the Gurus, bravery of Sikh community and the sacrifices made by them. They also made paintings dedicated to crucial events of the



Sikh history and also depicted their artistic skills by writing Gurbani verses," she added. A film was shown to the students depicted great sacrifices made by Tenth Sikh Guru Guru Gobind Singh Ji and the Sahibzaadas.

Kaur taught students to follow the path of righteousness and to follow the teachings of Gurus obediently. At this occasion, the entire school staff was present.

Students of Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur visit historical places of Delhi

BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA DEHATI, DEC 25

Five students of Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur, which is running under the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, participated in the "Exposure Visit to Capital" organized by the Youth Services Department, Barnala.

The visit was from December 19 to December 22, 2024, in which about 90 students and 10 teachers from Barnala and Faridkot districts participated. Under the guidance of Shri Arun Kumar, Assistant Director, Youth Services Department, Barnala, a visit was made to historical and other creative places of Delhi, the capital of India, in which the students gained important and practical information about their capital. Seeing and understanding with their own eyes the history about which



the students had read in books till now was a new experience for these students. Five students of Miri Piri Khalsa College - Sakshi Singla, Husanpreet Kaur, Jashandeep Kaur, Arshpreet Kaur, and Nachhatar Kaur, Red Ribbon Club Program Officer Dr. Vandana Sukhija participated in this Delhi tour and got information about the history and present. Apart from visiting Delhi's National Police Memorial, Prime Minister's Museum, Red Fort, Rajghat, Jantar Mantar,

Qutub Minar, Lotus Temple, Himayu's Tomb, they also paid obeisance at Bangla Sahib Gurdwara, Rakabganj Gurdwara, and Sheesh Ganj Gurdwara Sahib. Dr. Vandana Sukhija said that the students enjoyed the Delhi visit a lot and gained new information. Principal Po. Malvinder Singh congratulated these students and thanked Mr. Arun Kumar and said that such tour programs are very important for the all-round development of students.

Jalandhar rural police recovers Rs 21.57l of cyber fraud



PARAMJIT SINGH
JALANDHAR, DEC 25

In a significant achievement, the Cyber Cell of Jalandhar Rural Police has refunded Rs 21.57 lakh to three victims of cyber fraud in separate cases, underlining the importance of timely reporting in such incidents.

The refunds were facilitated under a special drive against cyber fraud initiated by SP Investigation Jasroop Kaur BathIPS. The operation was executed by a team led by Inspector Arshpreet

Kaur under the supervision of DSP Rashpal Singh, PPS. In the first case, Sanjeev Gupta, a resident of Arjan Nagar, Ladowali Road, Jalandhar, was defrauded of Rs 7.50 lakh. The Cyber Cell team, led by Inspector Arshpreet Kaur under the supervision of DSP Rashpal Singh, managed to freeze Rs 5,40,517 of the fraudulent amount.

The amount was refunded following investigations conducted under FIR No. 01 dated 01.07.2024, registered under Sections 420 IPC and 66-D of the IT Act.

MP Arora recommends Trauma Care Centres on national highways at tolls for accident victims

SHARMA
LUDHIANA, DEC 25

The Central Government implements a scheme for Workshop-cum-training programme for development of Human Resources including States/UTs' Transport Departments with an objective to update the officials from the SRTUs/STUs/STCs and Traffic Police Departments with rules and regulations, measures related to Road Safety, crash investigations, digital initiatives and citizen facilitation measures, implementation of Intelligent Transportation System in public transport and other related issues pertaining to transport. Under this scheme 7,713 officials have been trained in the last three Financial Years. This has been stated by the Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Jairam



Gadkari in an answer to questions on "Trauma Care Services on Highways" asked by MP (Rajya Sabha) from Ludhiana Sanjeev Arora in the recently concluded winter session of Rajya Sabha.

Giving this information here today, Arora said the Minister further mentioned in his answer that Government implements Road Safety Advocacy Scheme to provide financial assistance to various agencies for raising awareness about road safety and for administering road safety programs. Under this scheme, various agencies have conducted first respondent training programs.

The Centre of Excellence for Road Safety (CoERS), at IIT Madras has trained 497 police officers across 4 States namely Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Karnataka on scientific crash investigation using Root Cause Analysis Matrix framework developed by CoERS.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an MoU with HLL Life Care Ltd., for training and capacity building of the staff deployed in on-road units dealing with incident management services (i.e. Ambulances/ Cranes/ Patrolling Vehicles), stabilization of accident victim, safe patient transport and care, efficient traffic management, obstruction of free flow as per shift standards, first aid training, maintain relations with all emergency services and local safety councils.

Youth services dept holds awareness seminar against drugs at Tharu



KULJIT SINGH
JANDIALA GURU, DEC 25

Under the guidelines of Director, Youth Services Department Punjab, Chandigarh, under the leadership of Preet Kohli, Assistant Director, Youth Services Department, Amritsar, a seminar and drama was conducted today in village Chetanpura during the anti-drug awareness campaign being conducted through youth clubs affiliated with the department. Meanwhile, Assistant Director Preet Kohli while addressing the villagers said

that the government is conducting an awareness campaign against drugs in various villages of the district through the Department of Youth Services to save the youth of Punjab. He said that drug addicts ruin their future as well as the future of their family, along with drugs, many other crimes are increasing in the society, so everyone should make joint efforts to stop the flood of drugs. A play was performed by the artists of Lok Kala Manch Majitha under the leadership of Gurmel Shamnagar.



Sugarcane Farmers to Receive

₹401

Per Quintal



Punjab,
The Highest Price
Offering State
in India



₹10 increase in Sugarcane price, Punjab becomes the highest price offering state for sugarcane in the country



₹764.99 crore paid to sugarcane farmers



The area under sugarcane cultivation has **increased** from 54,302 hectares to 56,391 hectares in 2024-25

“Farmers feed the entire nation; strengthening them economically is our duty. This initiative is a historic step towards bringing economic stability and empowerment to the lives of sugarcane farmers.”

Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Join Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's official WhatsApp channel

Scan Here



Editorial

Tricky note

Bangladesh has formally asked India to send back the former prime minister, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, to face prosecution, setting the stage for a likely diplomatic standoff between the neighbours at a time when their ties are already at their worst in years. Ms Wazed has been living in exile in India since early August when she fled Dhaka amid mass protests against her 15-year-long rule. Since then, her presence in India — from where she has occasionally issued public statements critical of the interim administration of the Nobel laureate, Muhammad Yunus, that replaced her government — has been a major source of tension between New Delhi and Dhaka. The extradition request — even though it is only a Note Verbale that New Delhi may choose not to respond to — may test Indian diplomacy, forcing it into making difficult choices between maintaining its credibility with allies and trying to salvage relations with an important neighbour. Bangladesh wants to try the former prime minister on charges of murder, genocide, crimes against humanity and, especially, for the crackdown on protesters against her rule when they campaigned for Ms Wazed's ouster this year. Hundreds of protesters were killed in these clashes with security forces. Ms Wazed's critics also accuse her government of forcibly disappearing hundreds of political opponents and dissidents while she was in power. Ms Wazed has denied all the allegations against her.

Mr Yunus had indicated last month that Dhaka would seek Ms Wazed's extradition, so New Delhi has not been caught unawares. Yet that does not make this moment any easier for India. Ms Wazed was a close friend and a critical partner for New Delhi spanning decades. Bilateral relations flourished under her. If India, which facilitated her escape from Dhaka when it became clear that she could not continue in office any longer, now forces her out of the country, it loses credibility with other leaders and allies that will struggle to trust New Delhi's friendship in the future. New Delhi is also wary that Bangladesh's current leaders might try to legally accuse India of complicity in some of the crimes Ms Wazed is accused of. Rejecting the extradition request — which New Delhi is allowed to do under their prisoner-exchange treaty — would further cement the anti-India sentiments that dominate Bangladesh today. India has tried reaching out to Mr Yunus, including through the recent Dhaka visit by the foreign secretary, Vikram Misri. It must gauge whether Bangladesh too is keen to resurrect ties. Ms Wazed's future could well shape the course of India-Bangladesh ties.

Trump sparks controversy with territorial claims

US President-elect Donald Trump in a series of social media posts has stirred controversy by expressing interest in acquiring Greenland, Canada, and the Panama Canal, citing national security and economic benefits. His remarks have drawn sharp rebukes from leaders in Denmark, and Panama.

In the latest social media post, Donald Trump's son Eric Trump posted a picture depicting Trump purchasing Canada, Greenland and Panama Canal and wrote, "We are so back!!!"

Recently, Trump expressed interest in Greenland and said that American ownership and control of the territory is an "absolute necessity" for national security and global freedom.

"For purposes of national security and freedom throughout the world, the United States of America feels that the ownership and control of Greenland is an absolute necessity," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social.

Following Trump's remarks on Greenland, Rasmus Jarlov, a Member of Parliament in Denmark's opposition Conservative Party, said that "dictators" threaten to take control over other countries' territory.

Sharing a post on X, Jarlov wrote, "Not sure whether it is a joke or not. But certainly not funny. One week Canada is threatened. Now Denmark. Greenland is Danish. It has been since 1380 and it will continue to be. This is undisputed,



Following Trump's remarks on Greenland, Rasmus Jarlov, a Member of Parliament in Denmark's opposition Conservative Party, said that "dictators" threaten to take control over other countries' territory. Sharing a post on X, Jarlov wrote, "Not sure whether it is a joke or not. But certainly not funny. One week Canada is threatened. Now Denmark. Greenland is Danish. It has been since 1380 and it will continue to be. This is undisputed, signed in rock in treaties and not open for negotiation at all. Dictators threaten to take control over other countries' territory. Free democrats

ic countries do not."

Earlier on Monday, Trump also posted a cryptic message on Truth Social about the Panama Canal. He posted a picture with the flag of the US flying above the Panama Canal, resonating with his threat to Panama that he would not let the canal fall into the "wrong hands."

He wrote, "Welcome to the United States Canal! The Panama Canal is considered a vital national asset for the United States, due to its critical role to America's economy and national security. If the principles, both moral and legal, of this unanimous gesture of giving are not followed, then we will demand that the Panama Canal be returned to us, in full, and without question. To the Officials of Panama, please be guided accordingly!" Following Trump's remarks on the Panama Canal, Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino responded to Trump and said, "Every square meter of the Panama Canal and the surrounding area belongs to Panama and will continue belonging so."

Earlier, Trump also created a stir by calling it a "great idea" for Canada to become the 51st state of the US, as Canadian leader Justin Trudeau faces a domestic political crisis linked to fears over a potential tariff war with Trump. "Many Canadians want Canada to become the 51st State," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform. "They would save massively on taxes and military protection. I think it is a great idea. 51st State!!!" he added.

Literature & Health

South Korea: President Yoon defies second summons over martial law investigation

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday defied summons from a joint investigation team regarding his brief declaration of martial law, marking the second time he has defied summons, according to a report by Yonhap News Agency.

Yoon failed to appear at the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (CIO) in Gwacheon by the 10:00 am deadline. The CIO has stated it will remain prepared for his potential appearance later in the day.

The summons was part of a joint probe conducted by the CIO, police, and the defence ministry's investigation unit into his December 3 martial law declaration. This follows Yoon's earlier refusal to comply with a summons issued last Wednesday. On Tuesday, Seok Dong-hyeon, Yoon's lawyer, had said that Yoon places a priority on the Constitutional Court proceedings on his impeachment and that he plans to issue a statement on his position on the trial after Christmas Day, Yonhap News Agency reported. A day before, the main opposition in the South Korean assembly, the Democratic



Party (DP), announced that it will delay its plan to introduce the impeachment motion against South Korean acting President Han Duck-soo who refused to promulgate two special counsel bills targeting Yoon and former first lady Kim Keon Hee. Initially, the DP planned to introduce the motion on Tuesday evening (local time) but decided to postpone it for two days to see if Han would appoint Constitutional Court justices after the motions for their appointments are passed during Thursday's plenary session, according to DP floor leader Representative Park Chan-dae.

Appointment of Indian-origin Sriram Krishnan as Trump's AI advisor

Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna criticised those targeting Indian-born Sriram Krishnan, who was recently chosen as a senior policy advisor for Artificial Intelligence by President-elect Donald Trump, over his Indian origin.

Khanna emphasised that the ability of the United States to attract talent from around the world shows America's "exceptionalism" which puts it ahead of other countries like China.

Following a post by an X user, who wrote, "Did any of y'all vote for this Indian to run America," Khanna on X wrote, "You fools criticizing @srramk as Indian born criticize Musk as South African born or Jensen as Taiwanese born."

"It is great that talent



around the world wants to come here, not to China, and that Sriram can rise to the highest levels. It's called American exceptionalism," the post added. US President-elect Donald Trump nominated Sriram Krishnan as senior policy advisor for Artificial Intelligence at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Sharing a post on the Truth Social platform, Trump wrote, "Sriram Krishnan



will serve as Senior Policy Advisor for Artificial Intelligence at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy."

"Working closely with David Sacks, Sriram will focus on ensuring continued American leadership in AI, and help shape and coordinate A.I. policy across Government, including working with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

POEM

The Two Voices

Still small voice spake unto me, 'Thou art o full of misery, Were it not better not to be?' Then to the still small voice I said; 'Let me not cast in endless shade What is so wonderfully made.' To which the voice did urge reply; 'To-day I saw the dragon-fly Come from the wells where he did lie.

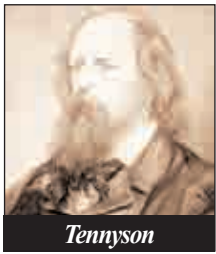
'An inner impulse rent the veil Of his old husk: from head to tail Came out clear plates of sapphire mail.

'He dried his wings: like gauze they grew; Thro' crofts and pastures wet with dew

A living flash of light he flew.'

I said, 'When first the world began, Young Nature thro' five cycles ran, And in the sixth she moulded man.

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson



AI can reveals hidden hazards of chemical mixtures in rivers

Artificial intelligence can provide important insights into how complex chemical mixes in rivers affect aquatic life, paving the path for more effective environmental protection.

A novel methodology developed by academics at the University of Birmingham shows how advanced artificial intelligence (AI) approaches can assist in discovering potentially dangerous chemical chemicals in rivers by monitoring their impacts on small water fleas (Daphnia).

The team worked with scientists at the Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES), in China, and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), in Germany, to analyse water samples from the Chaobai River system near Beijing. This river system receives chemical pollutants from a number of different sources, including agricultural,



domestic and industrial.

Professor John Colbourne is the director of the University of Birmingham's Centre for Environmental Research and Justice and one of the sen-

ior authors on the paper. He expressed optimism that, by building upon these early findings, such technology can one day be deployed to routinely monitor water for toxic sub-

stances that would otherwise be undetected. He said: "There is a vast array of chemicals in the environment. Water safety cannot be assessed one substance at a time. Now we have the means to monitor the totality of chemicals in sampled water from the environment to uncover what unknown substances act together to produce toxicity to animals, including humans." The results, published in Environmental Science and Technology, reveal that certain mixtures of chemicals can work together to affect important biological processes in aquatic organisms, which are measured by their genes. The combinations of these chemicals create environmental hazards that are potentially greater than when chemicals are present individually. The research team used water fleas (Daphnia) as test organisms in the study because these tiny crustaceans are highly sensitive to water

quality changes and share many genes with other species, making them excellent indicators of potential environmental hazards.

"Our innovative approach leverages Daphnia as the sentinel species to uncover potential toxic substances in the environment," explains Dr Xiaojing Li, of the University of Birmingham (UoB) and the lead author of this study. "By using AI methods, we can identify which subsets of chemicals might be particularly harmful to aquatic life, even at low concentrations that wouldn't normally raise concerns." Dr Jiarui Zhou, also at the University of Birmingham and co-first author of the paper, who led the development of the AI algorithms, said: "Our approach demonstrates how advanced computational methods can help solve pressing environmental challenges. By analysing vast amounts of biological and chemical

data simultaneously, we can better understand and predict environmental risks."

Professor Luisa Orsini, another senior author of the study, added: "The study's key innovation lies in our data-driven, unbiased approach to uncovering how environmentally relevant concentrations of chemical mixtures can cause harm. This challenges conventional ecotoxicology and paves the way to regulatory adoption of the sentinel species Daphnia, alongside new approach methodologies."

Dr Timothy Williams of the University of Birmingham and co-author of the paper also noted that: "Typically, aquatic toxicology studies either use a high concentration of an individual chemical to determine detailed biological responses or only determine apical effects like mortality and altered reproduction after exposure to an environmental sample.

Turkish Airlines Starts its Flights to Santiago, Chile

Good governance is the most important key to the progress of the country: Rajesh

CHANDIGARH: Turkish Airlines has expanded its reach in the Americas by launching flights to Santiago, the capital of Chile. With Santiago as its 26th destination in the Americas, this new route holds significant importance, as it increases the number of countries in the flag carrier's network in the region to 10 and the world to 131. Commenting on the launch of Santiago flights, Turkish Airlines CEO Bilal Eksi, stated: "As the airline flying to more countries than any other in the world, we continue to connect continents and cultures."

BN Group Unveils "Rakho Iraade Fresh" Campaign with Simply Fresh TVC, Celebrates Real-Life Heroes

Amritsar: Simply Fresh, the flagship brand of BN Group, has launched its latest campaign, "Rakho Iraade Fresh", with an advertisement that touches heartstrings and that champions real-life heroes who embody fresh perspectives and impactful actions. The campaign's inspiring TVC pays tribute to individuals like Neeraja Kudimoti, an IT professional who left her lucrative career to champion sustainable farming in rural India, and Narayan Krishnan, a five-star chef turned social worker who dedicates his life to feeding the underprivileged. Their extraordinary journeys of transformation and selflessness resonate deeply with Simply Fresh's mission to promote fresh ideas and bold choices for a better Bharat. Adding a unique dimension to the campaign, Bollywood's Sonu Sood and actor Anup Soni have come on board to amplify its message. Through their Instagram handles, they're spreading the word, encouraging viewers to adopt fresh perspectives and make a difference in their communities.

Langar in memory of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's sons organised by Sikh community

Sadhaura(Preet Saini): On Wednesday, the Sikh community organized a Langar (community meal) in memory of the younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji near the Pahadpur police checkpoint on the Sadhaura-Kalamb road. The Langar, which served tea and bread, was set up to honor the sacrifices of the Guru's sons

who, at a young age, embraced martyrdom for the faith and the country. Gurdav Singh, sharing details about the initiative, mentioned that Langars are being organized in various places in remembrance of the bravery and sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's sons. These young martyrs sacrificed their lives for the community and nation, and in their memory, the Sikh community is ensuring that no passerby goes hungry.

BJP celebrates Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary as good governance day



Chhachhrauli(RK Kashyap): BJP workers in Chhachhrauli and Pratap Nagar marked the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Good Governance Day. In Chhachhrauli, the event was led by BJP Mandal President Kalyan Singh. Party workers celebrated the occasion by distributing sweets and paid tribute to Vajpayee by reciting poetry and sharing insights from his life. Kalyan Singh highlighted Vajpayee's contributions and leadership. Prominent attendees included BJP Mandal Media In-charge Karam Singh Narwal, Jagdish Dhimani, Master Rajbir, and other notable personalities. Similarly, in Pratap Nagar, BJP Mandal President Praveen Aggarwal led the celebrations. Senior worker Mahipal Rohilla shed light on Vajpayee's life and recited a poem in his honor. Party workers paid floral tributes at his portrait and commemorated the day with great enthusiasm. Key participants included Virendra Gupta, Naresh Aggarwal, Amit Garg, Vijay Mittal, Vineet Singla, Ashish Walia, Yashpal Sarpanch, and others. The BJP emphasized that Vajpayee's legacy continues to inspire them to uphold the values of good governance.

Red Cross Society distributes blankets to needy

KARNAL(SHIV KUMAR SHARMA): Under guidance of Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh and Chairman District Red Cross Kamal, Red Cross team under leadership of Kulbir Malik, Secretary District Red Cross Kamal, inspected main places of city like new bus stand, railway bridge Kachhwa Road, Railway Road, Liberty Chowk, ITI Chowk, Guru Brahmmand Chowk, Namaste Chowk Kamal to protect people sleeping in open from cold and told people sitting under bridge and on roadside footpath that the district administration has built 6 shelters in Kamal for helpless people to protect them from cold. You can go there and stay overnight and all facilities are available there and blankets have also been distributed by Red Cross to the needy people standing on roadside.

PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana are proving to be effective for citizens: Uttam Singh

KARNAL (SHIV KUMAR SHARMA): Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh said that Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana are proving to be effective for citizens. Forms of these schemes are available in every bank and post office. By depositing prescribed annual premium in these schemes, insurance of up to Rs 2 lakh is available. He said that Central Government has launched two schemes to provide benefit of Jeevan Suraksha Bima Yojana to every bank customer. Social Security Scheme strengthens common family by giving financial support in times of difficulty. He said that persons aged 18 to 50 years can enroll in Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. An annual premium of Rs 436 has to be deposited and this provides protection of life insurance of Rs 2 lakh. He said that Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is an accident insurance scheme. Citizens aged 18 to 70 years can get their citizens insurance done. On an annual premium of only Rs 20, one gets accident insurance protection of Rs 2 lakh under this scheme. He informed that premium of these insurance schemes is auto debited from consumer's bank or post office account and claim amount is deposited directly in concerned bank account. To enroll in these schemes, contact your nearest bank branch or post office. He has appealed to citizens to take maximum advantage of government schemes.

Turkish Airlines Starts its Flights to Santiago, Chile

Good governance is the most important key to the progress of the country: Rajesh

Kurukshetra- Dec25(Dalbir Malik):- Haryana's Minister of State for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Rajesh Nagar said that good governance was the key to the progress of any country. This key can provide betterment, welfare and transparent and accountable administration to the last person of Antyodaya society. Keeping this in mind, the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was celebrated as Good Governance Day in the country and on this Good Governance Day programs were being organized in the country and the state under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini so that the young generation can get inspiration.

State minister Rajesh Nagar was speaking in the district level program organized by the district administration on Good Governance Day in the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat on Wednesday. Earlier, State minister Rajesh Nagar, former State minister Subhash Sudha, District President Sushil Rana, Zila Parishad Chairman Kanwaljit Kaur, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sonu Bhatt paid floral tribute before the photo of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. After this, Minister of State Rajesh Nagar and former Minister of State Subhash Sudha honoured the departmental officers who did commendable work the employees were also honored with certificates and



appreciation letters on Good Governance Day. The Minister of State, while congratulating and wishing the people of the state on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and great freedom fighter Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, said that Prime

transparent, effective and accountable governance to the citizens of India. He said that the state government has taken a pledge to celebrate the family welfare by keeping good governance in mind. Five essential documents have been made available to the citizens through the Identity Card Portal, which included Family Identity Card, Ration Card, Caste and Income Certificate, Senior Citizen Certificate, Chirayu Ayushman Bharat, Divyang Pension, Marriage Shagun Scheme etc.

The Minister of State said that the family identity card was a new example of digital revolution towards realizing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India. It was bringing smiles on the faces of millions of poor people. Human interference has been reduced to eliminate corruption.

Wrap Up the Year with Fun, Family, and Fresh Vibes on &ictures with the Premiere of Khichdi 2!

Chandigarh : All's well that ends well. Get Ready to close the Year with laughter, togetherness and a crazy Fun-Filled Adventure on &ictures as it welcomes the iconic Parekh family back into your homes with the premiere of Khichdi 2 on 29th December at 5 PM! With a perfect blend of nostalgia and new-age comedy, Khichdi 2 is the ultimate way to wrap up the year on a joyous note. From side-splitting humor to heartwarming moments, Khichdi 2 delivers an unforgettable joyride that resonates with every generation. This festive season, &ictures once again proves to be the go-to destination for entertainment that blends fun, energy, and togetherness.Jamnadas Majethia, the producer of the film, shares, "Khichdi 2 is all about celebrating families and the strong bond that holds them together. Stepping back into the world of Khichdi was such a heartwarming experience, bringing back so many memories and so much excitement. It's been amazing to revisit the characters that fans love, while also giving their story a fresh and unexpected twist. This time, the Parekh family takes on an adventurous mission to protect the nation, adding a new layer of excitement to their signature humor."



The Silent Surge: Dr (Brig) Rajeshwar Singh Calls for Action on Pancreatic Cancer in Tri-City

Panchkula: Pancreatic cancer, also known as Silent Cancer, cases are rising sharply in India, prompting urgent calls from medical experts to increase public awareness and encourage early detection. With the majority of cases diagnosed only at advanced stages, treatment options remain limited, significantly impacting survival rates. "Almost 80% of pancreatic cancer cases that we see are diagnosed at an advanced stage," said Dr (Brigadier) Rajeshwar Singh, Medical Oncologist at Paras Health in Panchkula. "By the time patients come to us, the disease has often spread, making treatment more challenging."

One of the primary challenges in combating pancreatic cancer is its elusive nature. Often referred to as a "silent disease," it rarely presents clear early symptoms. Instead, patients may experience vague signs such as abdominal discomfort or back pain, which are frequently mistaken for less severe conditions. "Most patients don't realise anything is wrong until the disease has progressed significantly," Dr Singh explained. Common symptoms of pancreatic cancer include persistent abdominal or back pain, unexplained weight loss, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes), loss of appetite, and nausea, particularly after meals. While these symptoms may not always indicate pancreatic cancer, their persistence should prompt a medical consultation, especially for those at higher risk. Pancreatic cancer is categorised into two main types: Adenocarcinoma, which is the most common type, originating in the pancreatic ducts and accounting for about 95% of cases and Neuroendocrine Tumors, a rarer type that generally grows more slowly but still requires prompt diagnosis and treatment. "It's essential to distinguish between these types as they behave differently," Dr Singh added. "However, regardless of type, early diagnosis remains our best hope for effective treatment."

Vi Partners with Punjab Police to Ensure Safety of Children at Shaheedi Jor Mela in Fatehgarh Sahib

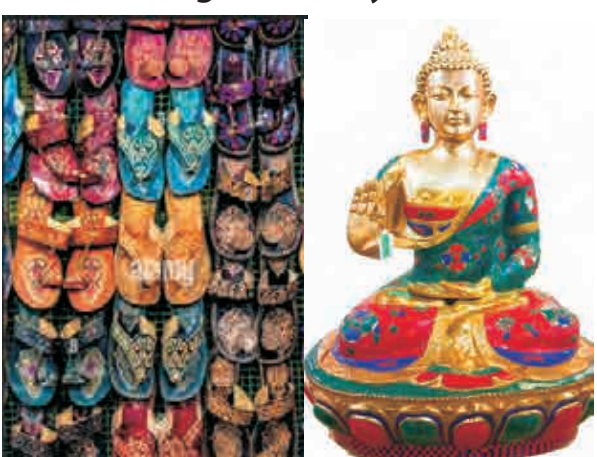
Chandigarh/Ludhiana : Leading telecom operator Vi has announced a unique digital initiative along with the Punjab Police for the Shaheedi Jor Mela, which will take place at Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib. To ensure the safety of children who will attend the gathering, Vi will provide bands with unique QR codes to each child. In the unfortunate instance where they may be separated from their parents/guardians, the children can find the nearest police help desk, where a simple scan of the QR code will allow the authorities to contact their parents/guardians in a safe and secure manner. This initiative is under Vi's larger 'Be Someone's We' campaign and philosophy, which underlines the importance of using technology to bring loved ones closer to each other. Deepak Rao, Cluster Business Head- Punjab, Haryana, HP J&K, Vodafone Idea, said, "Festivals and large gatherings are all about bringing people together."

Around 50,000 visitors attend JJS 2024 in 4 days



Chandigarh : The four-day 'The December Show' – Jaipur Jewellery Show (JJS) concluded with a grand finale on Monday, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees. The event held at JECC, welcomed nearly 50,000 visitors and traders. As with every year, both the organisers and exhibitors were gratified by the enthusiastic and positive response they received, marking yet another successful edition of the show. The event concluded with a valedictory session that celebrated its remarkable achievements.While delivering the Welcome Address, Chairman of JJS, Vimal Chand Surana said that the Jaipur Jewellery Show has truly reached new heights this year, with the largest number of booths ever and a record turnout of buyers. It is continuing to be a remarkable platform, ensuring great business opportunities for everyone involved. He also informed that the upcoming edition of JJS will be held from 19 to 22 December 2025.On the occasion, Honorary Secretary of JJS, Rajiv Jain said that this year, the Jaipur Jewellery Show witnessed an impressive footfall of nearly 50,000 over four days, with 7,915 outstation registrations and 593 international attendees. Hosted buyers from across the globe, including Hong Kong, the USA, Russia, Armenia, Georgia, the UAE, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan made the event bigger and better, reinforcing Jaipur's position as a hub for the finest in jewellery. He further informed that another special feature of JJS this year was the visit from Russian and Thailand delegations.The JJS Awards featured Vani Kapoor as the guest honour, while Nandini Gupta graced the networking dinner. A stand-out performance by the Swaraag Band added a delightful touch to the evening.

AGI Infra Ltd to Host Two-Day Art and Cottage Industry Exhibition



Jalandhar(BUNNY SODHI): AGI Infra Ltd, a leading real estate and construction company, is organizing a two-day exhibition on December 29th and 30th, 2024, at Jalandhar Heights-1, 66 Feet Road, Jalandhar, from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The event aims to celebrate the rich art and culture of the region while promoting local artists and cottage industries. According to Mrs. Salwinderjit Kaur, Director of AGI Infra Ltd and Chairperson of Hospitality, the exhibition will provide small-scale entrepreneurs a platform to showcase their unique creations and innovative products to a wider audience. The exhibition will feature performances by students from AGI Global School and AGI Welfare School, fun activities, games for children, and musical entertainment. Mrs. Kaur urged citizens to attend and support local talent and creativity, emphasizing the importance of fostering the community's artistic and entrepreneurial spirit.

Seminar on Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme held at CA Bhawan



is not just a mechanism for dispute resolution but a step towards fostering trust and transparency between taxpayers and the tax administration, paving the way for a more robust and efficient tax ecosystem."

The program was also honored by the presence of Guests of

Honour, Dr. Gagan Kundra, IRS, Additional Commissioner of Income Tax - TDS, and CA Dinesh Mittal. Coordinated by Saroj Bala, Income Tax Officer- TDS, the seminar provided a platform for discussing key aspects of the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme and innovative approaches in financial markets.

Paisalo Digital Ltd. Board Approves Fund Raise through Preferential Issue

CHANDIGARH: Paisalo Digital Ltd. (BSE: 532900, NSE: PAISALO), a thriving listed non-deposit taking NBFC registered with the Reserve Bank of India, has announced that its board has approved raising of up to Rs. 258.16 Cr through preferential issue of convertible warrants at a price of Rs. 58.20 per warrant, to non-promoter group entities. FPIs UNICO Global Opportunities Fund Limited & NOVA Global Opportunities Fund PCC-TOUCHSTONE are amongst proposed allottees.Recently, the company announced that it's board has Approved the allotment of 600 Listed Commercial Papers (CPs) of the Face Value of Rs. 5,00,000 each aggregating to Rs. 29.20 Cr through Private Placement to IDBI Bank Ltd.

Turkish Airlines Starts its Flights to Santiago, Chile

Good governance is the most important key to the progress of the country: Rajesh

Annual Celebration at DAV Public Senior Secondary School

Sadhaura (Preeti Saini) The annual celebration at DAV Public Senior Secondary School began with the chanting of Vedic mantras and the Saraswati Vandana. The event was held in the school premises, with participation from all teachers and students. The program started with the lighting of the lamp and the DAV anthem, followed by a vibrant array of performances. The nursery students dressed in costumes representing various states of India showcased the theme of unity in diversity. Students from Class 6 presented a dance dedicated to Saraswati and Ganesh, paying homage to these deities. The event was anchored by Sonia and Gunjan, who uplifted the students' spirits with their encouraging words. Highlighting the growing impact of mobile phones, the KG class students portrayed the popularity of mobile phones through songs. The fifth-grade students performed a dance focusing on the importance of cleanliness. Class 7 students performed a dance depicting the emotional journey of a student whose morale is shattered due to low marks but later regains confidence. The event also featured a group song where students expressed their gratitude towards their parents, followed by a dance performance on "Samudra Manthan" by Class 7 students. The grand finale of the event was a lively Bhangra performance, celebrating Punjab's cultural heritage. The program concluded with the annual report presented by the school's principal, Ajay Sharma, who also honored the school's alumni with awards. Ajay Sharma congratulated all participants and encouraged students to actively participate in future school events. He also expressed his gratitude to the parents for attending the program.



Fusion Finance Limited organises a Financial Literacy Awareness Program at Gurdaspur, Punjab

Gurdaspur - Fusion Finance Limited organized a "Financial Literacy Awareness Program" at Gurdaspur, Punjab. Among the guests at the program were Shri Gurdeep Singh (Inspector, Gurdaspur) & Shri Gurdeep Singh Pahra (Ex MLA).The guests appreciated the efforts of Fusion and explained the importance of financial management to the women. In this program, people were made aware about various methods of financial management like savings, expenses, government schemes through drama adaptations and videos. About 100 beneficiaries took advantage of the information given in the program.Fusion has not limited its responsibilities only to financial transactions but it is also continuously contributing to other social activities through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.On this occasion, company heads Rashmi Verma (Deputy Vice President (L&D), Shamun Malik (Divisional Manager), Jatinder Singh (Trainer), Arun Kumar (Area Manager) and Other Branch Staff.About Fusion Finance Limited (Formerly Fusion Micro Finance Limited):Fusion Finance [BSE (BOM: 543652) and NSE (NSE: FUSION)], founded in 2010, is amongst India's leading Non-banking Financial Company-Microfinance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs), touching the lives of - 4 million clients in the country. Fusion was established with the core idea of creating opportunities at the bottom of the pyramid by providing financial services to the underserved and unserved women entrepreneurs in rural areas. It is one of the youngest companies to be among the top NBFC MFIs in the country with an Asset under Management (AUM) of INR 12,193 crore. The company has been growing consistently with an extensive network of 1,398 branches spread across 22 states including 3 Union Territories, as of 30th June 2024. Fusion believes in robust business practices and transparent policies as expressed in its customer-centric efforts toward clients and is committed to creating sustained and balanced stakeholder value. For more information, please visit www.fusionfin.com

Ola Electric Accelerates EV Revolution with Record Expansion to 4,000 Stores Nationwide



Ludhiana, December 25 : Ola Electric, India's largest pure-play EV company, today expands its network to 4,000 stores nationwide, registering a four-fold increase from the existing network. One of the world's most significant expansions of the EV footprint, bolstering access, growth, and adoption in the country. Ola Electric cements its leadership in the space. With the launch of 3,200+ new stores co-located with service facilities, the company is committed to driving large-scale EV adoption enabling deeper penetration beyond tier-1 and tier-2 cities to almost every town and tehsil across India. With this expansion, Ola Electric has fulfilled its promise under its #SavingsWalaScooter campaign. Bhavish Aggarwal, Chairman & Managing Director, Ola Electric, said, "We promised, and now we have delivered! Today marks a significant milestone in India's EV journey as we expand our network to every city, town, and taluk. With our newly opened stores co-located with service centers, we have completely redefined EV purchase & ownership experience, setting new benchmarks with our #SavingsWalaScooter campaign. As we continue to scale, we are committed to pushing the boundaries of innovation and accelerating the country's journey towards #EndICEAge." Ola Electric also offers an expansive S1 portfolio with six offerings across attractive price points catering to varied customer requirements. While the premium offerings S1 Pro and S1 Air are priced at ₹1,34,999 and ₹1,07,499, respectively, the mass market offerings include the S1 X portfolio (2 kWh, 3 kWh, and 4 kWh) priced at ₹74,999, ₹87,999, and ₹101,999, respectively.

Love Faces Challenges: Will Harnav and Sidak Tie the Knot?



Zee Punjab's beloved show Jawai Ji is set to deliver high-voltage drama on September 26-27, leaving viewers on the edge of their seats. Harnav and Sidak's wedding, eagerly awaited by fans, takes an unexpected turn as Rocky and Amreen conspire to sabotage their happiness. In a surprising turn of events, Rocky and AM kidnap Harnav just before the wedding, with Rocky stepping in to take his place, intent on sabotaging Sidak's special day. Meanwhile, Amreen celebrates her plan's success, relishing the chaos they've created. Will their deceitful scheme shatter Sidak's dreams of a happily ever after? Or Will true love prevail amidst the deception? Tune in to Jawai Ji at 7:30 PM on Zee Punjab to uncover the fate of this gripping tale. Don't miss the heart-stopping twists and turns in this unforgettable episode!

Vi Partners with Punjab Police to Ensure Safety of Children at Shaheedi Jor Mela in Fatehgarh Sahib

Chandigarh/Ludhiana, 25 December, 2024: Leading telecom operator Vi has announced a unique digital initiative along with the Punjab Police for the Shaheedi Jor Mela, which will take place at Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib. Deepak Rao, Cluster Business Head- Punjab, Haryana, HP J&K, Vodafone Idea, said, "Festivals and large gatherings are all about bringing people together. However, with children, there is always the worry that they might get separated from their parents or guardians. With this initiative, we are merely playing our part in ensuring that people have complete peace of mind. We are grateful to the Punjab Police for partnering with us for this cause." Dr. Ravjot Grewal, SSP Fatehgarh Sahib said, "This is a simple and safe way of ensuring that no child is lost at the Shaheedi Jor Mela. I urge the citizens to collect these QR code bands from Vi helpdesk and register themselves to ensure safety of their children."

To ensure the safety of children who will attend the gathering, Vi will provide bands with unique QR codes to each child. In the unfortunate instance where they may be separated from their parents/guardians, the children can find the nearest police help desk, where a simple scan of the QR code will allow the authorities to contact their parents/guardians in a safe and secure manner. This initiative is under Vi's larger 'Be Someone's We' campaign and philosophy, which underlines the importance of using technology to bring loved ones closer to each other. The QR code bands will be active from 25th to 27th December during the Mela and are non-transferable. Devotees and pilgrims can collect the bands from the Visuraksha counters set up at the parking lot near the Baba MotiRam Mehra Memorial Gate, at the entrance of the parking lot of Shri Guru Granth Sahib World University and near the DharamKanda Mandi Board, Sirhind.

Asian Paints launches re-engineered Apex Ultima Protek

Ludhiana : The exteriors of our homes face constant challenges like heavy rains, intense sunlight and continuous dust. Over time, this can affect the look and durability of homes, leaving homeowners searching for a long-term solution. Asian Paints, trusted by homeowners across India, has taken its flagship exterior paint, Apex Ultima Protek—also known as the Lamination Paint—to the next level by powering it with Graphene, a revolutionary material that brings unmatched protection and strength. With a 12-year warranty, this re-engineered paint becomes the top choice for exterior protection. Graphene, the lightest yet strongest material ever tested, is changing industries with its great strength, flexibility, and durability. Now, it makes Asian Paints Apex Ultima Protek a strong barrier that protects homes from UV fading, cracks, and water damage. Graphene's advanced elastomeric properties is the strongest and most reliable protection for Indian homes. To bring this new product to life, Asian Paints has launched an all-new campaign, "The Safe House," with brand ambassador Ranbir Kapoor.

Greenco presents Rs. 1.35 Crore cheque to CM for samej disaster relief efforts

SHIMLA: Anoop Banyal, General Manager of Greenco Company, presented a cheque of Rs. 1.35 crore to Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today, to support the victims of the Samej disaster in Shimla district. The funds will be used to assist families affected by the devastating monsoon disaster this year. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the company's management for this noble gesture. Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that Rs. 2 lakh each would be provided to 32 families whose homes were completely damaged, while another Rs. 2 lakh will be provided to 33 families who lost their loved ones during the calamity. Additionally, Rs. 1 lakh each will be given to 5 families whose homes sustained partial damage.

NEWS BRIEF

Kutlehar BJP Mandal observes 100th birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

JOGINDER DEV ARYA
BANGANA, DECEMBER 25: On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Kutlehar BJP Mandal organised a "Good Governance Day" program, where former minister and BJP state vice-president Virender Kanwar paid floral tributes to the late leader and remembered his extraordinary contributions. Speaking at the event, Virender Kanwar remarked, "Today, we commemorate the birth centenary of Atal Ji, who demonstrated India's nuclear prowess to the world. Through the Pokhran tests, he sent a clear message that while India is a messenger of peace, it will not compromise its strength or accept any form of external pressure." Kanwar highlighted Vajpayee's exemplary leadership, noting that even while in the opposition, he worked inclusively, earning respect across party lines. "His governance was so impactful that his birth anniversary is celebrated as Good Governance Day," he added. Addressing party workers, Kanwar said, "We pay our heartfelt tributes to Atal Ji, whose life is a guiding light for Indian politics. He united the nation with his vision and integrity, setting an example for generations to come." Mandal president Charanjit Sharma, general secretaries Master Ramesh and Rajinder Rinku, along with Shashi Rana, Vijay Sharma, and other party workers, also offered their respects to Atal Bihari Vajpayee during the program.

Determination, hard work Key to success : CM to youth

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu emphasized the importance of determination in achieving success, stating that no goal in life can be achieved without strong will-power. He encouraged the youth to set clear objectives and work diligently to accomplish them. The Chief Minister appealed to the youth to stay away from drugs and engage in activities such as sports and other constructive pursuits. He said that the state government is taking stringent action against drug mafias to safeguard the future of the youth.

Speaking at the National Fashion Week event in Shimla on Tuesday late evening, the Chief Minister highlighted the government's efforts to promote tourism through initiatives like the Winter Carnival in Shimla. "The carnival will provide a



platform for emerging talent through cultural programs, with plans to include fashion shows in the future," Sh. Sukhu said.

He lauded the achievements of daughters, who are excelling in various fields and bringing laurels to the state. The Chief Minister also said that the government is com-

mitted to bring significant changes in education and healthcare sector to make Himachal Pradesh prosperous and self-reliant.

In the event, Suryansh Chandel from Sundernagar claimed the top spot in the Mr. North India Supermodel contest, with Karthikeyan Thakur from Mohali and

Suyansh Dhingra from Faridabad securing the first and second runner-up positions, respectively. In the Miss North India Supermodel contest, Simone Mehta from Rohru was crowned the winner, followed by Shreya Thakur from Sujanpur Tihra as the first runner-up and Savita Thakur from Karsogas

the second runner-up. The competition witnessed participation from contestants representing four states.

The winners were felicitated by the Chief Minister during the ceremony. Additionally, 'Nati King' Kuldeep Sharma was honored with 'Heera of Himachal' award.

Metalling of old roads permitted under PMGSY-IV: Vikramaditya Singh



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh said here today that the Central government has accepted the request of the state government to allow metalling of roads in rural areas, those not in good conditions, under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV) along with construction and metalling of new roads.

The minister said that he had requested the Central Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chauhan regarding the same. While thanking the centre for the decision, the minister said that it would aid in metalling of around 1000-1500

kilometres of roads. He added that the PMGSY-IV would aid in strengthening the rural roads of the state, improving connectivity in the remotest areas.

Vikramaditya Singh added that efforts were afoot to restore the connectivity in the state in the areas where roads were blocked due to heavy snowfall. The department was putting in all the efforts to clear the roads as early as possible, and adequate man and machinery has been deployed for the same. Keeping in view the ongoing tourism season, the government was committed to ensure that tourists as well as local people enjoy seamless and safe travel.

CM pays floral tribute to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by garlanding his statue at The Ridge, Shimla, on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary.

Speaking to media persons, the Chief Minister lauded Vajpayee's immense contribution to the nation, describing him as an extraordinary statesman, an outstanding parliamentarian and a gifted poet. He said that Late Sh. Vajpayee had a deep affection for Himachal Pradesh and its people.

Responding to a question, the Chief Minister said that he was going to



participate in the two-day Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Karnataka. He said that he also plans to meet Union Ministers on 28th December, where he would discuss

pressing issues concerning Himachal Pradesh, including declining GST compensation, Revenue deficit Grants (RDG) and the state's loan limit.

Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that during the tenure of the present state government, the pace of development in Himachal Pradesh has significantly increased, with enhanced revenue generation supporting infrastructure and public welfare initiatives.

Chief Minister's Principal Media Advisor Naresh Chauhan, Mayor Surender Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner Shimla Anupam Kashyap and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Foreign guests celebrate Christmas in St. John's Church

SANAJY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA DEC 25: Christmas was celebrated with great fervor in the tourist city of McLeodganj. The joy of the birth of Lord Jesus Christ was celebrated with great pomp in the form of Christmas in all the churches of Kangra district.

A special prayer meeting was held in the evening of the previous Christmas in St. John's Church in McLeodganj, in which foreign guests participated enthusiastically. Tourists who arrived from abroad celebrated Christmas in St. John's Church. People who arrived in McLeodganj started the prayer meeting in St. John's Church in McLeodganj from 12 midnight itself.

Tourists from the country and abroad celebrated Christmas with enthusiasm. This continued almost all



night. The special prayer meeting started again from around 11 am on Wednesday morning which continued till 12 noon. Where people prayed while wishing each other on the occasion of Jesus' birthday, after which refreshments

were organized there for the tourists. Little children appeared dressed as Santa Claus in the church.

Toy shops for small children were also decorated outside the church. There was a lot of enthusiasm among people on Christmas Day.

Students raise awareness on drug and mobile addiction through songs and street plays



SANJEEV MAHAJAN

NURPUR: A vibrant annual prize distribution ceremony was held at IT Next Generation School in Sullai, Nurpur, where former Nurpur MLA Ajay Mahajan graced the occasion as the chief guest. Alongside him, Zila Parishad member from Pundar Ward Hardeep Singh Dipu, BDC member Rozi Jambal, and other dignitaries, including Manohar Kaundal and Khushwant Singh, were present. The event commenced with a Saraswati Vandana and lamp lighting ceremony. School Principal Neeraj Chadha presented the annual report to parents, showcasing the year's achievements and milestones. Students from nursery to grade 10 actively participated in cultural performances, presenting Hindi, Punjabi, and Haryanvi dance sequences. The highlight of the program was a series of street plays performed by students to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug addiction and excessive mobile usage. Their heartfelt performances, highlighting social issues, were widely appreciated.

Ajay Mahajan praised the children's presentations and announced a donation of a water cooler and financial assistance for the school.

Una District Administration takes strong action against illegal mining



KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: The Una district administration has carried out a surprise raid as part of its zero-tolerance policy against illegal mining. Led by Deputy Commissioner Jatinder Lal, a joint team conducted the operation on Tuesday in the Swam River area and its surrounding regions. The team included Superintendent of Police Rakesh Singh, Mining Officer Neeraj Kant, Mining Inspector Pankaj Kumar, and SHO Mahtapur Mast Ram Naik, among others. In an effort to enhance the precision and effectiveness of the crackdown, the administration also deployed advanced drone technology for close monitoring of mining activities. During the raid, authorities seized four tractors and other vehicles in the Khanpur, Fatehpur, Santoshgarh, and Bathdi areas. The individuals involved will face hefty fines, and legal action is being pursued. Deputy Commissioner Jatinder Lal stated that stricter measures will be taken in the future to combat illegal mining.

"Agriculture department hosts training camp to promote traditional and organic farming in Chamlog"

AJAY UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, DEC 25: The Agriculture Department of Himachal Pradesh Development Block Sadar successfully organized a one-day training camp under the Traditional Agriculture Development Scheme at Chamlog village, Gram Panchayat Deoli. The event aimed to empower farmers with knowledge about traditional farming practices and encourage organic and natural farming methods.

The camp witnessed participation from various departments, including the Horticulture Department, Animal Husbandry Department, and Soil Conservation Department,



whose officials provided detailed insights into their respective schemes. Subject Matter Expert Ratan Thakur urged farmers to adopt traditional farming practices while emphasizing the benefits of organic and natural farming. Horticulture Development Officer Ajay Kaudal highlighted

schemes to enhance horticultural productivity, and officials from the Animal Husbandry Department encouraged livestock rearing to boost milk production. The collaborative efforts of the departments ensured farmers received comprehensive guidance on sustainable

agricultural practices.

The camp was graced by former MLA Tilak Raj Sharma who served as the chief guest. He shared valuable information about government-run schemes aimed at empowering farmers and improving rural livelihoods.

Strict action against those harassing industrialists: CM

SHANTI GAUTAM

BADDI, DECEMBER 25: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has issued a stern warning, declaring that any form of harassment or intimidation of industrialists in Himachal Pradesh will not be tolerated. He assured that the state government will take swift and serious action against such incidents.

During a meeting in Shimla with a delegation from the state's industrial association, CM Sukhu listened attentively to their concerns and assured them of the government's support. He emphasized that the government is committed to creating a business-friendly environment in the state and is providing facilities to industries. He added that any threats or exploitation of industrialists would be dealt with strictly, and strict action would be taken against those responsible. Highlighting the state's focus on sustainability, CM Sukhu reiterated the government's goal of establishing Himachal Pradesh as a Green Energy State by March 31, 2026. He urged entrepreneurs to invest in sectors such as information technology, food processing, tourism, and hydroelectric energy, which align with green energy initiatives. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of addressing climate change and said that green initiatives play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of global warming. The meeting was attended by Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan and representatives of the industrial association.

AAP protests against insulting remarks on Baba Saheb Ambedkar

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR, DEC 25: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Dr. Punyal has strongly condemned the alleged derogatory remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. Calling it an insult to Ambedkar, the Constitution, and democracy itself, Dr. Punyal declared that AAP would not tolerate such comments and would stage nationwide protests in response.

Dr. Punyal stated, "The BJP and RSS have always followed a Dalit-oppressive and anti-Constitution ideology. Their statements and policies repeatedly reflect this bias. This is not the first time that they have disrespected Baba Saheb. History records



incidents such as the RSS conducting a symbolic funeral for Dr. Ambedkar while he was still alive—an act of utter disgrace." Highlighting Ambedkar's global recognition, Dr. Punyal said, "Dr. Ambedkar, whose intellect and accomplishments

have been celebrated by universities worldwide, faced relentless caste discrimination in India. While he is often restricted to being seen solely as a Dalit leader, his contributions were for all sections of society. Reducing him to a caste-based icon

undermines his legacy and vision." Dr. Ambedkar's work spanned critical areas such as women's rights, health, economic freedom, and labor welfare. His landmark reforms included reducing the workday from 14 hours to 8, ensuring dearness allowance,

Jai Ram Thakur pays tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: On the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur and State General Secretary Organization Siddharthan participated in an exhibition at Ridge Ground.

Thakur remembered Atal Ji's immense contributions to the nation, particularly in governance and infrastructure. He noted that Vajpayee's leadership set standards of integrity, inclusiveness, and honest governance. "Today, as we celebrate Sushasan Divas (Good Governance Day), we remember Atal Ji's legacy of setting the parameters for governance, working with honesty, and focusing on the welfare of everyone," Thakur said.

Thakur recalled the words of Atal Ji's poetry, including the



famous lines, "Har nahin maanunga, raar nahin thaanunga, kaal ke kapaat par likhta hoon mitata hoon, geet naya gata hoon," which continued to inspire him.

The Leader of Opposition

also highlighted Vajpayee's role in launching the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which has been a boon for hilly states like Himachal Pradesh. Thakur stated that the scheme has

connected remote villages, with over 2000 kilometers of roads in the state alone being built under the initiative. He further emphasized that without such a scheme, many rural areas in Himachal.

NEWS BRIEF

Ramesh Mahajan changes life of underprivileged children



VERMA GURDASPUR: "Can you believe that these underprivileged children, once forced to live in one of the most impoverished slums of Maan Kaur village, were previously engaged in rag-picking and other precarious work alongside their parents? Driven by a vision to eradicate begging from Gurdaspur, I embarked on a personal mission. It began humbly with just three students learning under a temporary tent. Ten years later, through my own dedicated funding, I have established a fully-equipped, modern school boasting 70 students and equipped with the latest technology. Years of unwavering perseverance and dedication have transformed the lives of these children."

PPCB launches campaign to make people aware of ban on China Dor and single use plastic

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, DEC 25

To make aware people of the hazards of China Dor and Single Use Plastic, an awareness campaign launched by the Punjab Pollution Control Board's Regional Office, Mohali. Divulging the details, Rantje Sharma, the Regional Officer, PPCB, said that as per the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Aashika Jain, to implement the ban on China Dor and Single Use Plastic and sensitising the people of the hazards effects of both these, sub division wise awareness activities have been chalked out by the field staff. As a part of awareness activities, banners were put



up in local public places such as prominent public places and local market in all sub divisions (Mohali, Kharar and Derabassi) of District Mohali, in which pamphlets were also distributed to the public. He said that Punjab Government has implemented a comprehensive ban on single-use plastics to address environmental concerns. The Punjab Plastic Carry Bags (Manufacture, Usage, and Disposal) Control Act of 2005 was amended in 2016 to prohibit the manufacture,

stocking, distribution, recycling, sale, and use of plastic carry bags across all municipal jurisdictions in the state. He further said that In line with National efforts, the state extended the ban to include various single-use plastic items from June 1, 2022. These items encompass polystyrene and expanded polystyrene commodities, earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene for decoration, plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, and wrapping and packaging films around sweet boxes.

Winter clothes distributed to needy in memory of martyrs

DAVINDER SHARMA
RUPNAGAR, DEC 25

In honor of the Shaheedi Pakhwada (Martyrs' Fortnight), the Naina Jeevan Jyoti Club, Rupnagar, distributed winter clothes to laborers working at brick kilns. The club operates a shop near Gandhi School, where local residents donate useful materials like clothes and toys. These items are then distributed to those in need, particularly focusing on the workers at brick kilns. Members of the club mentioned that the joy and satisfaction they felt seeing the smiles on the faces of the recipients could not be bought from a market. They



expressed gratitude to the local residents for their invaluable support and appealed for continued cooperation in the future. The event was attended by prominent members of the club, including Parminder Kumar, Dhruv Narang, Atinderpal Singh, Varinder Vyas, Sandeep Kakkar, Pankaj Gupta, Dinesh Verma, Shiv Kumar Saini, and Bhupesh Kumar.

District Magistrate honors top-performing girls in Gurdaspur



VERMA
GURDASPUR, DEC 25

In line with the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" initiative, the Gurdaspur district administration, led by Deputy Commissioner Uma Shankar Gupta, is actively promoting girls' education. A special ceremony was held at SSM College Dinanagar to recognize the academic achievements of girls who secured first place in 5th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades across all 19 blocks of the district. Among the honored students were Navneet Kaur and Sharanjit Kaur from Government Senior Secondary School Bharath in Block Qadian-1, Sumandeep Kaur from Government High School Basrai, and

Tanveer Kaur from Purana pind village. The event was attended by dignitaries including Deputy Commissioner Uma Shankar Gupta, ADC Harjinder Singh Bedi, Deputy District Education Officer Lakhwinder Singh, District Career Guidance Counselor Parminder Singh Saini, College Principal Dr. Tully, and Block Qadian-1 Nodal Officer Vijay Kumar. Addressing the students, the Deputy Commissioner assured them of his support in overcoming any educational challenges they may face. Nodal Officer Vijay Kumar announced that Sumandeep Kaur had been awarded Rs. 2100 by Dilbag Singh and would receive further recognition in the future.

MLA from Barnala Kuldeep Singh Kala Dhillon gets important responsibility in VS

BARNALA DEHATI (BALWINDER AZAD): Kuldeep Singh Kala Dhillon, the Congress Party candidate from Barnala Vidhan Sabha seat, won the four by-elections held in Punjab and became the MLA. Now, the Punjab government has given important responsibility in the committees of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. According to the orders issued by the Speaker of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kuldar Singh Sandhwan, Kuldeep Singh Kala Dhillon has been nominated as a member of the Subordinate Laws Committee and the Committee on Documents to be kept in the House. This appointment of Kala Dhillon is causing a wave of happiness among the people of Barnala constituency and Congress workers.

Mohan Bhagwat's statement inspired by appeasement: Arvind Gautam



TILAK RAJ
MOHALI, DEC 25

Today an important meeting of Shiv Sena Hindustan was held under the supervision of Akhilesh Singh Mohali district president, Kiran Jain Mahila Morcha Mohali district president and Deepak Jain trade cell Mohali district president. In which Arvind Gautam (Youth) State President specially participated. On this occasion, Arvind Gautam, Presenting his views in the discussion, he said that Rashtriya Swayasevak Sangh RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said that after the construction of the Ram temple, some people are thinking that they can become leaders of Hindus by taking issue with the temples. Such a statement could not be expected from Mohan Bhagwat. These 8 statements are completely motivated by sectarian politics and beyond comprehension. Gautam said that where our temples authenticity is proving there we have the right to take back our temple Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat is baking his political bread by taking Z Se

curity He said that even when there was no Sangh Hinduism existed. Gautam said that on Bangladesh, There is no statement from Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat, enen on the continuous persecution of Hindus in Canada and West Bengal and the destruction of Hindu temples. He is being totally silent on this topic. Gautam said that the Sangh chief is not the president of all hindus, he is a President of an organization. He said that during the dark period of terrorism in Punjab, no efforts were made by the RSS for Hindus and even today the Punjabi Hindus who are victims of terrorism are seeking compensation. The compensation is being expected from the governments. Gautam said that the 21st century belongs to the Hindus and where we see the possibility of a temple, we will claim it. A letter has been given to National President of Sena Hindustan Shere Hind Mr. Pawan Kumar Guptaji in which a strong appeal has been made to end all ideological and political ties with RSS until the Mohan Bhagwat Sangh has the leadership of RSS.



In remembrance of the supreme sacrifice
made by Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji
for the protection of faith, the entire nation is celebrating

Veer Baal Diwas

26 December 2024, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

On this occasion
Prime Minister Narendra Modi
will

Interact with recipients of the
Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Address children from across the country

And

Launch the Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan

The top 1,000 Gram Panchayats will be awarded

50% of the prize money will be
given to Anganwadi workers/
helpers and Gram Panchayats

50% of the prize money
will be spent on improving
nutrition in Anganwadi centres



Watch the live broadcast on DD News from 12 PM onwards

CBC 46101/13/0009/2425

RNI NO. 61323/95 | Postal Code No. G/CHD/0168/2016-2018

Chief Editor, Dr. Chander Trikha, Managing Editor, Shashi Pal Jain, Printed and Published by Gaurav Goei for Yugmarg Prakashan from 28/1, Industrial Area Phase-II, Chandigarh and printed at 'Yugmarg Publications, Kurali Road, Kharar Distt. Mohali (PB), Ph: (toll) 0172-5002721, 2972414, E-mail: yugmarg@gmail.com

NEWS BRIEF

Bumrah, Jadeja to continue milestone hunt during MCG Test

Melbourne : Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja are all set to continue their milestone hunt during the fourth Test against Australia at Melbourne starting from Thursday onwards, with the bowler chasing 200 Test scalps and the veteran all-rounder also near the 600 wicket mark in international cricket. With the series level at 1-1, both sides will be playing the much-anticipated Boxing Day Test intending to secure an all-important series lead needed to push a case for the ICC World Test Championship final. Bumrah is just six wickets away from achieving 200 Test scalps and becoming the 12th Indian bowler to do so. Currently, in 43 Tests, Bumrah has taken 194 wickets at an average of 19.52, with best bowling figures of 6/27 and 12 five-wicket hauls.

Bumrah is the leading wicket-taker in the series so far and has been head and shoulders above all in terms of consistency, having taken 21 wickets in three matches at an average of 10.90, with best figures of 6/76 and two five-wicket hauls to his name.

Against Australia, he has taken 53 wickets in 10 Tests at an average of 17.15, with three five-wicket hauls and best figures of 6/33.

Coming to Jadeja, he is seven wickets away from 600 international wickets and becoming only the fifth Indian bowler to reach the landmark. In 349 international matches, he has taken 593 wickets at an average of 29.04, with 17 five-wicket hauls to his name and best figures of 7/42.

While he has been wicketless in this series against Australia in this series, he has a fine record against Australia. In 18 Tests against them, he has taken 89 wickets at an average of 20.35, with best figures of 7/42. He has taken five five-wicket hauls and a 10-wicket-haul.

Punjab FC hope to ride high on home advantage ahead of Mohun Bagan clash

New Delhi : Riding high on their home win percentage, Punjab FC aims to bounce back after two successive away defeats. The Shers, playing their final fixture of 2024, are slated to face league toppers Mohun Bagan Super Giant tomorrow at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Punjab are currently placed seventh with 18 points from 16 wins and will aim to consolidate their playoff ambitions through a win against the Kolkata giants. The Boxing Day fixture is scheduled to kick off at 7:30 PM.

Speaking ahead of the match, PFC head coach Panaojits Dimpers said, "Every game is a tactical process; it's never about just one individual or team. Our focus is on supporting the boys, especially our young players. We have a clear plan, and that will be visible on the field tomorrow. There's no stress, no pressure. We approach tomorrow's match with confidence." Both teams, who have had unimpressive away performances, will head into the game with a win in mind. However, Punjab FC will have the added advantage of playing at home. Both teams will miss key players due to injuries and suspensions, and the game is expected to showcase high-quality football from both sides.

Sharing his thoughts during the pre-match press conference, midfielder Manglenang Kigen said, "The coach believed in me and gave me the opportunity."

Indian team concludes Asian Youth, Junior Weightlifting Championships 2024 with 33 medals

Doha: The Indian contingent concluded their campaign at the Asian Youth and weightlifting-championships-Junior Weightlifting Championships 2024 in Doha, Qatar, on Wednesday, securing an impressive total of 33 medals, according to Olympics.com. The championships featured competitions in 40 categories, with 20 each at the junior and youth levels. Medals were awarded separately for snatch, clean and jerk, and overall in each weightlifting category.

India's youth lifters (aged 13 to 17) led the charge, winning 21 medals, including all seven golds. The junior lifters (aged 15 to 20) contributed 12 medals to the tally.

The 16-year-old Jyostina Sabar from Uttar Pradesh stole the spotlight on the opening day. Competing in the women's youth 40kg category, Jyostina swept three gold medals with a total lift of 135kg (60kg snatch + 75kg clean and jerk), setting a new Asian record in the total. Payal (women's 45kg) and Sarjana (women's 76kg) won five medals each across junior and youth divisions.

Payal's total of 155kg (70kg snatch + 85kg clean and jerk) earned her gold medals in the total and snatch categories and bronze in clean and jerk at the youth level. She also won bronze medals in the women's junior 45kg total and clean and jerk.

Rohit Sharma likely to open at MCG, KL Rahul to play at number three

AGENCY MELBOURNE : Indian skipper Rohit Sharma is likely to open during the fourth Test against Australia at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), a Boxing Day affair starting from Thursday, as per reports.

The reports also suggest that KL Rahul, who has had a fine run in the series so far as an opener, could be shifted to number three. He is India's leading run-getter in the series and overall second, with 235 runs in three matches and six innings at an average of 47.00, with two fifties and best score of 84 after six innings. With his patient gameplay and rock-solid defence, he has had immense success seeing off the new ball.

So far in the series, Rohit has had horrid outings in the middle order. Returning to the team for the Adelaide pink-ball Test, the 'Hitman' had made a decision to bat down the order due to the immense success of the opening pair of Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL during the Perth Test win. On his return, Rohit could score just 19 runs in three innings at number six, with best score of 10. Despite this though, he still has an average of 48.00 in 18 Tests he has played as a number six, with 1,056 runs and three cen-



turies/sixfifties.

In the ongoing Test season which started with the home Bangladesh series, Rohit has scored a poor 152 runs in seven games at a shockingly low average of 11.69, with just one fifty to his name. This year, he has made 607 runs in 13 Tests and 24 innings at a sub-par average of 26.39, with two centuries and two fifties. His best score is 131.

Since taking up opening

in 2019, Rohit has been one of India's top-performing stars in whites. In 42 Tests as an opener, Rohit has scored 2,685 runs in 64 innings at an average of 44.01, with nine centuries and eight fifties to his name. His best score is 212. He has been India's top performer in the history of the ICC World Test Championship, with 2704 runs at an average of 42.25, with nine centuries and eight fifties in 39 Tests and 67 innings.

With the series level at 1-1, both sides will be playing the much-anticipated Boxing Day Test intending to secure an all-important series lead needed to push a case for the ICC World Test Championship final.

Australia XI: Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Mitch Marsh, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins (c), Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Scott Boland

India's squad for fourth and fifth Tests: Rohit Sharma (C), Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Devdutt Padikkal, Tanush Kotian.

"India have their nose ahead...": Shastri's bold prediction ahead of Boxing Day Test at MCG



AGENCY MELBOURNE: Ahead of the fourth Test against Australia at Melbourne, former Indian all-rounder and head coach Ravi Shastri predicted that India will win the match, adding that the first day of the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) will decide the way the series will go.

With the series level at 1-

1, both sides will be playing the much-anticipated Boxing Day Test intending to secure an all-important series lead needed to push a case for the ICC World Test Championship final.

Speaking to news.com.au, Shastri said that the match would be a "cracking game".

"I think India would take this, the way the series is

poised. Any overseas team being 1-1, especially with the games being in Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane, they would take this. Going 1-1 into Boxing Day is the best-case scenario. I would say India has their nose ahead," he added.

Shastri said that India has come here to "win" and not "fill in the numbers". He said that a team has to have well-thought-out plans and methods to win in Australia and merely competing does not help.

"Even when I was the coach, our mantra was to play extremely hard, fair and to win."

"You have to think of a method to beat Australia and not just compete. You have got to plan properly, how to take your 20 wickets. India have done that and been very aggressive. They have been in the face of Australia and give as good as they get.

Manu Bhaker completes redemption arc at Olympics, makes history with two historic bronze medals in Paris

AGENCY NEW DELHI : Shooter Manu Bhaker opened India's medal tally at the Paris 2024 Olympics, making history by securing third place in the women's individual 10m air pistol event. She became the first-ever woman shooter from India to win an Olympic medal, adding a significant milestone to her already illustrious career.

In Paris, Bhaker secured two bronze medals in the shooting events, becoming the first Indian athlete in the post-independence era to achieve this feat in a single edition of the Olympics. This remarkable accomplishment was held by Norman Pritchard, who won two medals at the 1900 Paris Games.

Bhaker, alongside Sarabjot Singh, clinched her second bronze in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team



event. The duo displayed exceptional consistency, defeating South Korea's Lee Wonho and Oh Ye Jin with a score of 16-10 in the bronze medal play-off match. Their victory marked India's first-ever shooting team medal at the Olympics.

Despite narrowly missing out on a historic treble

Champions Trophy 2025: Exciting clashes await as iconic rivalries take centre stage



AGENCY NEW DELHI : The Champions Trophy will make its highly anticipated return to the cricketing calendar after an eight-year hiatus, starting on February 19, 2025, and running for 19 days, with 15 electrifying matches lined up, the ICC has announced.

On February 23, cricket fans can look forward to a blockbuster clash between India and Pakistan, set to be a Super Sunday showdown. While India has historically dominated most ICC events, Pakistan holds an edge in the Champions Trophy, leading the head-to-head record 3-2. Notably, Pakistan's 2017 Champions Trophy final victory marked their maiden title win in the tournament. However, since then, they have managed just two wins in 11 matches against India across all formats. India is expected to field a squad featuring many players from their unbeaten 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup campaign, promising a fiercely competitive encounter.

The 2023 Cricket World Cup semi-final between Australia and South Africa was a nail-biter, and the two sides will renew their rivalry in the Champions Trophy. South Africa's World Cup journey ended in heartbreak with a narrow three-wicket loss to Australia after a dominant group-stage performance, including a massive 134-run victory over the Aussies. Australia, meanwhile, went on to

claim their sixth World Cup title. Their Champions Trophy clash will bring this intense rivalry to subcontinental conditions, favouring big hitters and skilled spinners from both teams.

Afghanistan will face Australia in Lahore in what promises to be another enthralling contest.

Afghanistan, buoyed by their historic win over Australia in the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup and a close fight in the 2023 Cricket World Cup, will aim to create history in the ODI format. Led by the exceptional Rashid Khan, Afghanistan's potent spin attack will be a key factor against Australia's explosive batting lineup.

South Africa and England, despite their struggles in ODIs since the 2023 Cricket World Cup, remain among the most formidable teams in international cricket. England, champions of the 2019 Cricket World Cup, rely on an aggressive batting approach capable of posting mammoth totals. South Africa, on the other hand, boasts a balanced bowling attack well-suited to counter England's batting firepower. Their clash in Karachi is expected to be a thrilling, high-octane battle.

India's recent triumph over New Zealand in the 2023 Cricket World Cup broke a longstanding jinx, marking their first ICC event victory against the Black Caps since 2003. India won both group-stage encounters, including a semi-final thriller.

Assistance of Rs 5 lakhs announced for hospitalised cricketer Kambli, Shiv Sena assures all possible help

AGENCY MUMBAI: In a latest development, Shiv Sena has come forward to help former cricketer Vinod Kambli, who is currently hospitalised at Aakriti Hospital in Thane, with the OSD of deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde, Mangesh Chivate meeting him and fully assuring him of support and help from the party. A total of Rs 5 lakh rupees worth of assistance was announced by Shrikant Shinde Foundation to the cricketer. On the instructions of Deputy CM Shinde, a help worth Rs 5 lakh has been announced and will be provided next week. During his meeting with the cricketer, active from 1991-2000, Mangesh said that the Deputy CM Shinde and MP Shrikant will meet him and his family soon and try to help him further in all possible ways. Earlier, Dr Vivek Dwivedi, treating Kambli at Aakriti



Hospital in Thane, said on Tuesday that the 52-year-old's brain condition is not stable. Kambli was admitted to the hospital on Saturday evening after experiencing muscle cramps and dizziness at home. Earlier in December, Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar met his childhood friend Vinod Kambli and unveiled a memorial for renowned cricket coach Ramakant Vitthal Achrekar at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park. In the video of their meeting, Kambli appeared frail, raising concerns about his physical and emotional well-being.

Speaking to news agency, Dr Vivek Dwivedi stated that Kambli had a high-grade fever when admitted. The doctor noted that while the former cricketer's vitals are stable, his treatment and physiother-

apy are ongoing, and he is expected to be discharged in 2-3 days.

"We admitted him on Saturday evening. He was experiencing muscle cramps and dizziness at home. He had a high-grade fever and difficulty walking due to the cramps. Upon investigation, we discovered he had a urine infection, as well as sodium and potassium deficiencies, which caused the cramps.

A brain scan revealed old clots, likely from a recent stroke. He was admitted to the ICU due to low blood pressure. While his vitals are stable, his treatment and physiotherapy continue. We are planning to discharge him in 2-3 days. However, his brain condition is not stable, with degenerative changes observed. We are prioritising his rehabilitation," Dr Dwivedi told news agency.

Starc 5 wickets away from becoming 4th Australian to achieve this massive milestone



AGENCY MELBOURNE : As Team India takes on Australia during the fourth Test of the series at the Boxing Day Test, they would have to be cautious against lethal left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc, who is not only in a fantastic form in the series but is also approaching a big milestone, ESPN Cricinfo reported.

With the series level at 1-1 with two matches left, there is a huge responsibility on the bowlers to take 20 wickets and prevent the batting side from getting to a big total. In three Tests so far, Starc has taken 14 scalps at an average of 22.85, including a spell of 6/48 that rocked India during the pink-ball Test at Adelaide Oval. He is the second-highest run-getter in the series so far. The 34-year-old left-arm is just five scalps away from completing 700 international wickets and he will become only fourth Australian bowler after spinner Shane Warne (1,001 scalps), Glenn McGrath (949 scalps) and Brett Lee (718 scalps) to achieve this milestone.

In 284 international matches, Starc has taken 695 scalps at an average of 25.67, with best figures of 6/28 and 24 five-wicket hauls to his name. Test cricket is his best format, having taken 372 scalps in 92 matches at an average of 27.55, with best figures of 6/48 and 15 five-wicket hauls. He is Australia's fourth-highest wicket-taker in this format.

In 127 ODIs, he has taken 244 scalps at an average of 23.40, with best figures of 6/28. He has taken nine five-wicket hauls in the format.



सदा अमर रहेगा अस्तित्व
आजादी के दीवानों का

Nation Remembers Shaheed Udham Singh

on his
Birth Anniversary

December 26, 2024

“शहीद उधम सिंह की वीरता हर भारतीय की स्मृति में अंकित है।
मैं भारत के इस वीर सपूत को नमन करता हूँ।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी



Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana www.prharyana.gov.in Follow us on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#) [WhatsApp](#) [Telegram](#) [Snapchat](#) [TikTok](#) [Pinterest](#) [Medium](#) [DeviantArt](#) [Tumblr](#) [SoundCloud](#) [Spotify](#) [Bandcamp](#) [SoundCloud](#) [Spotify](#) [Bandcamp](#) @diprharyana



Government of Haryana

Haryana observes

Veer Baal Diwas

with deep reverence

In remembrance of the supreme sacrifice of
**Sahibzade Zorawar Singh Ji &
Sahibzade Fateh Singh Ji**

December 26, 2024



State Level Programme

Chief Guest

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

December 26, 2024 | Time: 10 am | Kurukshetra

Scan QR Code to join
the programme



“हमें साथ मिलकर वीर बाल दिवस के संदेश को देश के कोने-कोने तक लेकर जाना है।
हमारे साहिबजादों का जीवन संदेश देश के हर बच्चे तक पहुंचे, वो उनसे प्रेरणा लेकर
देश के लिए समर्पित नागरिक बनें, हमें इसके लिए भी प्रयास करने हैं।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी



Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana www.prharyana.gov.in Follow us on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#) [WhatsApp](#) [Telegram](#) [Snapchat](#) [TikTok](#) [Pinterest](#) [Medium](#) [DeviantArt](#) [Tumblr](#) [SoundCloud](#) [Spotify](#) [Bandcamp](#) [SoundCloud](#) [Spotify](#) [Bandcamp](#) @diprharyana

www.yugmarg.com

REGD NO. CHD/0061/2006-08 | RNI NO.

YUGMARG

■ PUNJAB ■ HARYANA ■ HIMACHAL ■ CHANDIGARH ■ DELHI ■ J&K

Leading English Newspaper Of North India

FOLLOW US ON OUR



like us in facebook
@yugmarg.news

CLICK HERE 



CLICK HERE 

follow us in Instagram
@yugmarg



Subscribe us in youtube
@yugmargtv

CLICK HERE 



CLICK HERE 

follow us in Linked
@yugmarg



follow us in twitter
@yugmarg

CLICK HERE 



CLICK HERE 

follow us in telegram
@yugmarg

**FOR ADVERTISEMENT AT
NEWSPAPER & WEB CHANNEL
CONTACT: 0172-5002721, 97801-84869**