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NEWS BRIEFS

Harmeet Singh Sandhu files nomination for Tarn Taran bypoll

TARN TARAN: AAP candidate Harmeet Singh Sandhu on Friday filed his nomination papers for the November 11 Tarn Taran assembly bypoll in Punjab, accompanied by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and senior party leaders. AAP's Punjab in-charge Manish Sisodia and state party president Aman Arora were also present during the filing of papers. The Tarn Taran assembly seat fell vacant following the death of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Kashmir Singh Sohal in June.

India beat Malaysia 2-1 to enter Sultan of Johor Cup final

JOHOR BAHRU : India defeated hosts Malaysia 2-1 in their last group game to progress to the final of the Sultan of Johor Cup junior



men's hockey tournament here on Friday. India converted two penalty corners through Gurjot Singh (22nd minute) and Sourabh Anand Kushwaha (48th) to secure the win and set up a summit clash against Australia on Saturday. Malaysia's goal was scored by Naaveenesh Panicker in the 43rd minute.

Actor Khesari Lal Yadav, singer Maithili Thakur file papers for Bihar assembly polls



PATNA: Bhojpuri actor Khesari Lal Yadav and folk singer Maithili Thakur on Friday filed their nomination papers for the upcoming Bihar assembly polls from Chhapra and Alinagar constituencies, respectively. While Yadav joined the RJD on Thursday night, Thakur, who turned 25 a few months ago, was inducted into the BJP earlier this week. "This nomination is dedicated to the development of Chhapra. Just like I am able to educate my children in a good school, people of this constituency should be able to do the same. There should be proper health facilities for people," Yadav said.

Haryana CM announces an increase of Rs. 200 in social security pension

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, OCT 17

Marking the completion of one year of its third consecutive term, the Haryana Government extended a major gift to poor families and pension beneficiaries today, as the Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini announced fresh plot allotments under the rural and urban housing schemes, a Rs. 200 increase in social security pension, and development grants worth Rs. 2,697 crore for panchayats and local bodies.

Addressing the state-level programme at Panchkula to celebrate the completion of one glorious year of the third term of the present state government, the Chief Minister announced allotment of 8,029 plots to beneficiaries in 141 villages and 2 mega village panchayats across the State under the second phase of the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awaz Yojana. In addition, 518 plots were also allotted in Pinjore city under the second phase of the Mukhyamantri Shehri Awaz Yojana. The live broadcast of this program was done at district-level functions organized in all districts, and citizens across the State listened to the Chief Minister's address.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that on July 26-27, the CET examination for recruitment to Group-C posts was conducted successfully. There had been demands from the youth to open a portal for corrections in their documents. Today, the Haryana Staff Selection Commission has opened this correc-



tion portal, which will remain open from October 17, 2025, to October 24, 2025, till 11:59 p.m.

12,031 plots allotted so far under the rural housing scheme

The Chief Minister said that while fulfilling the goal of providing a roof over the heads of poor families, 4,002 plots were allotted in the first phase of the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awaz Yojana, and today 8,029 plots have been allotted. In total, 12,031 plots have been allotted so far under this scheme. Furthermore, under the Mukhyamantri Shehri Awaz Yojana, 15,247 plots were allotted in the first phase.

Panchayats and ULBs receive a major grant of Rs. 2,697 crore

On this occasion, the Chief Minister released Rs. 1,044 crore 57 lakh to panchayats towards stamp duty and electricity cess. Along with this, an amount of Rs. 169 crore was given for the construction of phirims (peripheral roads) in 322 villages across the State. In addition, Rs. 1,483 crore 77 lakh was released to urban local bodies for development works in towns. In total, Rs. 2,697 crore 34 lakh was distributed as development grants to panchayats and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Extending greetings and best wishes to the people of the State on the festivals of Dhanteras, Diwali, Govardhan Puja, Bhai Dooj and Chhath Puja, the Chief Minister said that today is a golden day in Haryana's era of development and public welfare. The first year of the third term of the BJP government, dedicated to resolve, service, and commitment, has been completed, which is a moment of pride for all.

Gujarat CM reshuffles cabinet; total strength rises to 26



AGENCY GANDHINAGAR, OCT 17

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Friday reshuffled his cabinet by inducting 19 MLAs as ministers, taking the total strength of his council of ministers, including himself, to 26, and elevated junior home minister Harsh Sanghavi to the post of Deputy Chief Minister.

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers as well as those who were elevated to the cabinet rank and given MoS independent charge from ministers of state.

Sanghavi, who represents the Munjara assembly constituency in Surat city, took oath as the deputy CM. Till now, he held the post of Minister of State for Home.

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath to the 25 cabinet inductees. The cabinet strength now stands at 26, including chief minister Bhupendra Patel. The move to bring in new faces to the cab-

inet comes just three years into the government's formation, and two years ahead of the 2027 Legislative Assembly elections.

Earlier today, chief minister Bhupendra Patel held a courtesy meeting with Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat. During the meet, Patel briefed the Governor on the current status of the state Cabinet and sought approval to hold the oath-taking ceremony for new ministers.

A day ahead of the planned expansion, all 16 ministers except chief minister Bhupendra Patel tendered their resignation. The previous cabinet under CM Patel included 17 members in total - with eight holding cabinet rank and the remaining serving as Ministers of State (MoS). Gujarat, which has a 182-member assembly, can have a maximum of 27 ministers (15 per cent of the strength of the House). Earlier this month, MoS Jagdish Vishwakarma became the new president of the state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unit, replacing Union minister C R Paatil. Party sources told.

208 Naxalites surrender in Jagdalpur



AGENCY JAGDALPUR, OCT 17

In a landmark development in Chhattisgarh's battle against Left Wing Extremism (LWE), 208 Naxalites surrendered at an event organised in Bastar's jagdalpur->Jagdalpur on Friday, holding the Indian Constitution as they were welcomed back into the mainstream. According to officials, the surrendered group includes 110 women and 98 men, representing various ranks of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) organisation. Among them are one Central Committee Member (CCM), four Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) members, one Regional Committee Member, 21 Divisional Committee

Members (DVCs), 61 Area Committee Members (ACMs), 98 Party Members, and 22 PLGA/RPC/other cadres. Among the top Maoist leaders who laid down arms were Rupesh alias Satish (Central Committee Member), Bhaskar alias Rajan Mandavi (DKSZC Member), Ranita (DKSZC Member), Raju Salam (DKSZC Member), Dhannu Vetti alias Santu (DKSZC Member), and Ratan Elam (Regional Committee Member). During the operation, the Maoists surrendered 153 weapons, including 19 AK-47 rifles, 17 SLR rifles, 23 INSAS rifles, one INSAS LMG, 36 .303 rifles, four carbines, 11 BGL launchers, 41 twelve-bore or single-shot guns, and one pistol.

CBI court sends Punjab DIG Bhullar to judicial custody in bribery case

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, OCT 17

A CBI court here on Friday sent Punjab Deputy Inspector General of Police (Ropar Range) Harcharan Singh Bhullar, who was arrested in connection with a corruption case involving bribery of Rs eight lakh, to judicial custody.

Bhullar was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday.

The senior Punjab Police officer was produced before the court after his medical examination on Friday.

The FIR, was filed by the CBI Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB), Chandigarh, under Section 61(2) of the Bharati-



ya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 and Sections 7 and 7A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The complaint, received on October 11, was lodged by

Akash Batta, a resident of Mandi Gobindgarh, District Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab. Batta alleged that DIG Bhullar, through his aide Kirshanu, demanded

ED attaches worth Rs 2,385 crore of crypto in OctaFX money laundering case

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a provisional attachment order of movable assets in the form of cryptocurrencies worth approximately Rs 2,385 crore in connection with its ongoing money laundering investigation into the unauthorised forex trading platform OctaFX. The Directorate took the action under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The alleged mastermind behind the scheme, Pavel Prozorov, was recently arrested in Spain by Spanish authorities for his involvement in international cybercrimes affecting multiple countries, the agency said. The ED's probe was initiated following a First Information Report (FIR) filed at Shivaji Nagar Police Station in Pune against

several individuals accused of defrauding investors by promising high returns through OctaFX. ED's investigation revealed that OctaFX allegedly duped Indian investors of approximately Rs 1,875 Crore between July 2022 and April 2023, generating profits of around Rs 800 crore. "Considering the company's operations from 2019 to 2024, total profits from India are estimated to exceed Rs 5,000 Crore, much of which has been illicitly transferred overseas," said the agency. OctaFX presented itself as an online forex trading platform for currency, commodities, and crypto trading without RBI permission. The initial investors received small profits to build trust, as is generally seen in a typical ponzi

Centre to conduct pre-test for first phase of Census 2027 from next month

AGENCY NEW DELHI: The Centre has decided to conduct the pre-test for the first phase of the Census 2027 from November 10 to 30, covering the household listing and housing census in selected sample areas across all states and Union Territories (UTs). Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) made the declaration through a notification extending the provisions of the Census Act, 1948, to facilitate the pre-test for the first phase of the Census of India, 2027.

Sensex crosses 84,000 for first time since June

UNI NEW DELHI OCT 17

Stock market today climbed to 52-week high, with benchmarks extending their winning run as the BSE Sensex crossed 84,000 for the first time since June 30, 2025, while Nifty index crossed 25,700 for the first time since October 1, 2024.

The climb in the indices led by buying in autos, consumer durables, FMCG and banking heavyweights.

At close, the Sensex was up 484.53 points or 0.58% at 83,952.19, and the Nifty was up 124.55 points or 0.49% at 25,709.85.

BSE midcap and smallcap indices shed 0.4% each. Notably, in the last three sessions, the Sensex has risen by over 1,900 points, or 2.3%, while the Nifty 50, too, has jumped 2.2%.

In terms of the sectoral performances, media, IT, metal, PSU Bank



indices fell 0.5-1%. While auto, bank, healthcare, FMCG, consumer durables rose 0.5-1%.

Nifty FMCG index rallied 1.37%

followed by the Nifty Consumer Durables and Nifty Pharma indices, which gained 0.70% each. Further, the Nifty Auto index also picked up momentum,

ending 0.66% higher. Nifty Oil & Gas and Nifty Realty indices closed marginally higher while the Nifty IT was the worst performer falling 1.63%, followed by Nifty Media, which lost 1.56% of its value.

On the BSE, over 150 stocks touched their 52-week high. These included Radico Khaitan, Muthoot Finance, TVS Motor, M&M Financial, Nestle India, HBL Engineering, Apollo Hospitals, Maruti Suzuki, SBI, among others. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have started buying Indian stocks moderately.

In the previous session, they bought Indian stocks worth Rs 997.29 crore in the cash segment. Yes Bank shares declined over 4% after Japanese lender Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) said it has no immediate plans to raise its stake in the private lender beyond 24.99%.

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Three jail employees suspended, search of missing inmate underway

SHARMA LUDHIANA: Major action has been taken in the case of a prisoner who disappeared under suspicious circumstances from the Tajpur Road Central Jail for the past three days. The jail department has suspended three employees for negligence and dereliction of duty. Even after hours of searching for the missing prisoner, no clue has been found. The suspended jail officials include two head wardens and a CCTV operator. This major action has created panic among local jail staff, as department sources stated that the number of suspensions could increase as a large-scale investigation is underway. Police from Police Station Division No. 7 are also investigating the case. ASI Dinesh Kumar stated that investigations are ongoing into all possible aspects of the prisoner's disappearance. Earlier 'YUGMARG' flashed this issue in previous news and revealed the working of Jail administration.

Manoj Kumar Sharma assumes charge as DSP Phul

PARVEEN BHAGTA BHAI: Manoj Kumar Sharma, who earlier served as SHO and Assistant Sub-Inspector in city, has taken charge as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Phul. Mr Sharma said his focus will be on strengthening law and order, tackling drugs, and curbing crime. Warning offenders, he stated that no leniency will be shown to those violating the law. Soon after assuming office, he directed all station heads to ensure peace and discipline in their jurisdictions. Known for his integrity and active policing, Sharma's posting has brought relief to locals but unease among criminal elements.

Principal Gusain appeals for green Diwali

AMRISH ANAND DORAH: Shri D.S. Gusain, Director of Saraswati Model School, Doraha, and Principal Prithvi Gusain have appealed to the public to celebrate an eco-friendly Diwali, emphasizing the importance of reducing pollution and protecting human health. Principal Gusain expressed concern over the growing spread of severe diseases across Punjab and urged everyone to refrain from bursting firecrackers, which release massive amounts of harmful pollutants into the air. He highlighted that during Diwali, thousands of tons of firecrackers are burned, causing extreme air pollution that makes life difficult not only for humans but also for animals who breathe the same air.

Celebrate Diwali with books, urges eminent writer Baljinder Maan



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, OCT 17

Delivering an inspiring message at the Government Middle School Bharta Ganeshpur, renowned literary figure Baljinder Maan encouraged students to celebrate Diwali with books instead of fireworks. He emphasized that spending on books rather than firecrackers is an effective way to avoid the noise and pollution associated with the festival. "Books not only entertain and enlighten us, but also carry valuable information about Diwali, Dussehra,

Finland delegation visits Punjab schools, witnesses parent-teacher meet at Mohali

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, OCT 17

A small delegation from Finland, comprising two academicians and a school health worker, today visited government schools in Mohali to witness the ongoing education reforms and innovative learning initiatives being implemented under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains.

The delegation—Ms. Paula Santanen, Ms. Riikka Toivonen, and Ms. Hanna Heikkilä—visited the School of Eminence, Phase 11, Mohali, where they observed classroom activities under the English Helper Programme and interacted with students and teachers. They expressed admiration for the students' confidence, English-speaking



skills, and the progressive learning environment fostered in Punjab's government schools.

Accompanied by District Education Officer (Secondary) Dr. Ginni Duggal and Principal Lovish Chawla, the delegation also participated in a Parent-Teacher Meet, where they engaged with parents and students to understand the community's involvement in education. They appreciated

the proactive participation of parents and the transparency encouraged through such interactions.

Impressed by the modern infrastructure, interactive digital panels, and technology-driven classrooms, the visitors praised Punjab's commitment to holistic education. "The integration of technology into classroom learning in Punjab's government schools is exemplary. It not only en-

Fresher's party "Parichay 2025" at A&M Group of Institutes Pathankot today

PATHANKOT (SHARANJEET): A fresher's party 'Parichay 2025' is being organized on Saturday, October 18, to welcome the newly admitted students at A&M Group of Institutes, Pathankot. Giving information in this regard, Akshay Mahajan, President of the Institute, said that the Fresher Party "Parichay 2025" event is being organized on Saturday, October 18. In which the chief guest will start the event by lighting the lamp at 10:10 am. While at 11:30 am, Punjabi singer Virasat Sandhu will welcome the students with his songs.

Valedictory ceremony of DGR-sponsored certificate course in business management held at Regional Institute of Cooperative Management, Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH, OCT 17

The valedictory and convocation ceremony of the 24-week Certificate Course in Business Management, sponsored by the Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence, Government of India, New Delhi, was held today, October 17, 2025, at the Regional Institute of Cooperative Management, Chandigarh, with great enthusiasm.

This course was conducted for 19 officers from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force from May 5, 2025, to October 17, 2025. The Chief Guest of the program was Brigadier Sudhir Malik, ADG, Directorate Zone West, Chandimandir. He was welcomed by the Director of the Institute, Dr. Rajeev Kumar, with a bouquet and a memento. The Chief Guest first planted a sapling in the institute premises under the initiative "One Tree for Mother." On



this occasion, the attending officers shared their experiences and mentioned that the course provided them with in-depth understanding of business management, financial planning, marketing, supply chain management, and the cooperative institutional framework.

This training prepares them for entrepreneurship, business management, leadership roles in the cooperative sector, and employment opportunities in the corporate world after their military service. In his address, the Chief Guest Brigadier

Sudhir Malik stated that the primary objective of DGR is to equip the ex-servicemen of the country with new life skills and managerial competencies so that they can continue to play an active role in nation-building even after retirement. DGR regularly organizes such training programs in collaboration with various prestigious management institutes across the country, enabling ex-servicemen to start their own enterprises, benefit from government schemes, and access better opportunities in the private sector.

Chandigarh police cyber crime arrests Nigerian national in fake friendship/dating fraud case



CHANDIGARH, OCT 17

The Cyber Crime Police Station, UT Chandigarh, achieved a major breakthrough by arresting a foreign national in a fake friendship fraud scam.

The case was registered under FIR No. 69 dated 26.06.2025 u/s 318(4), 319(2), 338, 336(3), 340(2), 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The investigation and arrest were carried out under the supervision of Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, IPS, SP/Cyber Crime, with guidance from Sh. A. Venkatesh, DSP, and leadership of Inspector Eram Rizvi, SHO, by a team led by ASI Manjeet Singh and ASI Ravinder

Singh. Details of the Accused
Sl No. Name Nationality
1 Ifeanyi Christian Ifesinachi S/o Jhonata Ifesinachi Citizen of Nigeria
2 Delhi.

The case was registered on the complaint of Sh. Akashdeep Singh, Chandigarh, who reported that he received a WhatsApp message from a person claiming to be a U.S. citizen named Stanley. After developing an online friendship, Stanley falsely informed him that he was detained at Mumbai Airport and needed money for customs and taxes. Trusting him, the complainant transferred ₹6,08,960/- to multiple accounts provided by the fraudster.

Drug de-addiction awareness seminar held at Government Girls Senior Secondary Smart School, Railway Mandi



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): A seminar on drug de-addiction awareness was organized at Government Girls Senior Secondary Smart School, Railway Mandi, Hoshiarpur under the guidance of Principal Rajan Arora. The event was a collaborative effort between the Shivalik Hills Welfare Society, Hoshiarpur, the Health Department, and the Society for Service to Voluntary Organizations, Punjab, Chandigarh. Deputy Medical Commissioner Dr. Swati attended as the chief guest. In her address, she reiterated the Punjab Government's commitment to the ongoing campaign against drug abuse and called for active participation from all community members. Dr. Swati stated, "The fight against drug abuse can only be won through collective determination and unified action." She further acknowledged the efforts of the Shivalik Hills Welfare Society as commendable in the drive against substance abuse.

Principal Rajan Arora welcomed all dignitaries, including Dr. Swati, Dr. Shipra, Amarjeet Hamrol, and the team of experts, and highlighted the urgent need to address the rising incidence of drug use among the youth. He encouraged students to distance themselves from drugs to ensure a positive future.

Cheema hands over letters to 13 flood-affected residents

SUMER GARG
SULAR GHARAT, OCT 17

At the office of the market committee, Sular Gharat, Cabinet Minister Harpal Singh Cheema handed over sanction letters for compensation amounts to 13 flood-affected residents from various villages of the Dibra assembly constituency (DAC), who were impacted by heavy rainfall and flood-like conditions. He said that the Punjab government has set a historic example by starting the disbursement of compensation within the exact timeframe that was announced earlier.

The minister stated that the Punjab government, with the support of social service organizations and the general public, provided every possible assistance to those affected by the floods. Now, compensation is being distributed to help them rebuild their lives and return to normalcy. He said that Punjab has faced several major challenges in



the past, but each time the state has emerged stronger than before. "This time too, Punjab will soon stand firmly on its feet and move forward with determination," he added. The minister informed that the Punjab Govt has released the first installment of ₹209 Cr towards flood compensation for the state, out of which ₹3.50 Cr is being distributed among the flood-affected residents of Sangrur district. He further mentioned that the sanction letters for compensation will also be

handed over to other affected residents in the coming days.

While speaking to the media, Cheema praised Cabinet Minister, Barinder Kumar Goyal, stating that the strengthening of the Ghaggar embankments by the Punjab government, along with the tireless efforts of local residents and the administration under the leadership of Minister Goyal, prevented the river from breaching this time, even though the water level remained around 751 feet for several consecutive days.

MCM champions gender inclusivity



CHANDIGARH: The Anti-Discrimination Cell of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, in collaboration with NSS Units and Geetanjali Counselling, organised an awareness session on 'Gender Inclusivity'. The session, held under the aegis of the Department of Social Welfare, Chandigarh Administration, and the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), aimed to dismantle stigma, raise awareness, and foster understanding and acceptance of diverse gender identities within the society. The resource person for the session was Sh. Amit, Counsellor, Transgender Protection Cell, Department of Social Welfare, Chandigarh Administration.

Through an insightful presentation, he highlighted the lived realities of the transgender community in India, including the challenges of discrimination, limited access to education and healthcare, and social exclusion. He also discussed the legal progress made following the NALSA Judgment (2014) and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. The session was highly interactive, with students engaging enthusiastically in dialogue and reflection. Officiating Principal Ms. Neena Sharma commended the initiative, stating that the event marked a significant step in the college's ongoing efforts to promote equity and inclusion.

Kharar Council President asks officials to properly do work of lying of premix in city

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, OCT 17

Kharar Municipal Council President Mrs. Anju Chander has written a letter to the executive officer of the council and said that the premix being laid in the city should be done properly and of the right quality.

In the letter written by her, it has been said that the council is doing the work of premix in various wards in the city. Through complaints received from the people and the video going viral on social media, it has come to the notice that the contractor by whom this premix is being done is not doing it properly and the premix is not of the good quality. This is tarnishing the image of the municipal council.

She has asked the officials to investigate the premix work being done and take appropriate action against the contractor who is using substandard material. She has also said that the bill should be sent for processing only after the premix work is properly done.



Saviskar 2025: Two-day Techno-cultural odyssey of innovation, intellect, and inspiration at CGC University, Mohali

MOHALI (TILAK RAJ): The campus of CGC University, Mohali, came alive with brilliance and boundless energy as SAVISKAR 2025, a two-day techno-cultural extravaganza, unfolded — celebrating the fusion of technology, creativity, and youthful innovation.

Across these two power-packed days, the university transformed into a dynamic hub of discovery and excitement. The fest featured a spectrum of high-octane events — from the adrenaline-pumping VaultHeist Hackathon and Robo Wars to the strategic debates of the National MUN, and the captivating aerial Drone Show that lit up the skies with futuristic flair. Attendees witnessed fierce competitions in Battle of Bands, electrifying Dance Contests, and the much-awaited Drift Show, which added a thrilling touch of motorsport spectacle to the campus. The fest also became a platform for young thinkers and creators to exhibit their prowess through events like Thinkathon, TechXhibit, The Best Manager Competition, and Forensic Evidence Research, each challenging participants to blend intellect with imagination.

Winners from across institutions emerged as champions of innovation and excellence — Raghav Sharma claimed top honors at the National MUN, Divya Yadav triumphed in The Best Manager Competition, Team Slot Smart impressed all with their ingenuity at Thinkathon, The Forensists in Forensic Evidence Research, while Vishal Kumar stood tall as the winner of TechXhibit.

Winners of Hackathon, along with many more talented participants, walked away with cash prizes worth Rs. 31000, Rs. 21000, Rs. 11000, Rs. 5000 and beyond, celebrating not just victory but vision. Beyond the realm of competition, SAVISKAR 2025 was a feast for the senses.

Rudransh Sharma brings glory to British Laureate School at Mohali Badminton Championship



MOHALI (TILAK RAJ): British Laureate School student Rudransh performed brilliantly in the district badminton tournament. Young badminton talent, Rudransh Sharma, a student of CIPP II, who has won the winner's trophy in the boys' singles (U11) category in the Mohali District Sub-Junior Badminton Championship held at the Sports Complex, Sector 78, Mohali.

Some of the best budding shuttlers from the region participated in this prestigious tournament organised by the Mohali District Badminton Association and sponsored by the Amal Foundation.

Displaying incredible talent, composure and sportsmanship, Rudransh not only secured the top spot in the singles but also finished second in the boys' doubles (U11) — a feat that highlights his versatile talent as both an individual and a team player. Praising his achievement, Director Principal, Dr. Col. Atul Bhandari said, "Rudraansh is a disciplined, focused and hard-working student.

His excellent performance and double win is a source of immense pride for the school and an inspiration to all our students." The British Laureate School congratulated Rudransh and his mentors on this remarkable achievement and wished him continued success in his sporting journey.

Rattan Group of Institutes MD Sundar Lal Agarwal, others visit Russia, discuss trade relations

KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): Rattan Group of Institutes MD Sundar Lal Agarwal along with Indian delegation held a joint meeting with diplomats from Moscow region in Russia to discuss trade opportunities between the two countries.

The Indian delegation and Moscow diplomats jointly discussed import-export opportunities between the two countries. A delegation sent by the Central Government, comprising BJP Punjab Vice President Rajesh Baga and Path-Way Global Alliance state panelists Gurdeep Singh Gosa and Uday Sood, met with Deputy Head of the Department of External Economic and International Relations of the Government of Moscow Manuilov and Diplomat of the Department of External Economic and International Relations of the Government of Moscow Daria Pustovalova, and held a joint meeting between the two countries to explore the possibilities of promoting the import-export potential of both countries. He said while giving this information he said that according to the Government of India, Indian traders should be allowed to travel to different countries around the world and the responsibility of promoting their domestic products in the world market should be entrusted to those producers so that they can expand their production capacity to meet the demands of the world market.



Construction work of Shri Khatu Shyam Temple starts

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, OCT 17

The construction work of Shri Khatu Shyam Ji Temple located at R.S. Villa in

itive energy.

On this occasion, Rakesh Kumar Gupta said that the construction of Shri Khatu Shyam Temple will not only serve as a religious center but



Kharar was inaugurated today with great devotion and enthusiasm. This auspicious occasion was inaugurated by Rakesh Kumar Gupta, President of Bharatiya Janata Party Mandal City Kharar.

On this occasion, the rituals of worship and Bhoomi Pujan were performed by Pandit Chandan K. Sastri as per Vedic rituals. He prayed to Lord Shri Khatu Shyam Ji for the successful and auspicious completion of the construction of the temple. Arjun Gupta and Rajiv Kumar were specially present on this occasion. The devotees and local residents were filled with happiness and the atmosphere was filled with pos-

also as a symbol of social and spiritual unity.

He thanked all the devotees and supporters who contributed to this holy effort. The program concluded with Aarti and distribution of Prasad.

NEWS BRIEF

Big relief from Central govt for Punjab flood victims

KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH: All the workers and supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from District Mansa have extended heartfelt thanks to the Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi, for providing substantial assistance to those affected by the recent floods in Punjab. Goma Ram Poonia, District President of BJP Mansa, stated that the Central Government has released aid of Rs 1,60,000 per household for 36,703 flood-affected homes in Punjab. In addition, an announcement has been made to release Rs 74 crore for wheat seeds and Rs 3.40 crore for mustard seeds. He also mentioned that the Central Government has taken responsibility for compensating losses to orchards and covering the expenses for removing sand deposited in fields due to the floods.

Principal Jatinder Sharma's plea to celebrate green Diwali

AMRISH ANAND
DORAH: Principal Jatinder Sharma of Shakti Public School, Doraha, appealed to the public to celebrate an eco-friendly Diwali by avoiding firecrackers. Addressing students, he highlighted that excessive fireworks cause pollution, fire incidents, and unnecessary waste of money. He encouraged people to light diyas, exchange sweets and greetings, and gift children books or clothes instead of firecrackers. Sharma also cautioned against adulterated sweets sold in markets and advised buying only from trusted shops. Concluding, he urged everyone to plant trees and take a pledge to celebrate a clean and green Diwali.

Bhalla Dental Clinic MD Pawan Kumar Bhalla extends diwali greetings, emphasizes importance of dental care

VERMA
GURDASPUR: On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, Pawan Kumar Bhalla, Managing Director of the renowned Bhalla Dental Clinic in Gurdaspur, extended heartfelt greetings to the residents of the region. Alongside the festive wishes, he also highlighted the importance of oral health and proper dental care.

He stated that teeth are one of the most essential parts of the human body, and taking care of them is not only vital for our overall health but also plays a significant role in enjoying the simple pleasures of daily life. Pawan Kumar Bhalla emphasized that without healthy teeth, the enjoyment of food is incomplete, and even the act of eating can become difficult.

113492 metric tons of paddy purchased in Faridkot: DC

PRASHAR JAITU
FARIDKOT: Deputy Commissioner Madam Poonamdeep Kaur said that the paddy market in the district is Purchase The work of the department is continuing continuously and till last evening various government departments Purchase 113492 from agencies Metric tons of paddy has been purchased. He said that the work of lifting paddy is also continuing on a war footing. He said that till now 182.70 lakhs have been given to the farmers. Payment of crops of rupees has been made. The Deputy Commissioner appealed to the farmers of the district to bring only completely dry paddy to the market so that they do not face any kind of problem. He also appealed to the farmers to contribute towards the conservation of the environment by not burning the stubble. Giving further information in this regard, District Food and Supply Controller S. Gurjit Singh said that the paddy supply in the markets was completed till yesterday evening.

Moga police hands over 250 lost mobile phones to their rightful owners

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA
MOGA: Under the guidelines of the Punjab Government, Moga Police, under the able leadership of Shri Ajay Gandhi SSP Moga, is taking action against the evil elements of the society. Under this, for some time now, the general public has been uploading online applications regarding their mobile phones on the CEIR portal. While taking action on these applications, Moga Police has received information about 250 mobile phones lost since June 1, 2025 and these phones have been returned from different districts of Punjab and outside Punjab. Today, SSP Moga has called the real heirs of these lost mobile phones and returned these mobile phones. SSP Moga Shri Ajay Gandhi said that Moga Police has traced about 1,000 lost/stolen mobile phones from 01-01-2025 till date and returned them to their rightful owners. He said that in future too, Moga Police will continue the work of tracing lost or stolen mobiles quickly through technology and delivering them to the owners quickly. He appealed to the people that if anyone's phone is lost/stolen, then

CM seeks support of legal fraternity of UK to procure rare footage of Shaheed Bhagat Singh

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, OCT 17

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Friday sought the support of the United Kingdom's legal fraternity to assist the state government in procuring rare video footages of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh.

Interacting with a delegation of the Bar Council of England and Wales at his residence, the Chief Minister said that no video record of the legendary martyr is available in India.

However, he noted that it has been learnt that Scotland Yard may possess rare footage of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, particularly from the time of his arrest and trial. Bhagwant Singh Mann emphasized that such footage holds immense significance for all Indians, especially Punjabis, who deeply revere the iconic freedom fighter.

The Chief Minister stated that the state government is



already making earnest efforts to acquire this footage so that it can serve as an inspiration for future generations. He urged the Bar Council of England and Wales to support the state government in this noble endeavour, ensuring that the glorious legacy of the martyr continues to inspire the youth. Bhagwant Singh Mann affirmed that the state government will leave no stone unturned in pursuing this matter of great national importance. Dwelling on another agenda, the Chief Min-

ister also sought strong support and cooperation from the Bar Council to attract investments in Punjab from British investors.

He highlighted that the state offers immense potential in sectors such as information technology, food processing, and automobiles, which can yield substantial benefits for investors.

Bhagwant Singh Mann invited British investors to participate in the "Invest Punjab Summit" scheduled to be held in March next year.

Meanwhile, Chair of the Bar Council of England and Wales Barbara Mills KC, Adviser to the Chair of the Bar Piran Dhillon-Starkings, Consultant Melisha Charles, Barrister at 4PB Baljinder Bath, and others assured their full support and cooperation to the Chief Minister.

They also lauded several transformative initiatives undertaken by Bhagwant Singh Mann aimed at accelerating the state's economic growth and ensuring the welfare of its people.

Little hands create story of taste – BVM International School's Little Chefs captivate everyone



BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA DEHATI, OCT 17

The BVM International School campus was abuzz with excitement and enthusiasm as the young students of Grades 1 and 2 showcased their culinary skills in the "Little Chef" activity. Dressed in colorful aprons, tiny caps, and enthusiastic smiles, the little chefs created a charming atmosphere. The aim of this activity was to encourage creativity, self-reliance, and teamwork among the children. The children prepared healthy and delicious dishes without using fire, including attractive

dishes like fruit salad, sandwiches, bhel-puri, biscuit decorations, veg wraps, and corn chat.

Each child's imagination and creativity combined to create not only delicious but also artistic dishes. The teachers were overwhelmed by the children's captivating presentations. The aroma of the delicious dishes filled the entire campus. The children presented their dishes with great confidence and explained their nutritional value. School Chairman Mr. Pramod Arora, Director Mrs. Geeta Arora, Mr. Nikhil Arora, and Mrs. Nehul Arora praised the students' efforts, saying, "Events

SSF accelerates rural road safety with "Hauli Chalo" drive

CHANDIGARH, OCT 17

In a significant initiative to further enhance the road safety, the Sadak Surakhiya Force (SSF) of the Traffic and Road Safety Wing, Punjab Police on Friday launched the "Hauli Chalo" Sticker Campaign from Bhago Majra Toll Plaza on NH-5 (Mohali-Chandigarh) Highway. Notably, the campaign is being supported by Yara India and implemented by the Sadak Surakhiya Force (SSF).

After launching the drive, Special Director General of Police (Special DGP) Traffic & Road Safety, Punjab, AS Rai informed that around 30,000 reflector stickers will be pasted on tractor-trolleys across 144 routes of the SSF in the first phase, covering approximately 4,100 kilometres of key road stretches in Punjab.

He shared that Punjab witnessed 2,048 road accidents involving tractor-trolleys, resulting in 1,569 fatalities, mostly farmers between 2017 and 2022. These incidents accounted for 5-6% of all road accident



deaths in the state took place during this period, underscoring the need for targeted safety initiatives. AS Rai stated that the safety of Punjab's farmers, the backbone of our agrarian economy, on the roads is paramount. The 'Hauli Chalo' campaign would mitigate tractor-trolley accidents by improving visibility and promoting road awareness, particularly during the harvesting season. He said that Punjab has witnessed a reduction in road accident fatalities in 2024, with a notable decline in deaths within 24 hours of accidents. This posi-

tive trend is attributed to the combined efforts of enforcement, road engineering, and awareness initiatives by the Punjab Police's Traffic and Road Safety Wing. He further informed that all SSF units across Punjab will launch the campaign simultaneously. Considering the ongoing harvesting season, the Punjab Police are acting proactively to safeguard farmers' lives and raise awareness about safe movement of agricultural vehicles, especially during early morning and late evening hours.

Punjab Convent School celebrates Diwali with Enthusiasm



KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH, OCT 17

Punjab Convent School, Jhunjh, recently celebrated Diwali with great enthusiasm. The school organized various competitions like Rangoli, Board decoration, Class decoration, and Wall decoration and exhibition, showcasing the students' creativity and teamwork.

Competition Results as per below:
Rangoli Competition: First position: Krishna House
Second position: Kaveri and Narmada House
Third position: Ganga House.
Board Decoration Competition: First position: Krishna and Narmada House

Second position: Kaveri and Ganga House
Class Decoration Competition: First position: 7th class
Second position: 2nd class
Third position: 3rd class
Wall Decoration and Exhibition: First position: 5th class
Second position: 6th class
The 4th class students particularly impressed everyone with their unique and creative work.
Principal's Message: The school's Principal, Ms. Teesha Arora, congratulated all the winners and said that such competitions play a significant role in the overall development of students.

Dr. Parvjit Singh Gulati performs successful knee surgery at Civil Hospital



FARIDKOT (SURINDER DAMDAM): Renowned orthopedic specialist Dr. Parvjit Singh Gulati, who is serving as Assistant Civil Surgeon at Health Department Faridkot, has given new life to the patients by performing several successful knee surgeries. The increase in the success rate of knee surgeries at Civil Hospital Faridkot is a big relief news for the people of the district. Dr. Parvjit Gulati, who is known for his excellent services even before this, said that these surgeries have been completely successful and the patients are now recovering quickly.

He said that due to the good facilities available in the government hospital, even complex surgeries like knee replacement are being done easily and at very low cost. On this occasion, Civil Surgeon Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kakkar congratulated Dr. Gulati and his team for this success and said that providing quality health services to the common people as per the instructions of the government is their main objective.

Science City organizes blood donation camp to mark its foundation day



PAWAN KALIA
KAPURTHALA, OCT 17

Pushpa Gujral Science City (PGSC) organized a Blood Donation Camp to mark its 29th Foundation Day. The initiative received an overwhelming response with around 100 individuals, including staff members of Science City, coming forward to donate blood and contribute to this noble cause.

The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Rajesh Grover, Di-

rector, Science City, Kapurthala. He emphasized the importance of blood donation as a philanthropic act of immense value, particularly in cases of heart and bypass surgeries, trauma, and accidental injuries that can occur unexpectedly. Dr. Grover remarked that "blood donated during such camps can save numerous lives each year." He further appealed to all participants to make it a practice to donate blood at least once every year.

National commission for women member holds mahila Jan Sunwai in Patiala

RAKESH JINDAL
PATIALA, OCT 17

As part of the National Commission for Women's nationwide outreach initiative 'Mahila Ayog Aapke Dwar', Commission Member Mamta Kumari on Friday held a Mahila Jan Sunwai (Women's Public Hearing) at the Conference Hall, Police Lines, Patiala.

During the session, around 40 women complainants appeared before the Commission and presented their grievances relating to domestic violence, harassment, dowry, and other gender-related issues. Mamta Kumari gave a patient hearing to each case and directed the district police officials to ensure fair and time-bound investigations, stressing that



"delay in providing justice to women will not be tolerated." She further emphasized that the Commission's primary objective in holding these Mahila Jan Sunwai camps across the country is to bring justice delivery closer to women at the grassroots level, ensure prompt redressal of their grievances, and hold authorities accountable for negligence in women-related cases. The NCW Member also issued on-the-spot directions in several cases, di-

rected officials to form inquiry committees for detailed investigations, and sought additional reports from police authorities in some matters. As part of her day-long visit, Mamta Kumari also inspected the Central Jail, Patiala, interacted with women inmates, and reviewed their living conditions. She listened to their grievances and issued instructions to the jail authorities to ensure access to legal aid, health facilities, and rehabilitation support.

Golden Hawk (Kidzee Pre-School) promotes 'Green Diwali' in Bassi Pathana

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, OCT 17

Under the leadership of Principal Supreet Kaur, Tiny Tots of 'Golden Hawk (Kidzee Pre-School)', Shamsheer Nagar, Sirhind, took out a rally in the main markets of Bassi Pathana to spread the message of celebrating a 'Green and Smoke-Free Diwali'.

During the rally, the little children carried colorful posters bearing slogans like "Celebrate a Smoke-Free Diwali" and "Say No to Crackers".

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Supreet Kaur said that celebrating a smoke-free Diwali is the need of the hour. She expressed confidence that the message given by these young children would surely inspire people to adopt an eco-friendly approach. "We should celebrate Diwali



in a clean and environment-friendly way, avoiding the use of firecrackers," she added.

With great enthusiasm, the children walked through the markets holding posters to raise awareness among passersby about the harmful effects of bursting crackers.

Their message was simple yet powerful — "By not burning crackers, we can keep our environment clean and contribute to building a beautiful and healthy society."

Moral education exam organized dedicated to 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji



JAITU (JS GILL): On behalf of Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle, Circle Bargari, a moral education examination was organized for the students of College Padhab. Giving information on this occasion, the leaders of Guru Gabid Singh Study Circle, Area Bargari, Veer Jarnail Singh Jhakhwarwala, Baljit Singh L.I.C. And the senior Sikh Jhakhwarwala said that the examination of moral teachings dedicated to the martyrdom day of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji organized by Guru Gabid Singh Study Circle Punjab was organized in various colleges of the area like Has Raj Memorial College Bajakhana, Dr. Ravidra Nursing College Bajakhana and Sat Baba Bhag Singh Memorial Girls College Sukhanad etc. Students participated. During this examination, a question and answer paper dedicated to the martyrdom day of Shaheed Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was organized. The students who participated in the said examination were full of enthusiasm and the result of this examination will be declared soon in the Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle Examination Hall and the students who secured the first three positions will be honored with a memento.

Government Primary School Doraha wins overall Trophy at Centre-Level sports meet



AMRISH ANAND
DORAH, OCT 17

Under the guidance of Centre Incharge S. Kuldeep Singh, centre-level sports competitions were held at Centre Jaipura as per the Punjab School Education Department's directions. Government Primary School Doraha students excelled by winning gold medals in multiple events including 100m, 200m, shot put, relay race, long jump, wrestling, and kabaddi. They also bagged several silver and bronze medals, securing the Overall Trophy for their

outstanding performance. By winning the highest number of medals, Government Primary School Doraha was awarded the Overall Trophy of the tournament. Upon their return to school, the victorious athletes were warmly felicitated by Head Teacher S. Kamaljit Singh, along with staff members S. Ravinder Singh, S. Sukhwinder Singh, Madam Karamjit Kaur, Madam Sangeeta, Madam Navdeep Kaur, Madam Kirandeep Kaur, Madam Mandeep Kaur, Madam Principal Kaur, Madam Randeep Kaur etc.

Competition at Panjab University Zonal Youth and heritage festival



AMRISH ANAND
DORAH, OCT 17

The Panjab University Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival (Zone-2) was splendidly organized at S.C.D. Government College, Ludhiana from 11th to 14th October 2025. Students from various colleges showcased their artistic talents, creativity, and rich cultural heritage during the event. In this festival, Armaan Sangla, a student of Mata Ganga Khalsa College, Manji Sahib Kotian, brought laurels to his institution by winning first prize in the Ghazal competition.

NEWS BRIEF

Thinking exposed, Sukhu is measuring development from Priyanka's house: Vishav Chakshu

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: Advocate Vishav Chakshu, co-incharge of the BJP's state media office, has sharply criticized Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh "Sukhu" for his statement that "the people of Himachal Pradesh are indebted to Priyanka Gandhi because she built a house in Shimla." He said this statement is not only ridiculous but also an insult to the dignity of the



Chief Minister's position. He said, "Priyanka Gandhi's construction of a private house in Shimla is not a favor, but a matter of personal property. Linking this to Himachal's tourism or the public's indebtedness reveals the Chief Minister's limited thinking. Will the people of the state now also be indebted to those who have built houses and hotels here? If the Sukhu government has no concrete development achievements, it has resorted to citing Priyanka Gandhi's bungalow as an achievement."

Section 118 approval requires land use, not project completion within deadline: HC

AGENCY SHIMLA, OCT 17

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has clarified that under Section 118 of the Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act, 1972, it is required for land to be put to use for the approved purpose within the stipulated period but it is not necessary to complete the entire project within that timeframe. Justice Ajay Mohan Goel made the observation while hearing a petition filed by M/s Springdale Resorts and Villas Pvt. Ltd.

The company had received permission in 2021 for an integrated housing project in Solan district, valid for three years. However, in February 2024, the Town and Country Planning



declined to process the firm's revised building plans, claiming that the Section 118 permission had lapsed.

The Court rejected this stance, noting that the phrase "put to use" was deliberately

chosen by the Legislature instead of "complete the project," indicating that demonstrating progress within the approved period satisfies the legal requirement.

The company argued

that construction was already underway and delays had been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and pending departmental approvals. The Court found it contradictory that the authorities declared the permission expired just 10 days after the original three-year term ended, despite the fact that active construction had begun.

Justice Goel held that the department had overstepped its jurisdiction. Its role, he said, was limited to examining revised plans—not questioning the validity of the Section 118 approval.

The Court concluded that the company had met its legal obligations by initiating use of the land for the approved purpose and ruled that the State erred in declaring the permission expired.

Shimla traffic worsens as Shoghi-Mehli route partially closes

AGENCY SHIMLA: Vehicular traffic in the state capital continues to crawl as extensive repair, metalling and tarring work is underway on rain-damaged roads across the town. The situation has led to prolonged and unending traffic jams, prompting authorities to issue fresh travel advisories. Commuters have been urged to use alternative outer bypass routes while heading towards Shimla to avoid congestion. In a recent order, District

Magistrate Anupam Kashyap announced that the Shoghi-Mehli road will remain partially closed for one month to facilitate road-cutting and maintenance work. As per the notification issued under Sections 115 and 117 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the stretch from Shilgaon to the Sewerage Treatment Plant at Baragaon will be closed for all types of vehicles from October 21 to November 20, 2025, during 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm daily.

Governor extends Diwali greetings to inmates of Nari Sewa Sadan and Balika Ashram



DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, OCT 17

Ahead of the festival of Diwali, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla along with Lady Governor, Janaki Shukla visited the Nari Sewa Sadan and Balika Ashram Mashobra near Shimla today. They extended Diwali greetings to the inmates and distributed sweets to them.

Interacting with the girls studying at the Balika Ashram, the Governor said that education plays a vital

role in shaping one's life. He urged them to work hard to achieve their goals to become self-reliant. "Never let your enthusiasm fade, and always strive to contribute towards the progress of the Nation," he said.

Sh. Shukla added that Himachal Pradesh was the land of deities and its festivals are deeply rooted in the rich Dev Sanskriti of the State. "Our emotions and values should remain connected to these divine

traditions," he remarked.

The Governor emphasized that children from such institutions should be given equal opportunities to express their potential and encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities which would provide them with a suitable platform to display their skills and confidence.

C.P. Verma, Secretary to the Governor, officers from the district administration were also present on the occasion among others.

Workshop on International Disaster Risk Reduction Day and Samarth campaign held in Gagret

KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA, OCT 17

A one-day workshop was organised at Hotel Heaven Heights, Gagret, on the occasion of International Disaster Risk Reduction Day and under the public awareness campaign Samarth 2025, as per the directions of the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority, Shimla. The event was jointly organised by the District Inter Agency Group and the District Disaster Management Authority, Una.

The workshop was chaired by Tehsildar and Executive Magistrate Gagret, Kultaj Singh. He said that the primary objective of this workshop was to deliberate on the rising problem of waterlogging in Una district,



its causes, possible solutions and policy interventions. He added that discussions were also held on landslides, safe construction practices, and other disaster management challenges to minimise loss of life and property in the future. Referring to the natural disasters of 2023 and 2025, he stressed that awareness and preparedness

are the best ways to reduce disaster impact. Convener of the District Inter Agency Group, Una, Prof. Jasbir Singh welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries. He informed that the workshop focused on the causes and strategies to tackle disasters like waterlogging, landslides and forest fires.

DC Una gifts cricket kit to Ankush ahead of National Deaf Cricket Tournament

KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA, OCT 17

In a commendable step towards encouraging sports talent in the district, Deputy Commissioner Una, Jatin Lal, on Friday presented a complete cricket kit to local player Ankush. On the occasion, CPO Una Sanjay Sankhyan was also present. Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal informed that Ankush will be participating in the National Cricket Tournament organized by the Indian Deaf Cricket Association, scheduled to be held in New Delhi from November 3 to 9. Representing Himachal Pradesh, Ankush will showcase his cricketing skills at this prestigious national event. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy



Commissioner said that it is essential to provide the right direction, guidance, and support to the hidden sports talent among the youth. He added that players like Ankush are an inspiration for society, as they continue to pursue their dreams despite challenges. Expressing gratitude to DC Jatin Lal for gifting him the cricket kit, Ankush said that this gesture

has greatly motivated him. He pledged to give his best performance in the tournament to bring pride and recognition to Una district and Himachal Pradesh. It is noteworthy that Ankush hails from Santoshgarh in Una subdivision and will participate in the Deaf National Cricket Tournament to be held in Delhi from November 3 to 9.

Virbhadra Singh's statue unveiling at Ridge hailed as historic moment: Jagat Ram Sharma

KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: The unveiling of a statue of former Chief Minister and people's leader of Himachal Pradesh, Virbhadra Singh, at the Ridge in Shimla has been described as a historic moment by National INTUC Secretary and Himachal INTUC General Secretary Jagat Ram Sharma. In a press statement issued on Wednesday, he said the ceremony was attended by top leaders of the National Congress including Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Rajeev Shukla, Rajni Patil, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, Minister and son of Virbhadra Singh Vikramaditya Singh, his wife Pratibha Singh, along with ministers, MLAs, and thousands of employees, workers, farmers, and citizens. Jagat Ram said Virbhadra Singh was counted among the most successful chief ministers of the country and often discussed the demands of workers and trade unions in INTUC meetings. This, he said, is why Virbhadra Singh was recognized as a people's leader and skilled politician across states. Recalling a personal memory, Jagat Ram said that during a rally in Mahetpur, when his name was not mentioned, Virbhadra Singh tore up the paper, saying, "Jagd Ram is in my heart." He said Virbhadra Singh was a grounded leader who deeply respected grassroots workers. His words carried immense weight, and even political opponents were often persuaded by his logic and arguments. He noted that leaders from rival parties, including former Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, still regard Virbhadra Singh's tenure as golden.



Arya Public School celebrates 19th annual prize distribution ceremony with great enthusiasm

JOGINDER DEV ARYA BANGANA, OCT 17

The 19th annual prize distribution ceremony of Arya Public School, Bangana was celebrated on Wednesday with great joy and a dignified atmosphere. MLA Vivek Sharma was present as the chief guest, while Sub-Divisional Officer Sonu Goyal and Tehsildar Amit Sharma attended as special guests. The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and a Saraswati Vandana, followed by the presentation of the annual report by Principal Seema Sharma. She highlighted the academic, sports, and co-curricular achievements of the students, noting that their hard work and talent had brought laurels to the school. The students enthralled the audience with patriotic songs, folk dances, and short plays, which were met with loud



applause. In his inspiring address, MLA Vivek Sharma said that education is the foundation of a nation's development. He added that Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and the state government are continuously working to strengthen the quality of education.

He encouraged students to work hard with discipline and dedication and praised the school's efforts in delivering quality education. Meritorious students for the academic session 2024-25

were felicitated with trophies, medals and certificates. Among the awardees were Priyanshi Thakur, Nikhil Kumar, Radhika Verma, Aditya Rana, Rishi Rana, Saanvi Sharma, Chirag Sharma, Tamanna Sharma, Rahul Sharma, Rohit Kumar, Nitiika Sharma, Aditya Rana, Bhargav Sharma, Divesh, Adarsh Sharma, Kritika Sharma, Akshay Thakur, Harmeet Singh, Anuj Sharma and others. MLA Vivek Sharma also announced a contribution of Rs. 5,100 for the children's refreshments.

2nd Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) lab in Himachal Pradesh launched in Solan

BUREAU SOLAN, OCT 17

On the occasion of the 16th Foundation Day of Shoolini University, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar inaugurated its 18th Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) Lab at the university, supported by the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. This marks a significant milestone in the advancement of education and technology and is the second CPS Lab of its kind established in Himachal Pradesh, reflecting the state's growing focus on education and innovation. Nestled amidst the serene hills, the lab strengthens the state's commitment to quality education, sustainable development, and technological excellence. The



inauguration ceremony featured a series of engaging sessions highlighting the significance of the AWaDH CPS Lab initiative. The event was graced by Prof. Prem Kumar Khosla, Chancellor of Shoolini University, as the Chief Guest, in the esteemed presence of Prof. Ranbir Chander Sobti, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Mrs. Saroj Khosla, Founder, President & Trustee of FLSBM, Shoolini University, Dr. Hadhika Trikha, CEO, IIT Ropar-TIF AWaDH, and Dr. Mukesh C.

Kestwal, Chief Innovation Officer, IIT Ropar-TIF AWaDH. The formal inauguration was followed by a guided tour of the lab, allowing over 50 attendees to explore its state-of-the-art resources and infrastructure, led by Project Manager Deshraj Dhiman and the technical team. The AWaDH CPS Lab is designed to function as a comprehensive platform for education, research, prototyping, testing, and collaboration in the field of Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS).

Hamirpur DC directs officials to ensure strict vigilance to eliminate child labor

ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR, OCT 17

Deputy Commissioner Amarjeet Singh today directed officers to closely monitor instances of child labor and take swift action to eradicate this issue. At a recent meeting of the District-Level Task Force, established to prevent child labor and enforce the provisions of the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Singh emphasized the strict measures outlined in the Act to combat child labor. The meeting was held under his chairmanship yesterday. Therefore, officers of all relevant departments and institutions should maintain a close watch in the

field and take prompt action if a case of child labor is detected. The rescued child should be presented to the District Child Welfare Committee for further action as per the rules. The Deputy Commissioner also directed that strict vigilance be maintained in various dhabas, other commercial establishments, construction sites, and other potential child labor hotspots in the district, as well as cases of begging at religious and public places. If children are found involved, prompt action should be taken as per the rules.

He said that the Labor Department, Women and Child Development Department, District Child

Protection Unit, District Child Welfare Committee, and Child Line, along with the Education Department, can play a crucial role in preventing child labor.

Therefore, if any young child has dropped out of school and is working as a laborer, bring such cases to the attention of the community immediately. Other issues related to child labor were also discussed in detail at the meeting.

On this occasion, District Child Protection Officer Kuldeep Singh Chauhan and Labor Inspector Subhash Sharma provided detailed information about various steps and inspections taken to prevent child labor in the district.

Shimla Nursing College, Shurala hosts farewell function for graduating batches

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, OCT 17

Shimla Nursing College proudly hosted a heartfelt farewell function to honor the graduating classes of the Bachelor of Science (BSc-N), General Nursing & Midwifery (GNM) and Post Basic (PBSC) programs with the theme "NOS VEMOS- Finding good in good byes". The function was graced by esteemed Chief Guest Dr. Yash Pal (CMO DDU Shimla) Guest of Honour Dr. Rahul Rao MS, IGMSC Shimla, Mrs. Leelavati (NS AIMSS Chamiyana), Matrons of KNH, AIMSS & IGMSC Shimla members of the management. The programme commenced with the lamp lighting ceremony, symbolizing the dispelling of darkness and the ushering in of knowledge and wisdom. This was followed by a warm welcome to the senior students and the felicitation of the honoured guests, expressing gratitude for their presence and guidance. The event featured a vibrant lineup of cultural performances, including a variety



of traditional and modern dance performances by the junior students, creating a lively and emotional atmosphere. One of the highlights of the event was the awarding ceremony, where the top three students from the programs-(BSc-N), General Nursing & Midwifery (GNM) and Post Basic (PBSC) were honored for their outstanding academic performance throughout the entire course. The awards were presented by Chief Guest, Guest Of Honour, Managing Director and Principal SNC, who commended the recipients for their commitment to excellence in nursing education.

Voter awareness rally was taken out in the school



AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: Principal of Government Senior Secondary School, Nehriya, Parasram Thakur, extended warm wishes of Diwali to the children on his behalf and on behalf of all the teachers of the school. on this occasion, a house wise rangoli competition was also organised in the school. In the morning assembly, English lecturer Chanchal Kumar and class 12 student Kritika expressed their views regarding voter awareness and after that a voter awareness rally was taken out from the school premises to Nehriya market, all the teachers of the school were present on this occasion. Under the voter awareness campaign, in the morning assembly, English lecturer Chanchal Kumar and class 12 student Kritika gave information regarding voting to the children, a voter awareness rally was taken out from the school to the new market, all the teachers of the school were present on this occasion.

NEWS BRIEF

PSSF submits memorandum to state govt



KULDEEP SOOD BARNALA: A delegation of the Punjab Subordinate Services Federation (1406-22B) led by Karamjit Singh Bihla, state leader, submitted a memorandum to the Punjab government to the representative officer of DC Barnala T. Benith regarding the demands of employees and pensioners. The delegation included Darshan Cheema, President Rachpal Thikriwal, Anil Kumar, Chamkaur Kaire, Ishar Singh, Balwinder Singh Barnala, Ajinder Pal Singh Barnala, Nirmal Shehna, Gurdeep Manal and Amrik Bhattal etc. leaders. Giving details of the demands, the delegation leaders said that they have demanded the regularization of the raw employees, implementation of the old pension, release of the remaining installments of DA, immediate release of the remaining arrears of the Pay Commission and fulfillment of the promises made during the elections or meetings regarding other pending demands.

DC, SSP visit 5 villages, motivate farmers to manage stubble in fields



KULDEEP SOOD BARNALA: As per the guidelines of the Punjab Government, the district administration Barnala is working tirelessly to ensure that paddy stubble is not burnt for a safe environment. Currently, 85 balers are working in the district to collect stubble from the fields so that it can be stored at 14 dump sites. Police and civil officials are visiting the fields and motivating farmers to manage stubble instead of burning it. This was revealed by Deputy Commissioner Barnala Mr. T. Benith while interacting with the farmers at the cooperative society of village Chhinival Kalan. SSP Barnala Mr. Sarfaraz Alam was with him.

Students call for pollution-free Diwali in rally in IG Sr Sec Public School

SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: As per the instructions of Haryana State Pollution Control Board, students of classes 5th to 8th organized a rally in IG Senior Secondary Public School in which the students encouraged everyone to celebrate a systematic Diwali by raising slogans for celebrating an environment-friendly Diwali and by raising banners with



slogans like 'Diwali without crackers', bring happiness to everyone's home'

and 'burst your ego, not crackers' etc. Teacher Geeta Sharma asked some questions to the students of classes 9th to 12th and taught them to burst crackers in minimum quantity and safely. School Principal J.B. Khurania and Principal Mrs. Ranju Gupta also encouraged the students to celebrate Green Diwali and highlighted its importance.

SC takes suo motu cognisance of digital arrest scams, seeks response from Centre, CBI

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, OCT 17

The Supreme Court on Friday took suo motu cognisance of incidents of digital arrest scams, where fraudsters impersonate law enforcement agencies or judicial authorities to extort money from citizens, particularly senior citizens, and sought a response from the Centre and the CBI.A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi observed that the fabrication of judicial orders bearing forged signatures of the judges strikes at the very foundation of the public trust in the judicial system, besides the rule of law.

It said such action constituted "direct assault" on the dignity of the institution."The fabrication of judicial orders bearing forged signatures of the judges strikes at the very foundation of the public trust in the judicial system, besides



the rule of law. Such action constituted a direct assault on the dignity of the institution. Such a grave criminal act cannot be treated as an ordinary or routine offence of cheating or cyber crime," the bench observed.

The apex court said that

coordinated efforts between the central and state police are required to unearth the full extent of the enterprise involving forging judicial documents, extortion, robbery of innocent people, most importantly, the senior citizens.

The bench took suo motu

cognisance of a complaint to the apex court by a senior citizen couple who have been defrauded of their life savings through a digital arrest scam last week.The 73-year-old woman from Ambala alleged that scammers used forged Supreme Court orders to confine her in a digital arrest and extort more than Rs. 1 crore.She claimed that the fraudsters produced a fake order purportedly issued by the Supreme Court judge.

The apex court issued notice to the Union of India through the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the CBI through its Director, the Principal Secretary of the Department of Home, and the SP Cyber Crime at Ambala. It also asked the Haryana government and SP cyber crime Ambala to file the status report of the investigation taken place so far.The bench also sought the assistance of the Attorney General for India on the issue.

Arrears of Rs 6.25 crore will be released before Diwali to municipal sanitation employees



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, OCT 17

On Friday, municipal sanitation workers ended their strike after being assured that they would receive approximately 6.25 crore rupees in arrears pending since 2017 before Diwali. Mayor Suman Bahmani assured them that all employees would receive their arrears by late evening. The employees of the Municipal Employees Union Haryana, affiliated to the Municipal Corporation of Yamunanagar, Jagadhri, thanked her and ended the strike. Mayor Suman Bahmani and Additional Municipal Commissioner Dheeraj Kumar instructed them to redouble their efforts to clean the city

for Diwali and wished everyone a Happy Diwali. Earlier, sanitation workers held a gate meeting at the Municipal Corporation office demanding the release of their arrears for equal pay for equal work. Additional Municipal Commissioner Dheeraj Kumar and Chief Sanitation Inspector Anil Nain informed the employees that, under Mayor Suman Bahmani's guidance, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mahabir Prasad examined the files related to the sanitation workers' arrears. After examining the arrears including how much each employee was entitled to and how long the arrears were pending. The files were sent to the Directorate.

Colourful presentations by students of Jayaram Girls College in Silver Jubilee year programs

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, OCT 17

Inspired by Brahmaswarup Brahmachari, the supreme head of Shri Jayaram Institutions operating nationwide and chairman of Shri Jayaram Educational Institute, various programs are being organized with great joy and dignity as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations at the dynamic Seth Naurang Rai Lohia Jayaram Girls College. The programs are aimed at providing higher education to rural girls. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini attended the Silver Jubilee celebrations as the chief guest. Om Prakash Lohia, Chairman and Managing Director of Indorama Synthetics India Limited, also attended as the special guest. Also present were



Brahmaswarup Brahmachari, supreme head of Shri Jayaram Institutions and chairman of Shri Jayaram Educational Institute, Vice President TK Sharma, Director SN Gupta, the Sarpanch of Lohar Majra village, dignitaries and distinguished members of the educational institution's management committee and the principals of all five educational institutions.

The Silver Jubilee year programs are filled with joy and enthusiasm. At the Silver Jubilee celebrations, students from Jairam Degree College,

Jairam B.Ed. Women's College, Jairam Women's Polytechnic College, Jairam Sainik School, Shrimati Kesari Devi School and DSB International School, Nivarsi, presented cultural programs. Dances, songs, and drama performances based on patriotism, folk culture and social messages captivated everyone. The children's captivating performances, showcasing Haryanvi, Rajasthani, Punjabi, and Kashmiri culture, were truly commendable.

Press Club Kurukshetra organises Diwali celebration



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: Dr. RC Mishra, Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority of Haryana and former Haryana DGP, said that in today's age, the significance of Diwali was not limited to a mere celebration. It gave us an opportunity to educate society and impart values to future generations. Therefore, it was our duty to make future generations aware of our traditions and values. Dr. Mishra was speaking as the chief guest at a Diwali celebration organized by the Press Club Kurukshetra at the Pearl Mark Hotel on Railway Road on Thursday. Kurukshetra DC Vishram Kumar Meena, SP Nitish Aggarwal, Honorary Secretary of the Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB) Upendra Singhal, and Chief Minister Nayab Saini, Media Coordinator Tushar Saini, were also present as special guests. Meanwhile, Dr. Shriprakash Mishra, Director of the Motherland Service Mission, prominent social worker Pawan Chhabra, and Dr. Khushbir Sharma, Director of the Homeopathic Hospital in Faral village, Kaithal district, attended the event as special guests.

Shivalik College holds test on 350 years of Shaheedi Diwas of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji



SUDHIR SANDAL

NANGAL: A written test on the 350 Years of Shaheedi Diwas of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was recently conducted at Shivalik College of Pharmacy, Nangal, in collaboration with the Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle. The event aimed to raise awareness among students about the life, teachings, and supreme sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. A large number of students participated in the test with keen interest and enthusiasm. The activity offered them an opportunity to reflect on the values of courage, truth, and faith exemplified by the great Guru. The program was coordinated by Dr. Rajesh Singh, who guided and motivated the students throughout the event. Prof. Inderpreet Kaur and Prof. Gaurav Dhiman provided valuable support in organizing the arrangements, while Mr. Sardar Simranjit Singh Bimbrab and Sardar Harcharan Singh, representing the Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle, served as the external coordinator and ensured the smooth conduct of the test. The event was held under the overall supervision of Dr. Jagdeep Singh Dua, Principal, Shivalik College of Pharmacy, who appreciated the efforts of the coordinators and participants.

Industrialists and social organizations urge to celebrate Diwali with indigenous spirit and mutual brotherhood

KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI, OCT 17

Industrialists and dignitaries from social and religious organizations in the city said that this festival was not just about lighting lamps in homes, but also about spreading light in hearts. Amidst changing traditions we must cherish our culture, indigenous spirit and mutual brotherhood. Ramesh Gupta, CMD of Shiv Shakti Inter Globe Private Limited, Taraori and Vinod Goyal, CMD of Goyal International Private Limited, Taraori, urged to celebrate a swadeshi Diwali this year. Encourage our country's artisans by lighting earthen lamps. They added that adopting Indian products instead of Chinese goods on Diwali is true patriotism. Nathiram Gupta of Bharat Enterprises, Devendra



Singla, CMD of Janaki Das Rice Mill, Pradeep Gupta, CMD of Shri Hans Rice Mill, and Rakesh Gupta from Bharat Serial urged the people to light the lamp of cleanliness, awareness, and positivity on Dhanteras and Diwali. Earlier, people used to go door to door to meet each other now the exercise is limited to messages. This distance has to be ended. Brijbhushan Goyal, CMD of Double Chaabi Basmati Rice, Ravinder Singla, Managing Director of Shriram Rice Unit, Roshan Lal Gupta, Vice President of Rice Millers and Dealers

Association and CMD of R.L. Foods Taraori and Pankaj Goyal, CMD of KS Overseas Pvt. Ltd. said that lighting lamps in the homes of the needy on Diwali was the biggest virtue. They urged to avoid fireworks and take a pledge to save the environment. Praveen Garg, CMD of BD Overseas, Vijay Singla, CMD of Shriram Agrotech said that children should be taught the real meaning of Diwali, i.e. light, education and harmony. They should be inspired to protect the environment and use indigenous products.

Seminar on stubble management held in Shri LBS Ariya Mahila College

KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA, OCT 17

Principal of Shri LBS Ariya Mahila College, Barnala, Dr. Sushil Bala said that in the college A seminar was organized regarding stubble management in which Honorable SDM Madam Smt. Sonam attended along with Chief Agricultural Officer Sardar Harbans Singh Sidhu and Smt. Sunita Sharma was also the program officer Madam Archana told that this program was organized by NSS Red Ribbon Club and SDM Madam Sonam ji organized in collaboration with Civil Defense and said students are brand ambassadors. They are the ones who will give this message to their families in their village that they should not burn the stubble which will harm the land. Fertility



is reduced and hundreds of insects that act as fertilizer also die. There is also pollution. He said that the daughter's opinion is accepted at home and today she will talk to her father and tell brother not to burn the stubble. In this seminar, Sardar Harbans Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer Said that Barnala district is the first district in Punjab which has started lottery system if any If the farmer does not set fire to the stubble, then before harvesting the crop, after

harvesting and Will send photo while collecting stubble and after that Rs 20 thousand will be given to second place as first place. 15000 and the third place will be given a prize of Rs.10000. Agriculture Officer Madam Sunita said that even though it is less than before The cases of stubble burning have reduced but still entire Punjab should be protected from it, he said Students can play an important role in this.

Earthen lamps are true essence of Indian culture: Vishal Chaudhary

KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: On the occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights, Director of B.S. Real Estate Vishal Chaudhary has appealed to people to celebrate the festival with a spirit of brotherhood and Swadeshi sentiment. He said that lighting earthen lamps to celebrate Diwali reflects the essence of Indian culture. He urged everyone to celebrate the festival in accordance with traditional customs and to completely boycott Chinese products. Social worker Vishal Chaudhary said that using Swadeshi goods not only strengthens the nation's economy but is also deeply connected with our culture and employment. He appealed to people to become 'Vocal for Local' this Diwali and contribute to nation-building. He further said that the festival of lights is a symbol of joy and prosperity. "May Goddess Lakshmi bless every home with happiness and abundance," he added, extending warm Diwali wishes to everyone. Vishal Chaudhary also urged people to celebrate the festival with a spirit of humanity and service. He appealed to avoid loud firecrackers and limit fireworks to prevent any harm to the environment. "True happiness is when we bring smiles to the faces of the needy around us," he said. Chaudhary emphasised that Diwali is not just about decoration and fireworks but represents love, compassion and togetherness. On this auspicious occasion, he called on people to take a pledge that no one around them should remain hungry or homeless. He appealed to every section of society to help the needy as per their capacity and make this Diwali a festival of service and empathy.



Capacity building program organised by CBSE at Janata Public School, Alahar



NIRMAL SAINI RADAUR: Capacity building program was organized by CBSE at Janata Public School, Alahar. In which Kavita Chawla and Sakshi Sikka participated as resource persons. Seventy teachers participated in the program. This workshop on life skills was organized by CBSE. Kavita Chawla told the teachers how they can teach children by creating a classroom environment. Today's time is such in which children are able to learn more through books as well as in practical form. Sakshi Sikka said that today it has become very important to interact with children. Now gone are the times when teachers used to teach children by scolding and beating them. Today's time is modern, in which education can be imparted in coordination with children. On this occasion, school president Mukesh Shastri, MD Ruby Kamboj and other staff members were present.

Moga Police working towards eradication of drugs, CASO operation held in Badhni Kalan

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA
MOGA, OCT 17

As per the guidelines of the Punjab Government, the Punjab Police is conducting a cordon and search operation (CASO) campaign to prevent drugs and control the bad elements of the society. Under this campaign, today, under the able leadership of Shri Nilambari Jagdale Vijay (IPS) DIG Faridkot Range and Shri Ajay Gandhi (IPS) SSP Moga, the Chief Officer of Badhni Kalan Police Station along with the police force conducted a search operation at the drug hotspots of Badhni Kalan and other suspicious places. During this operation, 60 police personnel conducted cordon and checking in Badhni Kalan, Rania, Butter Kalan.

SSP Moga Shri Ajay Gandhi said that during this checking, about 25 suspicious houses have been searched and the suspicious persons are being questioned. Some suspicious vehicles have been taken into custody by the police which are being verified. Apart from this, the persons who came on bail in the past have been



checked. Mr. Ajay Gandhi said that the general public is also very happy with the action being taken by the Moga Police against drugs and is also praising the police for this action.

He appealed to the general public to cooperate with the police department in creating a drug-free Punjab and if they have information regarding the sale, purchase or use of drugs, they can inform the Moga Police Control Room number 96568-96568 or Safe Punjab Helpline number 97791-00200, their identity will be kept confidential. He said that Moga Police is determined to stop any illegal activities and such actions against bad elements will continue in the future as well.

Students of Delhi Public School visit old age homes and orphanages

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, OCT 17

On October 14 and 15 students of Delhi Public School, Yamuna Nagar visited an orphanage and an old-age home, embodying the spirit of social service. The primary objective of this trip was to instill in students a sense of humanity, empathy, service and social responsibility. A special collection drive was organized for the occasion, during which students collected clothes, toys, books, food items, and other essential items. These items were distributed to the residents of the orphanage and old-age home. This initiative by the students brought joy to everyone present. During the visit, the students spent time with the elderly and children, sharing their life experiences. The school students performed songs and recited poems, bringing joy to the atmosphere. Additionally, the students celebrated small festivals with the children and elderly living there distributing sweets, lighting lamps and providing everyone with a sense of joy and belonging. School Chairman Mr. Ramiwas Garg and Principal Mrs.



Purnima Wadhwa praised the program, noting that such activities provide students with not only academic but also moral and social education. They said the visit was an inspiring and emotional experience for the students. It taught them that true happiness lies in helping others and connecting with society.

NEWS BRIEFS

All tehsils will remain open on Dhanteras, registrations will be conducted: Uttam Singh

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh stated that even on Dhanteras, a holiday in Karnal, people will be able to register their land in the tehsil and all sub-tehsils. Necessary guidelines have been issued to officials for this purpose. Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh stated that state-level and district-level programs were organized as part of the "Jan Vishwas - Jan Vikas" celebrations to mark the completion of one year of the Haryana government's third term. On this occasion, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini distributed certificates for 100-yard plots to eligible beneficiaries under the Chief Minister Rural Housing Scheme 2.0. The Chief Minister directed that all tehsils will remain open on Dhanteras for the registration of these plots, in view of the Diwali festival, so that the registration process can be completed as quickly as possible.

Artists light up Diwali Milan Jagmag with vibrant performances

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, OCT 17

A grand Diwali Milan Jagmag event was organised by Bhatia Seva Manch at Punjabi Biradari Bhavan, filling the evening with colour, culture and celebration. The programme featured a variety of artistic performances along with food and daily utility stalls that attracted visitors throughout the event.

The cultural evening included traditional folk dances and entertaining performances that captivated the audience. The chief guest of the event was MLA Jagmohan Anand, while Mayor of Karnal Municipal Corporation Renu Bala Gupta was the guest of honour. Special guests included Chairman of Kurukshetra Vikas Board Sanjay Bathla, State Information Commissioner Sanjay Madan, businessmen Ghanishyam Bhatia, Mahesh Bhatia and Dr. Vandana Bhatia. The event was inaugurated with a

Haryana

BJP govt committed for upliftment of poor: Ex MLA Leela Ram

RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL, OCT 17

BJP District President Jyoti Saini stated that first year of Haryana government's third term under leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh was remarkable, while BJP government's eleven years have been unparalleled. During this period, government has established new dimensions of development, the benefits of which are being reaped by every citizen of the state. 46 of the 217 promises made in the last assembly election manifesto have been fulfilled in just one year. Furthermore, work is underway on 158 promises. While this one year is short, it has witnessed a threefold increase in pace of development in fulfilling non-stop development pledged by state government. BJP District President Jyoti Saini was addressing as chief guest during Jan Vishwas-Jan Vikas function held in auditorium of Mini Secretariat today to mark completion of one year of Haryana government's third term. Former MLA Leela Ram was also

present as a special guest on this occasion. Certificates for 100-yard plots were distributed to 36 beneficiaries under Chief Minister's Housing Scheme 2.0. A booklet prepared by Information and Public Relations Department was also released, detailing government's work. Guests extended their heartfelt greetings



and congratulations to district residents on completion of one glorious year of state government and on Diwali. He stated that with formation of new cabinet, 24,000 youth were given Group C government jobs on October 17, 2024. Free dialysis services for kidney patients were initiated in all civil district hospitals and

medical colleges. During first assembly session held in November 2024, service security was provided to contract employees, technical education, guest faculty, and college extension lecturers and guest professors. All 24 crops are being purchased at MSP. Farmers will receive DBT within 48 hours. Money is deposited directly into the account through scheme. He said that under Har Ghar-Har Grihini scheme, gas cylinders are being provided to over 1.5 million Antyodaya and BPL families in state for only 500. He said that under Ayushman Bharat scheme, free medical treatment worth 5 lakh per year has been initiated for all senior citizens above 70 years of age. Chief Minister's Tirtha Yatra scheme provides pilgrimage to various religious sites. Over 75,000 complaints were resolved through civic welfare camps in municipal bodies. Additionally, over 45,000 public complaints were resolved through Jan Samvad portal.

Hundreds of youth join BJP in the presence of district president Praveen Lather



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, OCTOBER 17.

Impressed by the public welfare policies and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Manohar Lal and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini for a developed India, hundreds of young people joined the BJP at the district office Karnal in the presence of BJP district president Praveen Lather.

Welcoming the new members, Praveen Lather extended his best wishes and said that the energy and dedication of workers will further strengthen the resolve of "Viksit Bharat Viksit Haryana." He expressed hope that the youth will contribute significantly to fulfilling Modi's dream of a developed India by following the party's people-centric policies. Lather also draped party

Blood donation camp held near Lohgarh Sahib, Bhagwanpur



PRITI SAINI YAMUNANAGAR, OCT 17

Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Yamunanagar Parth Gupta, under the auspices of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Foundation Trust, Lohgarh, and in collaboration with the District Red Cross Committee, Yamunanagar, a massive blood donation camp was organized today at the Community Hall, near Lohgarh Sahib, Bhagwanpur. Bilaspur Sub-Divisional Officer Jaspal Singh Gill was the chief guest. Upon his arrival, District Red Cross Secretary Randeep Singh welcomed him with a bouquet. Young people and social workers participated enthusiastically in the camp, with 69 blood donors registered, and a total of 49 units of blood collected. Fifteen young people donated blood for the first time. Red Cross Secretary Randeep Singh donated for

the 52nd time, Project Manager Sunita Sharma for the 16th time, Program Officer Sheeshpal Pal Sohi for the 120th time, and Amandeep Narwal for the 40th time. Baldev Singh, Sarpanch of Bhagwanpur village, donated blood with his son. During the program, the chief guest honored all blood donors by presenting them with badges and certificates. In his address on this occasion, SDM Vyaspur Jaspal Singh Gill said that blood donation is a noble deed that not only saves the life of a needy person but also spreads the message of humanity in society. He said that there is no greater donation than saving a life. He urged the youth to regularly participate in blood donation camps and promote the spirit of cooperation in society. District Red Cross Secretary Randeep Singh said that blood donation is the greatest service to humani-

ty. Every person should donate blood at least once a year so that a patient can receive blood in time. He added that the District Red Cross Committee organizes such camps from time to time. The team from the Blood Bank, Yamunanagar, played a special role in the successful conduct of the camp, with Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Deepa Puri, Seema Chaudhary, and Maya providing their services. Smile Foundation extended special support in this blood donation camp. On this occasion, Naib Tehsildar Ravindra Kumar, Village Secretary Balkar, Vijayant Smile Foundation President Sanjeev Mehta, Sarpanch of Bhagwanpur village Baldev Singh, Karanveer, Manish, Pradeep, Subham, Mohit, Aman, Sheeshpal, Sunita, Mahendra, Anshul and many other dignitaries of the area were present.

Rama Ekadashi celebrated with devotion and joy at Shri Khatu Shyam Mandir

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: The festival of Rama Ekadashi was celebrated with devotion and joy on Friday at the Shri Khatu Shyam Temple located in the city's old grain market. The temple premises and the idol of Baba Shyam were beautifully decorated with flowers. Long queues of devotees lined the temple from early morning for darshan and worship. A special bhajan-kirtan programme was organised to mark Ekadashi, in which bhajan singers enthralled the devotees with their praises of Baba Shyam. During the evening aarti, the entire temple complex reverberated with chants of Shyam's name. The significance of Rama Ekadashi was also explained to the devotees. Prasad was distributed to the devotees by the temple committee. Pandit Deepak Pandey explained that Rama Ekadashi falls on the Ekadashi of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of the month of Kartik. Ekadashi is very dear to Lord Shri Vishnu. Worshipping Lord Vishnu and Lakshmi on this day fulfills all wishes. Desraj Gupta, the head servant of Shri Khatu Shyam Temple, said that every day of the month of Kartik is like a festival. Various festivals fall in the month of Kartik. Devotees from far and wide, including Karnal, come to visit Baba Shyam and fulfill their wishes. A havan yagya is going on in the temple, which will continue throughout the month of Kartik. On this occasion, the head servant of the temple, Desraj Gupta, Rajesh Garg, Mahendra Gupta, Anil Garg, Ram Karan Goyal, Ashok Singla, Pawan Gupta, Rajesh Singla and Harish along with a large number of devotees were present.



Modi Model is Succeeding Not Just in Haryana but Across India : CM

BUREAU CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini said that the "Modi model" of governance is proving effective not only in Haryana but across the entire country. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi, key Sankalps are being consistently fulfilled in the state. Haryana is steadily moving forward on the path of development. The Chief Minister was addressing a press conference in Panchkula today. Responding to a question about his visit to Bihar, the Chief Minister said, "I am going there to campaign. The people have experienced Congress rule, whether in Bihar or Punjab, they now want development." Speaking about Punjab, the Chief Minister added that both the Congress and now the Aam Aadmi Party came to power by making false promises. The people will give them a fitting response in 2027. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, responding to questions about opposition leaders questioning his laughter, said that the opposition has no real issues and either resorts to protests or makes such remarks. He said that the people of the state are happy, which is why he always wears a smile. Advising the opposition, the Chief Minister remarked that laughter is good for health. The Chief Minister said that during his visit to Japan, several companies expressed their interest in investing in Haryana. Citing an example from the Mahabharata, he remarked that just as Barbarik could only see Sudarshan.

2-day Inclusive Education Awareness program launched

MAINPAL KASHYAP

INDRI: Under the aegis of the Haryana School Education Project Council, BRC Vandana Chawla inaugurated a two-day Inclusive Education Awareness Program at the Inclusive Education Centre located at the local PM Shri Government Senior Secondary School. The programme is being coordinated by special education teachers Amit Kumar and Pradeep Kumar. On the first day of the programme, Professor Arun Kumar Kaiharba, an inclusive education expert, and Dr. Rajesh Kumar and Pradeep Kumar served as resource persons. Teachers, Anganwadi workers, parents of children with disabilities, and SMC members are participating in the training programme. Vandana Chawla, while inaugurating the training program, stated that widespread awareness is needed to ensure that children with disabilities are educated alongside normal children. The Inclusive Education Centre and the special educators deployed there are constantly working to create an environment where no child is considered a burden. Special teacher Pradeep Kumar gave a detailed introduction of 21 types of disabilities as per RPWD Act-2016. Professor Arun Kumar Kaiharba, while expressing his views on the concept of inclusive education, its importance and types, said that inclusive education is education based on values like discrimination-free, equality, freedom, justice and democracy.



Leaders extend Diwali greetings to sanitation workers in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: MLA Jagmohan Anand, Mayor Renu Bala Gupta, BJP District President Praveen Lather and MP representative Kavindra Rana extended warm Diwali greetings to sanitation workers of the Municipal Corporation and distributed sweets along with a special message from Union Minister Manohar Lal. The celebrations were held at four different locations in the city—Gulmohar Park (Zone 4), Sector 7 Community Centre (Zone 1), Prem Nagar Community Centre (Zone 3), and Karna Tal Park (Zone 2). Municipal councilors, nominated councillors and corporation officials were present on the occasion. The Union Minister's message praised the contribution of sanitation workers for their role in achieving a proud milestone for Karnal. In the Swachh Survekshan 2024, the city secured first place in Haryana and third at the national level, for which it received the President's Award. He acknowledged that this achievement was made possible through the hard work and dedication of sanitation workers and extended Diwali wishes to them and their families. MLA Jagmohan Anand said that it is due to the tireless efforts of sanitation workers that Karnal remains clean and beautiful. He emphasised the important role of both corporation officials and sanitation workers in maintaining the city's cleanliness and urged citizens to celebrate Diwali as a festival of cleanliness. Mayor Renu Bala Gupta lauded the dedication of sanitation workers and wished them happiness and prosperity.



Geeta Modern Sr Secondary School students make diyas and candles

KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: Creative activities were organised at Geeta Modern Senior Secondary School, Tarawari, for Diwali. Students from grades 3rd to 5th participated in diya and candle decoration activities, showcasing their creativity. Students from grades 6th and 8th enthusiastically participated in activities such as making torans and decorating puja thali. School administrator Balkrishna Tripathi highlighted the importance of these activities, saying they are designed to relieve stress and bring out children's hidden talents. He praised the children's performances and encouraged their creative efforts. School Principal Ragini Rai said that these activities not only entertain children but also develop their work ethic. By organising these activities during Diwali, children can create handmade items to decorate their classrooms. These items are inexpensive and also help them understand their responsibilities. They can also make similar items for their homes. All the students were delighted to participate in this activity. This event not only energised the students about the festival but also honed their artistic skills.



Jat PG College, holds special lecture as part of Cyber Crime Awareness Fortnight

SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL, OCTOBER 17

A special lecture programme was organised today in the auditorium of Jat PG College, Kaithal, as part of the Cyber Crime Awareness Fortnight. Chief guests included Shubhanshu SHO, Cyber Crime HC Sandeep Kumar, TC Virendra Singh, President of the Jat High School Society's Managing Committee, Rajkumar Baniwal, Vice President Baljinder Singh Banwala, General Secretary Advocate Mr. Rashmi Dhull, Treasurer Balkar Nain, and Jat College Principal Dr. Dinesh Singh Dhillon. Dr. Sandeep Dhalwal moderated the session. The chief guests were welcomed with bouquets by Staff Secretary, NSS Program Officer Dr. Labh Singh Chauhan, and NCC Officer Ajit Dhull. Speaking as the keynote speaker, Mr.



Shubhanshu, SHO, Cyber Crime, explained that cyber-crime is criminal activity committed using computers or the internet, including hacking, fixing, identity theft, online fraud, and spreading malware. The keynote speaker elaborated on the topic of cybercrime, explaining that cyber fraud is reported by calling 1930. Only five percent of offenders are caught. Punishments for cybercrime in India vary depending on the nature of the crime, ranging

from fines to life imprisonment. Under the Information Technology Act (IT Act 2000), a first-time hacking offense carries a jail term of up to three years and a fine of up to 5 lakh rupees, while a first-time online fraud offense carries a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh and a jail term of up to 5 years. There is a need for greater awareness of AI in cybersecurity. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a key factor in cybersecurity.

Diwali fest celebrated with great enthusiasm at Baba Siddhnath International Public School



HANS RAJ

KURUKSHETRA: The Diwali fest was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Baba Siddhnath International Public School. The event was inaugurated by school manager Ishwar Singh, deputy manager Rekha Devi and principal Geeta Sharma by cutting the ribbon. Students from classes VI to VIII actively participated in the fest. They showcased their skills by putting up various food, sweets, mehndi and games stalls. The entire school campus was decorated with colourful decorations, diyas and lights. Students and teachers enjoyed the stalls prepared by the children and celebrated the festival with joy and excitement. On this occasion, manager Ishwar Singh encouraged the children to follow the path of goodwill, honesty and hard work. Deputy manager Rekha Devi extended Diwali greetings to everyone and urged them to celebrate a clean and green Diwali while protecting the environment. Principal Geeta Sharma concluded the event by sharing the message that the true essence of Diwali lies in the victory of light over darkness, inspiring everyone to light the lamp of knowledge.

Haryana Police to pay tribute to martyrs on October 21

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KURUKSHETRA: Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Singh said that on October 21, tributes will be paid to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty at all Haryana Police headquarters and at the Haryana Armed Police complex in Madhuban. He said that on this day, gratitude is expressed to those brave hearts who laid down their lives for the country. On October 21, 1959, a troop of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police was ambushed by enemy forces at Hot Springs in Ladakh, in which several officers and personnel were martyred. Since then, police forces from across the country offer floral tributes at the Hot Springs memorial as well as at their respective workplaces.

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED				
(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020				
POSSESSION NOTICE				
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned as below. The borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.				
Name of the Borrower	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession	
SURENDRA SINGH, BABITA BABITA GUARANTOR : MITHA LAL (A/C NO.) LNPP00621-220210728	12 MAY 25 Rs. 495003/- 8 MAY 25	KHEWAT NO. 310, KHATONI NO. 3304 KITTAS, SITUATED IN VILLAGE BAPRA, WITHIN THE LIMIT OF M.C., TEHSIL SAMALKHA, DIST. PANIPAT HARYANA ADMEASURING 56 SQ. YD.	PHYSICAL POSSESSION TAKEN ON 14 OCT 25	
Place : HARYANA		Date: 18-10-2025		Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

EDITORIAL

Caste shadow on Civil Services

The suicide of senior IPS officer Y Puran Kumar in Haryana has once again brought to the forefront the persistent issue of caste-based discrimination and deep-rooted structural bias in Indian society. These inequities persist even within the civil services despite their elite status and constitutional protections. Kumar, an IPS officer of the 2001 batch in the Haryana cadre, died by suicide, leaving behind an eight-page note detailing a series of injustices he had endured. The Additional DG-rank officer explicitly named several IPS and IAS colleagues, holding them responsible for systematic humiliation, deliberate exclusion, pointed hostility, and administrative isolation. Kumar's wife, herself an IAS officer, filed a complaint naming individuals she held accountable for driving her husband to this tragic act. His suicide prompted political parties to issue statements demanding justice. Yet conspicuously, few addressed the underlying institutional bias faced by individuals from disadvantaged sections. Puran Kumar's death starkly symbolises a paralysis within the system — a "thrombosis" — that allows discrimination, both subtle and overt, to persist. Increasingly, more civil servants from marginalised backgrounds are exposing harassment, courageously challenging the system despite risking retaliation. Unfortunately, it is all the more tragic that Kumar, despite his position at the highest levels of the Indian Police Service, was driven to end his life rather than continue to fight against these entrenched injustices. It is reasonable to expect that the civil services, occupying the uppermost ranks of public administration, would be free from caste prejudice. Ideally, officers — regardless of whether they hail from dominant or marginalised backgrounds — should receive fair and impartial treatment. However, the reality reflected in Kumar's suicide points to the civil services' utter failure to address the hardships faced by many officers. If there had been a formal mentorship system for police leaders, Kumar's death might have been averted. In numerous States, junior IAS or IPS officers find informal mentors among their seniors, who help guide and support them through professional challenges. These unofficial mentors can correct course when juniors err and offer crucial advice to ease stress. Such mentorship initiatives, though not institutionalised, serve as mechanisms to address problems, rectify injustices, and provide psychological support. Sometimes, a word of concern or gentle admonition from a senior officer can either directly correct an errant officer or alert others to intervene before issues become critical. Sadly, Kumar appears to have lacked such support. Going forward, leaders within the civil services must not only awaken to the urgent need for robust support systems for their juniors but also take concrete steps to ensure dignity and fairness for everyone, regardless of their background. At the very least, the Haryana government must conduct an impartial probe into the entire episode and punish those found guilty. Meanwhile, the Centre should establish mechanisms to identify and correct institutional biases within the services. Only when civil servants are free from caste-based prejudices can they ensure an effective and systematic administration that genuinely comes to the rescue of people in distress.

AI music boom may hit artist royalties

Growth in Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated music could gradually weaken demand for artist-created content and impact royalty-backed music intellectual property (IP) asset-backed securities (ABS), cautioned Fitch Ratings According to Fitch, AI tools are enabling users to create and distribute music at unprecedented speeds, flooding digital service providers (DSPs) platforms and intensifying competition for listener-based revenues. This trend could eventually reduce royalty payments that support music IP ABS. Big Industry stakeholders says tighter AI controls are needed to protect copy rights."DSPs continue to adapt to evolving technology disruptions, and major industry stakeholders broadly support tighter AI controls to protect copyright holders," noted Fitch RatingsWhile fully AI-generated tracks still make up a small share of total streams, platforms are already tightening controls. Deezer has been excluding such content from recommendations and playlists since January, while Spotify is enforcing stricter anti-impersonation rules and introducing filters to detect spam, mass uploads, and duplicate tracks.Fitch noted that these measures promoting



transparency and prioritizing artist-created content could help protect royalty flows.

However, some digital service providers may choose to produce or own AI-generated music themselves, potentially

lowering content costs and capturing royalty rights.The rating agency emphasized that diversification by genre, geography, artist, and vintage remains crucial for the stability of music IP ABS cash flows. Legal developments and licensing agreements, such as those

between ElevenLabs and Kobalt Music could also shape future revenue streams for artists and copy rights holders. Under the deal "artists receive compensation for the use of their copyrighted music to train ElevenLabs' AI model used in their "Pro" product,

demonstrate a potential path for durable, new revenue streams. While it is unclear how royalties will be distributed under such contracts" noted Fitch Ratings.Fitch says tighter controls on AI-generated music will help ensure transparency and protect

artists' royalties. By removing AI tracks from recommendations, labelling and filtering AI content, and promoting artist-made music, streaming platforms can boost fair payments and visibility for human artists. However, if platforms create or own AI music.

Pakistan hides its repression behind prison walls



A prominent Baloch rights activist, Sammi Deen Baloch, a central leader of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), has accused the Pakistani government of acting out of fear over the growing public solidarity for the group's detained leaders. The activists have been in custody for more than six months, with no formal charges filed against them, as reported by The Balochistan Post.

In a post shared on X, Sammi Deen Baloch stated that Dr Mahrang Baloch, Beebarg Baloch, Shah Ji Baloch, Beebow

Baloch, and Gulzadi Baloch continue to face what she called "unlawful detention" under politically motivated FIRs, which have been repeatedly extended without due process. "The government initially misused laws such as the 3-MPO to target these activists," she said, adding that authorities have now moved all future hearings to Quetta District Jail, an action she described as "a calculated move to suppress transparency and silence the people's movement," as reported by The Balochistan Post.

She further stated that the authorities have deliberately delayed court proceedings and restricted public access to the hearings. "By moving the trials behind bars, the state seeks to conceal its injustices from the people," Sammi remarked. The BYC strongly condemned the government's decision to conduct trials inside prison walls instead of the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC). The group called the step "a disturbing sign of institutionalised repression". It argued that it prevents families, journalists, and observers from attending, violating both Pakistan's constitutional guarantees and international fair trial principles, as highlighted by The Balochistan Post. Sammi Deen Baloch also stated that the government decided on closed-door hearings after it failed to control the large gatherings of supporters that assembled outside the ATC during previous appearances. The BYC has launched a three-day online protest campaign to oppose what it calls "state oppression" and urged citizens to participate by amplifying their voices for justice, as reported by The Balochistan Post.

US Chamber of Commerce challenges \$100,000 H-1B visa fee

The US Chamber of Commerce has filed a legal challenge to the administration's \$100,000 fee on H-1B visa petitions, an official release by the Chamber stated on Thursday. The Chamber's litigation argues that the new fee is unlawful because it overrides provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act that govern the H-1B program, including the requirement that fees be based on the costs incurred by the government in processing visas.In announcing today's action, Neil Bradley, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer at the US Chamber, issued the following statement:"The new \$100,000 visa fee will make it cost-prohibitive for US employers, especially start-ups and small and midsize businesses, to utilize the H-1B program, which was created by Congress expressly to ensure that American businesses of all sizes can access the global talent they need to grow their



operations here in the US," Bradley said, as per an official release by the US Chamber of Commerce."President Trump has embarked on an ambitious agenda of securing permanent pro-growth tax reforms, unleashing American energy, and unraveling the overregulation that has stifled growth. The Chamber and our members have actively backed these proposals to attract more investment in America. To support this growth, our economy will require more workers, not fewer."The president deserves credit for

securing our nation's border. With the border secure, we now have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to accomplish targeted legal immigration reforms, and we stand ready to work with Congress and the administration to make that happen. That includes working together on common-sense reforms to improve the visa process for skilled workers. The president has said he wants to educate, attract, and retain the world's best and brightest in the US, and the Chamber shares that goal," the US Chamber of Commerce added.

POEMS

Preaching

Under the billowing heat of the white tarpaulin church tent, my mother lowered her worshipping hands and leaned into me. "You're running away from your calling.

Your gift for words is meant for church and not for that skeptical head of yours."

The night air was thick with the scent of Charlie perfume, earth, and sweat, with a chorus of handheld fans fluttering. My doubts doubled due to the shouting pastor fleecing his flock for small bills to shop for planes and limousines.

"Even broken men," she said, "could channel God's will. Despite their flaws, in the midst of their damage, a light can shine divine."

But all my life I'd remain a questioning man, choosing debate over faith, sparring with mystery, claiming logic over belief.

But in the funeral parlor, the grief of seeing the shell of my mother's body bereft of spirit brought death to my inner cynic,

with her words, my god, my god, being stuck in my throat as I stood there, her broken son, preaching.

By Roger Robinson

Festive cheer, nil GST on health and life boost insurance payments by 35%

The festive season, coupled with the government's recent decision to make health insurance GST-free, has provided a strong boost to India's insurance market. According to an analysis by Policybazaar, insurance payments between September 22 and October 14 grew 14 per cent week-on-week and 35 per cent year-on-year, driven by festive spending and consumer preference for flexible and digital payment modes. The analysis highlighted that the 0 per cent GST reform on health insurance and a surge in vehicle purchases during the Navratri-Diwali period acted as major catalysts for this growth. It stated "Between September 22 and October 14, insurance payments



grew 14 per cent week-on-week and 35 per cent year-on-year, coinciding with the 0 per cent GST reform and early Navratri-Diwali spending".The festive period encouraged users to secure health, vehicle, and family protection policies ahead of the new financial year-end rush.Overall, payment volumes during the period rose 14.13 per cent week-on-week, while festive year-on-year growth stood at 35.38 per cent. The momentum was strongest across motor and two-wheeler insurance categories, which are closely linked to festive buying and new vehicle registrations.Policybazaar noted that Unified Payments Interface

(UPI) emerged as the preferred payment mode across insurance categories, reflecting its growing role in transforming India's insurance payment ecosystem. UPI transactions surged 18 per cent post-September 22, becoming the top choice for both policy renewals and new purchases.Motor and two-wheeler policies rode the festive wave as new vehicle sales and Diwali gifting drove higher demand for insurance coverage. UPI transactions in these segments grew 17 per cent each, underscoring the rising need for speed and convenience at the point of purchase. The central government, after the GST rate rationalisation

meeting, announced a GST exemption on all health and life insurance premiums. The new rule came into effect on September 22, 2025.The exemption was made to make health and life insurance policies more affordable for customers, as they will no longer need to pay GST on insurance premiums.Credit card usage also recorded a strong festive comeback, supported by banks offering festival-linked incentives and cashback offers. Meanwhile, monthly premium payment options and net banking modes gained traction among users opting for higher-value insurance policies.

NEWS BRIEF

Students of Shri Brahmarishi Vidya Mandir pledge for pollution-free, indigenous Diwali

KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: Students and teachers at Shri Brahmarishi Vidya Mandir Convent School, Tarawari, pledged to celebrate a pollution-free and indigenous Diwali. In a special assembly held at the school, the children were told that the true meaning of Diwali is to spread light and happiness, not to create noise or air pollution. School Director Dr. Rakesh Sharma said that we should protect the environment by avoiding fireworks during this festival. He said that loud firecrackers cause problems for children, the elderly, and animals and birds. This Diwali, we should prioritise earthen lamps to encourage local artisans and promote indigenous products. Dr. Sharma encouraged the students to inspire those around them to celebrate a pollution-free Diwali and to truly spread the light of Diwali by helping families in need. During the program, students participated in beautiful poster-making and slogan-writing competitions, spreading the message of a green Diwali, a clean Diwali.

Jan Vishwas-Jan Vikas district-level ceremony held on completion of 1 year govt

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, OCT 17

To mark the completion of one year of the BJP government's third term, a district-level ceremony, "Jan Vishwas-Jan Vikas," was held today at the Dr. Mangalsen Auditorium. Indri MLA and Chief Whip Ramkumar Kashyap attended as the chief guest. Title certificates for 100-Square-Yard Plots were distributed to 1,587 families. The chief guest highlighted the state government's achievements on this occasion. Kashyap said that over the past 11 years, the state government has implemented schemes for the welfare of every section of society. The "Bina Schipi-Bina Kshepi" scheme, launched during the tenure of former Chief Minister Manohar Lal, has proven to be a boon for the youth. Meritorious youth are now receiving jobs based on merit. The government has so far employed 170,000 youth. The government has implemented several schemes for the uplift of BPL families. Under the Dayalu Yojana, financial assistance of up to Rs. 5



lakh is provided to the family of the deceased, depending on their age. He said that under the Ayushman/Chirayu Yojana, free treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh is being provided. Current Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is also rapidly advancing development schemes. Mr. Kashyap said that 46 of the 217 pledges made during the last assembly elections have been fulfilled, and 90 pledges will be completed by the end of the current financial year. He informed that free dialysis services have been started for kidney patients in all district government hospitals and medical colleges. So far, 18.5 lakh women from Antyodaya and BPL families

have been provided LPG cylinders for Rs. 500. 24 crops are being purchased at the minimum support price in the state. The government has made elaborate arrangements to transport candidates to the Common Eligibility Test (CET) centers and back home. Kamal MLA Jagmohan Anand described Haryana's 11-year journey as a golden chapter. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the country a new direction, a new identity, and new energy. India is poised to become the third largest economy in the world. He said that under BJP rule, farmers have become economically stronger and the poor have been given the opportunity to live a normal life. The

Chief Minister has proved that the primary purpose of politics is public service. He said that farmers are being paid for crop purchases through DBT within 48 hours. Families living in residential houses up to 500 square yards in rural areas for more than 20 years have been given land ownership rights. Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, elderly people above 70 years of age are being provided free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh. Asandh MLA Yogendra Rana congratulated the people on the completion of 11 years of the BJP government. He said that the people are beginning to benefit from the schemes launched by Manohar Lal, who served as Chief Minister for nine and a half years, for all sections of the society. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is also taking these schemes forward. Referring to the initiatives initiated during former Chief Minister Manohar Lal's tenure, such as the No Slip-No Expenses scheme, the online transfer policy, and 24-hour power supply, he said that development work has been carried out equally in all constituencies.

Hamirpur witnesses strong Youth Congress protest; demand for justice for Anand from Kerala intensifies



ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR, OCT 17

Acting on a call from the Indian Youth Congress and directions from state Youth Congress president Chhattar Thakur, the Hamirpur district Youth Congress staged a strong protest under the leadership of district president Ashok Sandhu and Hamirpur Youth Congress vice president. The demonstration demanded justice for Anand from Kerala. Youth Congress activists took to the streets of Hamirpur, loudly condemning what they described as the RSS's inhumane and shameful actions, and burned an effigy. On the occasion, Ashok Sandhu said that hatred-driven politics in the

country has reached its peak. The inhuman incident against Anand in Kerala is not just violence against an individual but an attack on our constitutional values. He added that the Youth Congress will raise its voice against every injustice, from the streets to Parliament. Until Anand gets justice, the Hamirpur Youth Congress will continue its agitation. Hamirpur Youth Congress vice president Rajat Rana said in his address that the Youth Congress will not tolerate any tampering with the Constitution at any cost. We will defend the provisions of the Constitution. He warned that if justice is not delivered soon, the movement will be intensified.

Padma Shri Rajinder Gupta elected to Rajya Sabha, bringing double pride to Barnala

KULDEEP SOOD

BARNALA: The owner of Trident Group, Padma Shri Rajinder Gupta, has been elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha as per the probability. This has become a double joy for the people of Barnala because from here, the Lok Sabha member Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer was already elected from Aam Aadmi Party and now Rajinder Gupta has also been elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Aam Aadmi Party, meaning that two members of Parliament from the same party have met Barnala for the first time. If we look at the political background of Barnala, unlike the ruling party of Punjab, only the MLA of the party has been elected from here, which Barnala has also suffered. Although Barnala also tasted the post of Chief Minister during Surjit Singh Barnala, after Padma Shri Rajinder Gupta was elected as a Rajya Sabha member, the way in which Barnala's religious, social and educational institutions are posting congratulatory posts on social media seems to be different. Looking at the enthusiasm of the people of Barnala, it seems that while the people of Thaki state will drink political Madura drop by drop, the people of Barnala will drink it in a bowl, but time will tell the intoxicating taste of progress. As an industrialist, Rajinder Gupta has already made a big contribution to the development of Barnala and now the expectations of the people of Barnala have become even bigger. It is believed that after being elected as a Rajya Sabha member, Rajinder Gupta's stature has grown even bigger, but there is another side to this that Rajinder Gupta has also been given the level of a political party, whereas earlier he was the favorite of all parties.



Vedanta Power's TSPL launches mega drive on stubble burning prevention and paddy straw management in Mansa



ISHWER GARG

TALWANDI SABO: Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL), Punjab's largest and North India's largest private thermal power plant, launched a Mega Awareness Camp on Paddy Straw Management at Village Raipur, Mansa, under its flagship CSR initiative Navi Disha promoting sustainable farming. The initiative seeks to sensitize farmers on sustainable alternatives to stubble burning and promote eco-friendly crop residue management practices. Over 270 farmers from 13 villages, including Raipur, Moosa, and Banawala, participated in the camp. The event was graced by Harpreet Pal Kaur, Chief Agriculture Officer, Mansa; Kamaldeep Singh, Block Agriculture Officer, Jhuni; Chamandeep Singh, Agriculture Technology Management Agency; Amritpal Singh, Agriculture Development Officer; and Prabhdyal Singh, Fishery Development Officer, Mansa. Village sarpanches including Raju Singh from Raipur-1, Sukhraj Singh from Raipur-2, and Naib Singh from Talwandi Akalia also participated.

Maa Saraswati Temple annual celebration and Bhandara organised at St. Lawrence International School



RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: The annual celebration of the Maa Saraswati Temple at St. Lawrence International School, Pabni Road, Jagadhri was held with great devotion, reverence, and enthusiasm. Organized on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, this devotional and cultural event brought a spiritually uplifting and inspiring experience for the entire school community. The celebration commenced with Maa Saraswati Poojan, Vedic chanting, lamp lighting, and floral offerings by Dr. M.K. Sehgal, Dr. Rajni Sehgal, Naman Sehgal, Pooja Batra, and Gagan Bajaj. Students and teachers offered Aarti to Goddess Saraswati, creating an atmosphere filled with devotion and divine grace. The soulful renditions of bhajans and kirtans further enhanced the spiritual ambiance and deeply moved everyone present. Eminent educationist and Chairman Dr. M.K. Sehgal, in his inspiring address, shared that St. Lawrence International School has always believed in integrating education with social responsibility and service to humanity.

Grand programmes will be organised in Yamunanagar from Oct 31 to Nov 26: Rajesh Sapra



RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: Giving information, BJP District President Rajesh Sapra said that a meeting would be organized regarding the preparations for celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31, in which Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana, former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gurjar, former MLA Balwant Singh, BJYM District President Nischal Chaudhary, District Coordinator of Sardar Patel's 150th Birth Anniversary Campaign Sandeep Gurjar, BJP District Yamunanagar Media Incharge Kapil Manish Garg were present. BJP District President Rajesh Sapra stated that the BJP District Yamunanagar will organize various events to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana stated that a Run for Unity will be organized in Yamunanagar district on October 31 to raise awareness about the nation's unity and integrity along with a Sardar 150 Unity March will be organized to inspire people to maintain national unity and integrity. Former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gurjar stated that a floral tribute will be offered and a pledge for national unity and integrity will be taken on Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary.

Canva workshop concludes at YS College with creative presentations on 'Mental Health Awareness'



BALWINDER AZAD

BARNALA DEHATI: YS College, Handiaya recognized as the Most Emerging Higher Education Institution of the Year 2022, successfully concluded its Canva Skill Development Workshop on 17 October. The workshop was conducted by Debjani Chakraborty, a UGC NET-qualified educator with over eight years of teaching experience, who guided students through multiple interactive sessions focused on creativity and digital design. On the final day, students appeared for a post-test and took part in a presentation competition. Each participant created a 10-slide presentation on the theme "Mental Health Awareness," blending design with meaningful messaging. From all entries, the five best presentations were chosen based on creativity, content, and presentation style. Director Varun Bharti commended the students, saying that "when creativity is used to highlight real social issues, it not only builds skill but also empathy — something our generation truly needs."

Trident Group contributes Rs 5 lakh for stubble management in Barnala

KARANPREET KARAN

BARNALA: Trident Group has taken a significant approach to address the problem of stubble burning in Barnala district and reduce environmental pollution. Under the directions of Trident Group founder and member Rajya Sabha Padma Shri Rajinder Gupta, the company's Admin Head Rupinder Gupta handed over a cheque of Rs 5 lakh from the CSR fund to Deputy Commissioner T. Benith. While receiving the cheque, Deputy Commissioner T. Benith thanked Trident Group and especially member Rajya Sabha Padma Shri Rajinder Gupta. He said that the problem of stubble burning not only increases air pollution, but also has a negative impact on soil fertility. Therefore, the support provided through CSR is very important to promote sustainable agriculture and create a clean environment.



District level science essay writing competition organised at SD Sr Sec School, Jagadhri



RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: A district-level science essay writing competition was successfully held on Friday at SD Senior Secondary School, Jagadhri. Total of 123 participants from 42 schools across the district enthusiastically participated. Students were given the opportunity to write essays on topics such as the ethics of using artificial intelligence, the benefits of space exploration, why digital privacy was important, science and technology in national progress and the impact and complexity of floods. After judging, 10 students will be selected for the state-level competition. On this occasion, DSS Mr. Vishal Singhal informed the students about the country's achievements in the field of science and encouraged them to continue learning. School Principal Satish Garg also encouraged the students and wished them a bright future.

One accused arrested country-made pistol and two live cartridges

RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: Police spokesperson said that Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal has issued strict instructions to the district police to crack down on those possessing illegal weapons. Acting under these instructions, Crime Branch-1 team arrested a young man with an illegal weapon. A case has been registered against the accused under the Arms Act and he will be produced in court and taken on police remand. Police are investigating the matter thoroughly. In-charge Rajkumar stated that his team received a tip-off that a young man was roaming near Aurangabad Highway Bridge with an illegal weapon, intending to commit a crime. Based on this information, a team consisting of Head Constables Brijpal, Munish, Amarjeet, and Sandeep was formed. Team arrived at scene and arrested the young man. Upon searching him, an illegal country-made pistol and two live cartridges were recovered from him.



Little Millennium kids lead eco-friendly rally for green and safe Diwali



HANS RAJ

KURUKSHETRA: Little children of "Ready to Fly - 2" class at Little Millennium School organized an eco-friendly rally. Rally aimed to spread message to society that Diwali should be celebrated in a green and safe manner by staying away from firecrackers. Children carried placards in their hands, shouting slogans like "No firecrackers, light diyas," "Green Diwali - Happy Diwali," and "Clean air is everyone's right," and conveyed the message of environmental protection. MD Parminder Singh Bath said that this initiative by children is inspiring for society. He said, "This Diwali, we should pledge to 'adopt swadeshi and celebrate happiness,' so that our country's artisans and local industries can be encouraged.

Babbu Maan spreads cultural colours with his historical musical performance



SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: The second day of the two-day grand cultural festival, "Rang-e-Noor 2025," held at NIILM University, Kaithal, turned into a memorable evening of music and emotion. Renowned Punjabi singer and actor Babbu Maan captivated the audience with his soulful voice and captivating performance. As soon as Babbu Maan took the stage, the entire venue erupted in excitement, enthusiasm, and love. He performed his hit songs—"Mitraan Di Chhatri Ud Gayi," "Kachhi Kanak Te Alag-Alag Jaye," and "Tu Fan Mere Naal Ban Ja"—and enthralled the audience. The soulful sweetness in Maan's voice and the depth of his words touched every heart. The audience was seen enjoying the songs amidst applause and cheers. Haryanvi music also added to the vibrant atmosphere of the cultural festival. Desi Rockstar MD spread the fragrance of motherhood and soil among the audience with songs like "Meri Maa Ne Bandha Dora." Manish Mast added to the fun and energy of the event with his rendition of "Yaar Mere Bagad Bille Se."

ADC Karnal orders to investigate validity of members of Jat Sabha

CHAMANLAL

KARNAL: Founder General Secretary of Jat Sabha Shamsher Sandhu and Surjeet Sandhu Gagsina told that the membership of 1239 members who were made illegally in Jat Sabha has been cancelled by the Registrar Journal and ADC Karnal will investigate other illegal members and the improper activities done by the Sabha. Registrar Journal Firm and Society passed an order on the complaint of Pal Sandhu in which it was ordered to send the complete records of the membership and activities of the members to the Registrar Journal within 30 days and also ordered the District Registrar to hand over all the records of Jat Sabha to the investigation officer concerned as soon as possible so that the investigation can be completed on time. It should be noted that for a long time, cases regarding the membership of Jat Sabha are pending in different courts. Earlier, its investigation was given by the High Court Chandigarh to the District Registrar Firm and Society Kamal, which was kept pending by the District Registrar for about a year. Membership of only 126 members was cancelled, whereas hundreds of members were made illegally with the State Registrar and now the Registrar General has ordered an investigation.



NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Tendering	
OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT-14/2025-26 Dated 17.10.2025	
Open tenders through E-tendering are invited on & behalf of President of India by Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer/G, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 Hrs. or the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.	
Tender No. : 30-Elect/T-19/2025-26	
Name of work : Reconstruction of inspection pit, replacement of valley gutter with RWP and other repairs of DSL shed Ambala, Upgradation of Patiala goods shed including approach road, boundary wall and new good office, Upgradation of Karachi goods siding at Abohar station and Upgradation of Divisional Railway Hospital by extending of OPD by providing 4 new Doctors Chamber, One Dark Room and 03 No. Cabins & other related work under Sr. ADEN/UMB	
Approx. Cost (Rs.) : Rs. 49,54,489.59	
Bid Security (Rs.) : Rs. 99,100.00	
Period of Completion : 03 Months	
Date of closing & opening : 10.11.2025	
Tender No. : 30-Elect/T-20/2025-26	
Name of work : Development/Upgradation of Park in Old Railway Colony (Phase-II) in the section of SSE/W/E/Ambala	
Approx. Cost (Rs.) : Rs. 10,37,620.97	
Bid Security (Rs.) : Rs. 20,800.00	
Period of Completion : 02 Months	
Date of closing & opening : 10.11.2025	
1) Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligible documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. 2) The required Bid security will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/or Payment Gateway only well before & upto 15.00 Hrs. of closing date & time of tender. 3) Tenderers should have class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in e-Tendering of works tenders. 4) For detail, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in . 5) GST will be levied as per GST Act, 2017.	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
3235/2025	

NEWS BRIEF

Flipkart's impact in shaping local business success

GURUGRAM : In the dynamic realm of e-commerce, Flipkart emerges as a catalyst for growth, empowering local businesses across India – especially as they prepare to meet the heightened demand of the festive season. By offering a platform that seamlessly connects local businesses with a nationwide audience, Flipkart has become instrumental in highlighting the entrepreneurial spirit prevalent across India. This initiative not only fosters a sense of community among sellers but also ensures that the unique offerings of the North find their rightful place in the vast Indian marketplace. This festive season, sellers from across the North are geared up to showcase their unique offerings, backed by Flipkart's tools, insights, and expansive reach.

Fortis Hospital, Ludhiana celebrated 'Pink Day' to promote breast cancer awareness



Ludhiana : Fortis Hospital, Ludhiana celebrated 'Pink Day' to promote breast cancer awareness, along with breast cancer survivors and its team of senior oncologists. Dr. Ravinder Paul (Principal Consultant- Medico Oncology), Dr. Anish Bhatia (Consultant- Surgical Oncology), Dr. Harish Mehta (Director General Surgery), Dr. Parveen Kaur (Additional Director- Radiation Oncology), Dr. Shalini Verma (Associate Consultant Medico Oncology) and Suveer Singh Bhambra (Facility Director).

PNB MetLife and Policybazaar Collaborate to Launch Pension Consumption Fund

Chandigarh, PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (PNB MetLife), in collaboration with Policybazaar, has announced the launch of the Pension Consumption Fund under its Unit-Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs). The fund will be available at an initial unit price of INR 10 during the New Fund Offer (NFO) period. The NFO will run from 16th October to 31st October 2025. The units will be allotted on 31st October 2025. Sameer Bansal, MD & CEO, PNB MetLife, said, "Planning for retirement is one of the most important financial decisions our customers make. The Pension Consumption Fund is designed to help them build long-term wealth by investing in India's growth story and harnessing equity-led opportunities.

Samsung Starts Manufacturing Bespoke AI Washer Dryer in India

CHANDIGARH: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced that its new Bespoke AI Washer Dryer range is being manufactured at its Chennai plant, highlighting the brand's commitment to 'Make in India'. Designed to cater to the evolving consumer needs, the new Bespoke AI Washer Dryer range blends global innovation with local manufacturing to deliver smarter, more efficient laundry solutions tailored for Indian households. Samsung's state-of-the-art Chennai plant, one of the company's largest in India, manufactures televisions, air conditioners, refrigerators, and washing machines for millions of Indian homes.

This Bhai Dooj For Every Kind of Brother, There's a Nykaa Fashion Gift Waiting

CHANDIGARH : This year, Nykaa Fashion makes Bhai Dooj gifting effortless with a curated edit that matches your sibling's unique personality, whether it's the sister who could give Vogue editors a run for their money or the brother who treats your wardrobe like his personal shopping mall. From elevated essentials to style-forward finds, this gift guide makes sure your sibling actually uses (and maybe even brags about) what you get them. For the Brother Who Thinks You're His Delivery Guy & ATM He's mastered the art of borrowing - snacks, cash, even your playlists. Since you know he won't stop, at least make sure he borrows in style.

Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025 Breaks All Records with 276 Crore Customer Visits

SHIMLA: The Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025 has transformed how India celebrates and shops during the festive season. This year, Amazon India recorded over 276 crore customer visits, with 70% coming from tier 2 and 3 cities, shopping for everything from smartphones and smart TVs to sarees, festive décor, beauty products, and everyday essentials. With just five days remaining in this 30-day celebration, Amazon India today revealed unprecedented engagement across all metrics – customer visits hit an all-time high, enabling hundreds of crores in GST savings across categories. Additionally, this year saw the highest-ever number of sellers across the country registering sales.

PhonePe and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Announce Strategic Partnership to Launch the Wish Credit Card

Chandigarh : PhonePe, today announced a strategic partnership with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank to launch its Wish Credit Card. The Credit Card will be available for online applications on the PhonePe app, ensuring a simple and seamless application process for millions of users. Through this partnership, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank and PhonePe aim to expand the reach of its offerings to a wider, digitally-savvy audience. The Wish Credit Card is designed to empower every Indian with easy access to credit by combining the security of a Fixed Deposit (FD) with the flexibility of a credit card. It may also be an ideal choice for self-employed individuals, homemakers, Gen Z customers new to credit, and people in tier-2/3 cities where credit card penetration is low. Users can obtain the Wish Credit Card by making a deposit that starts at just ₹2000, it is both affordable and accessible.

Uday Kotak, Founder and Non-Executive Director, wishes you a very happy and prosperous Diwali and Samvat 2082

CHANDIGARH: In this Diwali message for Kotak Securities customers and investors, he shares what to expect from Samvat 2082. Samvat 2081 was a challenging year that gave muted returns to equity investors. Satisfying returns over a 3-year period. Indian trendline of saver to investor continues at pace with significant flows into mutual funds and equities. Time for Indians to get out of comfort, convenience and complacency zones to build an India that is ready to take on challenges of the future. Corporate India should focus on building companies sustainably for the future. Work on improving the earnings of the companies so that investors can continue to invest in equities market. Brokerage firms should take a medium-term approach towards customers, ensuring that fundamentals become stronger. Investors and traders should have the awareness that high profits should not be assumed

Teacher development program launched in Chamba to empower educators through The Teacher App



SHIMLA : Chamba, Himachal Pradesh: The District Administration Chamba, NITI Aayog, and Bharti Airtel Foundation today launched a Teacher Professional Development Program in the Chamba district, aimed at strengthening the professional capacities of teachers and creating engaging learning environments.

As part of the launch, the Himachal Pradesh State Channel of TheTeacherApp was inaugurated. TheTeacherApp, a flagship initiative of the Bharti Airtel Foundation, provides teachers with high-quality, easy-to-use content across language, leadership, pedagogy, co-scholastic areas, social sciences, and other essential academic and co-curricular domains. All content is aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) and is designed to help teachers apply practical, research-

backed strategies directly in their classrooms.

Senior officials from NITI Aayog, the District Collector of Chamba, DDSE Elementary, DDSE Quality, the District Project Office, and the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Chamba, attended the phygital event, reaffirming the state's commitment to advancing teacher development.

Speaking at the event, Sh. Mukesh Repaswal (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Chamba, Himachal Pradesh said, "Teachers are the true architects of India's future, and the vision of Viksit Bharat can only be realized through viksit generations. The phygital launch of the Teacher Professional Development Program marks a significant step toward empowering educators. Dedicating just two hours a month on

TheTeacherApp is a small yet powerful commitment to continuous learning. As the state-wide rollout depends on Chamba's program implementation, we bear the responsibility to remain dedicated and make this program truly impactful for all teachers across Himachal Pradesh."

Speaking at the event, Lt. Col. Jitendra Verma, OSD (Education), NITI Aayog said, "Technology drives development, and empowering teachers through continuous training is the need of the hour. This initiative brings together both priorities - leveraging technology to strengthen teachers' capacity. Additionally, students naturally emulate their teachers - their behavior, words, and actions, so teachers must exemplify the best leadership qualities. Identifying and nurturing these

qualities through training will be key the focus of the program. I urge the teachers and administration of Chamba to make this initiative sustainable and impactful through active participation and regular feedback."

Speaking at the event, Mr. Amit Taneja from the Bharti Airtel Foundation said, "Our collaboration with NITI Aayog and the District Administration Chamba reflects our commitment to equipping teachers with transformative skills and fostering innovation in grassroots education. Through TheTeacherApp, we aim to create a sustainable Teacher Professional Development Program that supports continuous learning and excellence in primary education, benefitting communities across the Chamba district."

The program focuses on multi-grade and multi-level teaching, with a special emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). It aims to transform classroom practices and support digital inclusion. Teachers will participate in a year-long engagement on TheTeacherApp, involving a series of self-paced courses, expert-led webinars, and competitions. The long-term goal of the program is to scale the initiative statewide, ensuring consistent teacher empowerment and improved classroom engagement.

Chandigarh's Professional Golfer Gurbaz Mann Heralds Development of 'Made in India' Golf Wedge-System

CHANDIGARH: While International brands rule the roost in the area of golf equipment, a home-grown brand 'Pinakin' has bucked the trend. Pinakin, has made 'Make in India in the game of golf' a reality with the unveiling of its first product: a revolu-

(VP), Chandigarh Golf Association (CGA) & under the mentorship of the CGA Golf Academy. The Pinakin wedge system is the result of extensive R&D and rigorous on-course testing.

Notably, in golf, wedges are a type of specialized iron clubs with the highest loft and shortest shaft, used for the short game such as approach shots, chip shots, and shots from bunkers or hazards.

It is pertinent to state here that, professional golfer known for his strong golf equipment knowledge, and his work in club fitting, Gurbaz Mann, is a Co-Founder at Pinakin. According to Mann, "The ultimate test for any club is performance. We engineered this modular system to offer players the flexibility to better perform in different turf conditions. Whether it's a firm fairway or soft sand, our system allows for precise adjustments that translate directly to a better short game."

tionary interchangeable wedge system which are also called specialized iron clubs. Combining precision engineering with the heritage of Indian craftsmanship, this wedge is designed to offer golfers unprecedented flexibility and performance around the greens. The 'golf equipment innovation' was led by Chandigarh's professional golfer Gurbaz Mann with the active support of Siddhartha Kumar, Vice President

Small Wonders School Celebrates Annual Day with Enchanting Musical 'Starleaf Chronicles'



MOHALI : Small Wonders School, Mohali, celebrated its much-awaited Annual Day with great enthusiasm and creativity today at their premises. The highlight of the evening was the beautifully staged musical titled "Starleaf Chronicles – Grand Tales by the Grannies," a vibrant tribute to the timeless stories passed down through generations by grandmothers. The celebrations commenced with the auspicious lamp lighting ceremony by the esteemed School Management, setting a reverent tone for the evening, followed by a warm welcome address by the Principal of Small Wonders, Ms. Herdip Nama, who expressed her delight at the enthusiastic participation and talent displayed by the students. The musical took the audience on a nostalgic journey through stories that many have grown up listening to—tales of morals, magic, and meaning. With every scene, a new chapter unfolded, full of adventure, joy, and values that resonate across time. Through expressive dance performances and imaginative storytelling, the students brought each tale to life, capturing the essence of tradition and creativity. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Ms. Herdip Nama shared, "We at Small Wonders have always tried to equip our students with life skills, with an emphasis on each child's participation. Such initiatives and opportunities widen each child's ideology and talent, raising their self-esteem, building confidence, and shaping their overall personality."

Sixteenth Annual Oration-cum-Awards-Giving Function of First Friday Forum: A Celebration of Creative Excellence and Holistic Humanism



CHANDIGARH: The Sixteenth Annual Oration-cum-Awards-Giving Function of the First Friday Forum (FFF)—founded in 1999 by Dr. S.S. Bhatti, Founder-Teacher and Former Principal of Chandigarh College of Architecture (CCA)—was held at Anjuman, the renovated auditorium of CCA, PEC Campus, Sector 12, Chandigarh. The event celebrated interdisciplinary creativity, academic excellence, and the enduring teacher-student bond that defines Dr. Bhatti's legacy. The programme began with the National Anthem, followed by a welcome address from Prof. Sujay Sengupta, who lauded Dr. Bhatti as India's most versatile professional—an architect, theologian, artist, and educationist holding three PhDs from Panjab University and a Master's from the University of Queensland, Australia. He paid tribute to

Mrs. Rita Bhatti, calling her "the inspiration behind Dr. Bhatti's tireless and socially beneficial creativity." Dr. Niyati Jigyasu, Professor, Chandigarh University, traced the origins of the First Friday Forum as a platform created to transcend academic silos and foster interdisciplinary dialogue. She described it as "a beacon of holistic reflection in an age of narrow expertise," rooted in Dr. Bhatti's credo of Holistic Humanism. The highlight of the event was Dr. Bhatti's Annual Oration on "Van-Urbanisation: From Manifesto to Mandate – Re-Greening India for a Breath of Eternal Life." His eloquent address urged integration of ecological consciousness into urban planning, affirming that "Architecture, the matrix of civilisation, must rediscover its covenant with Nature." The Honours-Conferment Ceremony

followed, conducted by Dr. and Mrs. Bhatti. The Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Prof. Veena Garella, Ar. Dipika Tuteja, Artist Saswati Chaudhuri, and Artist-Designer Dham Vir. The FFF Award for Creative Excellence (FFFACE) went to Ar. Inder Gulati for his sustainable architectural work at Panjab University. Ar. Surinder Bahga, the Prime Guest, endorsed Dr. Bhatti's vision and urged the launch of Haryana's New Capital Project to showcase creative governance. Dr. Sangeeta Bagga Mehta, Principal, CCA, presided, describing the event as "a homecoming of excellence." Anchored by Prof. Swati Behl Uppal and concluded with a vote of thanks by Ar. Shilpa Das, the afternoon ended with camaraderie, creativity, and celebration—honouring Dr. Bhatti's enduring mission to blend spirituality.

Bacardi India's Legacy Whisky Rolls Out Limited-Edition Festive Packs for the Season



HARYANA: Legacy Premium Indian Whisky, from the house of Bacardi India Pvt. Ltd., has unveiled its limited-edition festive packs for the season. Designed to capture the vibrant diversity of India, each pack draws inspiration from a different state, celebrating regional art forms and cultural practices through striking, innovative packaging. From Madhya Pradesh's Chanderi weaving to Rajasthan's Pichwai and miniature paintings, the collection pays homage to India's rich artistic heritage, blending tradition with the spirit of the festive season. Sreekantha Dash, Senior Brand Lead - Domestic Dark Spirits, Bacardi India said, "With Legacy Whisky, we are redefining India's premium whisky landscape, creating a homegrown blend that combines Indian and Scottish malts with select Indian grains. Recently recognized with global accolades, Legacy reflects India's passion, craftsmanship, and embodies spirit of celebration. With our Limited-Edition packs, each inspired by the stories of different states, we are celebrating the country's rich cultural heritage while offering consumers a unique and memorable way to enjoy the season with their loved ones." Crafted as a unique blend of Indian and Scottish malts with select Indian grains, Legacy delivers an impeccably smooth and perfectly balanced experience. Its rich, smooth taste profile brings together fruity notes, subtle smoke, toasted oak, and a hint of spice, making it a perfect companion for festive gatherings and moments of togetherness. Since its launch, Legacy Whisky has received an overwhelming response from consumers and has been celebrated internationally, winning recognition at the World Whiskies Awards 2025 and the Asia Spirits Masters 2025.

All-new Škoda Octavia RS: Power, Style, and Legacy Reimagined

CHANDIGARH/ LUDHIANA – As Škoda Auto India celebrates 25 years of its journey in the country, it marks the return of a true legend, the all-new Octavia RS. Available in limited numbers as a Fully-Built Unit (FBU), the Octavia RS embodies unmatched driving dynamics, bold design, and the unmistakable RS spirit, making its comeback in India as an exclusive icon for enthusiasts and purists alike. Commenting on the launch, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "The response to the Octavia RS has been phenomenal. This iconic model has truly ignited the passion of driving enthusiasts across India, reinforcing the cult status that Octavia RS enjoys globally. As we celebrate 25 remarkable years of Škoda Auto in India, our commitment to delivering world-class cars remains stronger than ever. The RS badge symbolises more than just performance. It represents the emotional connection and trust our customers have in the Škoda brand. We are excited to welcome a new generation of enthusiasts into the Škoda family and continue building on the strong legacy and fandom that defines our brand in this market." Thrill at the Core At the heart of the Octavia RS is a 2.0 TSI turbocharged petrol engine, producing 195 kW (265 PS) of power and 370 Nm of torque. Paired with a 7-speed DSG automatic transmission, the car accelerates from 0-100 km/h in just 6.4 seconds, with a top speed electronically limited to 250 km/h. Its advanced chassis setup, progressive steering, and sports suspension deliver precise handling and driving dynamics. Statement on Wheels The all-new Octavia RS continues Škoda's bold design language, accentuated by full LED Matrix headlights, LED tail lamps with dynamic indicators, and glossy black styling elements. Sitting on striking 19-inch Elias anthracite alloy wheels with low-profile 225/40 R19 sports tyres, the car projects an unmistakably sporty and aggressive stance.

5 Key Safety Tips from NPCI for Secure Digital Payments during Festive Season

Chandigarh, 15th October 2025: Festivals are a time of celebration, gifting, and increased shopping activity. Both online and offline channels offer attractive discounts, limited-time sales, and cashback promotions that encourage quick purchasing decisions. In this festive rush, many individuals may act impulsively to secure a 'too good to be true' deal. Scammers are aware of these behavioral patterns and often exploit them through social engineering. As scams evolve with technology, awareness and a few mindful steps can help users enjoy a safe and seamless experience. Shop Only on Official Apps and Websites: Fraudsters create lookalike websites and links, especially during sale season, to steal personal and payment details. Always type the web address yourself or use the official app. Avoid clicking on links from promotional emails, SMS or forwarded messages. Do not download files or click on links from unknown sources, as they may contain harmful software and could gain access to your device. Complete Payments only Within the Platform: Some scams push users to pay on external UPI IDs or links outside the shopping app or site, skipping safety checks. Always complete transactions on the official checkout page

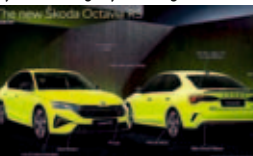
and confirm the seller's details. Be Careful with Free Vouchers and Cashback promises: Messages offering rewards, cashback or festival gifts may ask for OTPs, account details or small "fees". Genuine offers don't need sensitive information or upfront payments. Pause and verify before engaging. Treat Unexpected OTP Requests as Warning: Some messages claim that a payment has failed, or an account is blocked, and then request OTPs to "fix" the problem. OTPs are meant only to confirm a transaction initiated by users. Banks or payment apps never ask for them over calls or messages. Don't Act Under Pressure: Scammers create urgency by saying an offer will expire soon or your account will be blocked if you don't act. Genuine platforms don't use fear or rush tactics. Take a moment to check before responding. To ensure a secure transaction experience, users should adopt the 'Stop, Think, Act' principle. By stopping at the point of unexpected requests, thinking and verifying the information, and acting wisely, users can effectively safeguard transactions and protect sensitive information, ensuring a secure experience.

Empowering Parents, Transforming Schools: Statewide School Management Committee Training in 19000+ govt schools in Punjab



Chandigarh/Punjab, : The Punjab model of transforming school education can be considered an example of the role of vision, leadership and governance in development. In recent times, government schools of Punjab have shown impressive performance in the state-wise evaluation of the National Achievement Survey. Initiatives such as the establishment of Schools of Eminence, Mission Samrath and EduSAT have significantly contributed to the improvement of school education in Punjab. One of the key focus areas for the government of Punjab has been building strong relationships with parents and the community. In that regard, the Department of School Education, Punjab, conducted initiatives such as Mega PTM and a statewide School Management Committee (SMC) formation process in July 2025, in which SMCs were formed across around 19000+ government schools in the state. Recognizing the role of parents in strengthening government schools through SMCs, the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), under the leadership of Dr. Kiran (Director, SCERT) and in collaboration with the Department of School Education (DoSE), Elementary, has initiated statewide SMC training across all 19,000 schools.

All-new Škoda Octavia RS: Power, Style, and Legacy Reimagined



Amritsar As Škoda Auto India celebrates 25 years of its journey in the country, it marks the return of a true legend, the all-new Octavia RS. Available in limited numbers as a Fully-Built Unit (FBU), the Octavia RS embodies unmatched driving dynamics, bold design, and the unmistakable RS spirit, making its comeback in India as an exclusive icon for enthusiasts and purists alike. Commenting on the launch, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "The response to the Octavia RS has been phenomenal. This iconic model has truly ignited the passion of driving enthusiasts across India, reinforcing the cult status that Octavia RS enjoys globally. As we celebrate 25 remarkable years of Škoda Auto in India, our commitment to delivering world-class cars remains stronger than ever. The RS badge symbolises more than just performance. It represents the emotional connection and trust our customers have in the Škoda brand. We are excited to welcome a new generation of enthusiasts into the Škoda family and continue building on the strong legacy and fandom that defines our brand in this market."

MMTC-PAMP Expands Retail Presence with Launch of its First Exclusive Brand Store in Gurugram

GURUGRAM : MMTC-PAMP, India's only LBMA-accredited gold and silver refiner, announces the launch of its first Brand Experience Store in Gurugram, Haryana, ahead of the Diwali and Dhanteras festive season. This marks another strategic step in the brand's mission to strengthen its nationwide footprint while offering customers a premium festive shopping experience with seamless Finest Swiss Craftsmanship, made in India. The new store was inaugurated by Mr. Samit Guha, Managing Director & CEO, MMTC-PAMP. Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Samit Guha, Managing Director & CEO, MMTC-PAMP said, "The launch of our Brand Store in Gurugram comes at a time when families across India prepare to celebrate the festive season. Diwali is not just a festival where gold

is purchased, but cherished as a symbol of prosperity and protection. Gurugram's progressive consumer base makes it the ideal location to wel-

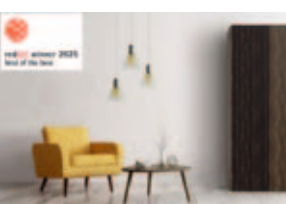


come festive shoppers seeking purity, trust, and finest Swiss Craftsmanship. With this opening, we aim to make

India's purest 999.9+ gold and silver products more accessible to our valuable customers. This store marks another step in our journey towards building a nationwide network of 100 Brand Experience Stores, ensuring access to globally certified precious metals." Building on the success of its recently launched brand stores in Rohini and South Extension, along with its Purity Verification Centers across key cities, the Gurugram outlet becomes the third Exclusive Brand Store under MMTC-PAMP's expanding retail network. The store offers a wide range of 24K 999.9+ pure gold and silver minted products, ideal for investment and gifting purposes, this Diwali and Dhanteras. MMTC-PAMP plans to expand to 100 stores across India in a phased manner.

Two Air Conditioning Designs Receive Honours at Red Dot Design Concept Awards 2025

CHANDIGARH: The Hitachi air conditioning design concepts "airClose" and "airHive" earned recognition for integrating air conditioning into interior design elements. These two Hitachi air conditioning design concepts won the Red Dot Design Concept Awards 2025, including "Best of the Best" award for "airClose" and Design Concept Award for "airHive".



Closets are large and tall, and they are usually fixed against a wall. These qualities make them ideal for housing air-conditioning module. By integrating vertical vents on the side of the storage space, the air-conditioning module blends seamlessly into the furniture. For enhanced comfort, in cooling mode, air is released from the upper section of the vents, distributing cool air evenly throughout the room. In heating mode, warm air flows from the lower part, gently warming the space from the ground up. "With its sophisticated design and advanced functionality, the airClose enhances indoor comfort while elevating the aesthetic appeal of contemporary interiors, making it a perfect addition to modern living," summarized lead designer Liu Yang.

Nexus Elante Mall Celebrates Diwali with "Divine Vahanas of Light" An Enchanting Tribute to India's Mythological Legacy

CHANDIGARH: This Diwali, Nexus Elante Mall invites visitors to step into a world where mythology, devotion, and festive cheer converge. Under the theme "Divine Vahanas of Light," the mall comes alive with mesmerizing installations that celebrate India's rich spiritual heri-



tague, offering an immersive festive experience for families and shoppers alike. The décor experience showcases the celestial companions of deities each vahana symbolizing unique spiritual qualities and cultural significance: Pushpak Vimana – The celestial chariot of Lord Rama, Goddess Sita, and Lord Lakshmana, epitomizing homecoming and the triumph of good over evil. The Parrot – Sacred companion of Devi Meenakshi, representing love, wisdom, and divine grace. The Owl – Goddess Lakshmi's golden-winged guide, signifying prosperity and protection. Nandi – Lord Shiva's serene bull, embodying faith, patience, and strength. Moushak – Lord Ganesha's wise and humble vahana, reminding visitors of courage and intellect in overcoming obstacles. The centerpiece of the décor is the grand courtyard installation, a striking depiction of Lord Rama's victory over Ravana, supported by Lord Hanuman. Illuminated with divine light and crafted with intricate detail, this tableau captures the essence of Diwali the celebration of righteousness, homecoming, and the illumination of hearts. Each installation is brought to life with vibrant colors, artistic craftsmanship.

Tata Punch Becomes the SUV of Choice for Mandi: The SUV Everyone Wants This Festive Season



FATHERGARI RAHIS To mark the completion of 23 successful years of dedicated service in the field of healthcare, 'Rana Hospital, Sirhind' organized a spiritual recitation of 'Shri Ram Amritvani'.

The devotional event, held under the guidance of Dr. Harendra Suri and Dr. Deepika Suri, witnessed the gracious presence of Rana Group Chairman Dr. Raghuvir Suri and Mrs. Rana Suri. During the ceremony, doctors, hospital staff, and patients participated collectively in the recitation and prayed for the welfare of all. Expressing gratitude to the Almighty for 23 years of service to society and contributions to healthcare, the hospital management emphasized that faith and compassion have been the guiding forces behind their journey. The soulful chanting of 'Shri Ram Amritvani' filled the hospital with an atmosphere of devotion and peace, inspiring feelings of unity, humility, and selfless service among all present. Addressing the gathering Dr. Deepika Suri shared her heartfelt thoughts, saying, "This 23-year journey of health, service, and dedication reminds us that while medicine heals the body, true recovery comes through God's grace. We feel blessed to have earned the trust not only of our patients but also of their families. The entire hospital team deserves appreciation for this achievement." She added, "With the blessings of Lord Shri Ram, we pray that our journey of service continues with the same compassion and commitment, and that we always strive for the best care for every patient." On this occasion, the hospital management extended sincere thanks to all staff members, patients,

CHANDIGARRH: Anoushka Shankar, the globally celebrated sitar virtuoso and composer, returns to India for a landmark tour celebrating 30 years on stage. Presented by Kotak Mahindra Bank – Solitaire, the six-city tour will bring her genre-defying performances to Hyderabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Pune, Mumbai, and Kolkata in January and February 2025. Kotak Credit Cardholders enjoy exclusive presale access starting 24th October on Skillbox, ahead of general ticket sales. Anoushka's India Tour is the culmination of her acclaimed trilogy of mini-albums – Forever, For Now, How Dark It Is Before Dawn, and We Return to Light – blending Indian classical music with jazz, electronica, and ambient textures. Each concert promises a deeply immersive experience, as audiences witness the full arc of her musical storytelling.

Manali: JK Tyre athlete Sanam Sekhon, popularly known as the 'Drift King of India' delivered a stellar display of his signature drifting prowess at the Manali Influencer Meet-Up 2025. Held at Aleo Nagoi, Sanam was behind the wheels of the same Lexus LEXUS that earned him a Guinness World Record for the Highest Altitude Drift* by a Car at 5,798 metres (19,023 ft) in Umling La, Ladakh. The record-breaking drift was executed in low oxygen levels, chilling winds, sub-zero temperatures, and unpredictable road surfaces. The achievement was powered by JK Tyre's Levitas XTREME, a cutting-edge ultra-high-performance tyre designed for precision, control, and durability. Sekhon brought his world-class skills and precision to the streets of Manali, thrilling the audience with a mastership in control and style. From tight-angle drifts and precise oversteer control to smooth speed transitions, each maneuver highlighted the skill and focus that define professional drifting. The performance offered spectators a rare, up-close experience of the technique and control behind his Guinness World Record achievement. 'Sanam represents the spirit of Indian motorsport; fearless, disciplined, and constantly pushing boundaries. Our association with him is built on a shared passion for performance and precision,' said Sanjay Sharma, Head-Corporate Communication and Motorsport, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd.

Moga: Bayser, a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of agriculture and healthcare, announced the launch of Matenor® More, a breakthrough herbicide designed to empower wheat farmers in India with superior weed control. Formulated with three powerful active ingredients from distinct modes of action, Matenor® More is the first of its kind three-way mixture in India, offering unmatched efficacy against tough and resistant weeds, including Phalaris minor, Rumex, and Chenopodium. India is the second-largest wheat-producing country in the world. However, farmers in major wheat-growing areas have faced increased difficulty maintaining their yield levels due to outbreaks of Phalaris which has developed resistance to many conventional herbicides. Offering a new mode of action compared to currently available solutions on the market, Matenor® More is specifically engineered for Indian farming conditions, where resistance management is a growing concern, particularly in wheat-growing regions like Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Apprx. Cost Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Completion period
Rs. 463234.88/-	Rs. 267300/-	180 Days

Dated
Nahan, District Sirmour
an@gmail.com

ENTRY OPERATOR
CMR PROJECT
COLLEGE, NAHAN,
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AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED

(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)

Regd. Office :- 19-A, Dhulewar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, CIN L36911RJ1998PLC011381

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I) POSSESSION NOTICE]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited A Scheduled Commercial Bank under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 06/08/2025 vide Ref. No.: CB/SAR/13-2/AGR/AUG-2025/06 Loan Account Nos. 9001230737181839, 9001230737181759, 9001230737181289, 9001230737103312, 9001160637182060 & 9001160637181930 calling upon the Borrower/Borrowers/Mortgagors/ M/S. MODI SOLVEX THROUGH ITS PARTNERS MR. ASHISH MODI & MR. ANUBHAV KUMAR MODI (Borrower), MR. ASHISH MODI S/O MR. VIJAY KUMAR MODI (Guarantor), MR. ANUBHAV KUMAR MODI W/O MR. NARINDER KUMAR MODI (Guarantor/Mortgagor), MRS. SARIKA MODI W/O MR. ANUBHAV KUMAR MODI (Guarantor), MRS. ROHINI MODI W/O MR. ASHISH MODI (Guarantor), MR. VIJAY KUMAR MODI S/O MR. MADAN GOPAL MODI (Guarantor/Mortgagor), MR. SAHIL MODI S/O MR. VIJAY KUMAR MODI (Guarantor), M/S. MGM SOLVEX THROUGH ITS PARTNERS MR. ANUBHAV KUMAR MODI & MRS. SARIKA MODI (Guarantor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being is for loan Account No. 9001230737181839 Rs. 1,29,64,339/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty-Nine Lakh Sixty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirtynine Only) and for loan account No. 9001230737181759 is Rs. 1,37,61,429/- (Rupees One Crore Thirtysix Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Four Hundred Thirtynine Only) and for loan account No. 9001230737181289 is Rs. 3,67,37,984/- (Rupees Three Crore SixtySeven Lakh Thirtysix Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Only) and for loan account No. 9001230737103312 Rs. 76,47,403/- (Rupees Seventy-Six Lakh FortySeven Thousand Four Hundred Thirtynine Only) and for loan account No. 9001160637182060 is Rs. 78,35,355/- (Rupees Seventy-Eight Lakh Thirtysix Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Five Only) for loan account No.

		DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES.																			
Draw Time: 06:00 PM ONWARDS		DATE: 17/10/2025																			
RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 50 COLT FRIDAY WEEKLY LOTTERY																					
MRP Rs 50/- Per Ticket																					
1st Prize Amount (1) Rs. 25 Lakhs (On 5 digits with series)																					
(Netter Prize Amount Rs. 1 Lakh + Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 25 Thousand, Total Prize Amount Rs. 26.25 Lakhs)																					
D 46265																					
2nd Prize Amount (50) Rs. 9,000/- (On 5 digits)																					
(Netter Prize Amount Rs. 1000/- Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 100/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 11,000/- each)																					
02594 08357 15893 18254 22728 32246 55044 57651 72952 83922																					
3rd Prize Amount (250) Rs. 5,000/- (On Last 4 digits)																					
(Netter Prize Amount Rs. 500/- Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 100/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 5,000/- each)																					
1848 5068 5534 7609 8924																					
4th Prize Amount (500) Rs. 2,000/- (On last 4 digits)																					
(Netter Prize Amount Rs. 200/- Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 2,500/- each)																					
0433 0623 1057 1920 4388 6060 6185 6938 8583 8928																					
5th Prize Amount (500) Rs. 1,000/- (On last 4 digits)																					
(Netter Prize Amount Rs. 100/- Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 1,500/- each)																					
1252 2068 3375 4483 4727 5243																					
6th Prize Amount (500) Rs. 500/- (On last 4 digits)																					
(Netter Prize Amount Rs. 50/- Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 20/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 570/- each)																					
0007 0257 0372 0429 0451 1156 2942 5163 5348 8085																					
7th Prize Amount (40,000) Rs. 100/- (On last 4 digits)																					
(Netter Prize Amount Rs. 20/- Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 5/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 125/- each)																					
0004 0008 0038 0048 0050 0099 0101 0115 0119 0126																					
0130 0133 0216 0217 0226 0242 0267 0269 0274 0280																					
0325 0328 0329 0334 0347 0351 0366 0380 0389 0399																					
0397 0402																					

-Sd-
(Dr. Sangeet Dhillon)
Principal,
Parmar Govt. Medical College,
Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh.

**CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

Percentage rate online e-tenders are invited in Two Bid System by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No.3, Chandigarh on behalf of President of India from the Eligible Enlisted firms of Appropriate Class Enlisted with the Chandigarh Administration, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, CPWD, State PWDs of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and their board and Corporations and having valid Electrical Contractor License issued by any Govt. Deptt. of these States/ Centre for the execution of following work to be downloaded from the website <http://www.etenders.chd.nic.in>

Sr. No.	NIT No.	Name of Work & Location	Estimated cost put to tender	Earnest money	Time of completion	Last date and time for online submission of tender	Time & date of opening of tender
1	E3/ 47W/ 140	Maintenance of street lighting on various roads in various Sectors at U.T Chandigarh (Replacement of existing defunct LED street light fitting, switchgear, burnt out cable, casting of cement collar and other allied accessories on Zone-V roads (Village Dariya Phirmi, Village Dariya Main road, Village Behlana road and Makhan majra Jungle road) under the jurisdiction of Electrical Sub Division No.10 at U.T Chandigarh).	Rs. 28,13,535/-	Rs. 56,300/-	06 months	29.10.2025 Upto 12.00 P.M.	29.10.2025 at 02.30 P.M.

The detailed terms and conditions can be downloaded/Uploaded by the bidders from the website at <http://www.etenders.chd.nic.in/>.

Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No.3, Chandigarh.

Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Four Only) collectively total amount is Rs. 8,26,58,744/- (Rupees Eight Core Twenty-Six Lakh Sixty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Four Only) as on 06-08-2025 aggregating total due (which includes principal, interest, penalties and all other charges) with further interest and charges until payment in full within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/ mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules of this 15th day of Oct of the year 2025.

"The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets"

The borrower/Guarantor/ mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited for an amount of for loan account No. 9001230737181839 Rs. 1,32,28,275/- (Rupees One Core Thirty-Two Lakh Twenty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Five Only) and for loan account No. 9001230737181759 is Rs. 1,40,41,137/- (Rupees One Core Forty Lakh Forty-One Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Seven Only) and for loan account No. 9001230737181289 is Rs. 3,74,77,106/- (Rupees Three Core Seventy-Four Lakh Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Six Only) and for loan account No. 9001230737103312 Rs. 78,06,696/- (Rupees Seventy-Eight Lakh Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Six Only) and for loan account No. 9001160637182060 is Rs. 80,12,272/- (Rupees Eighty Lakh Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Two Only) for loan account No. 9001160637181930 Rs. 38,26,251/- (Rupees Thirty-Eight Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Only) collectively total amount is Rs. 8,43,91,737/- (Rupees Eight Core Forty-Three Lakh Ninety-One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Seven Only) as on 14-10-2025 and further interest & expenses thereupon till full payment.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

1. All That Part and Parcel Along with Present and Future Structure of Property, Plot No. 20 Having Measuring 302 Sq. Yards & Plot No. 19 (1/2 Portion) Having Measuring 151 Sq. Yards, Total Property Area Measuring 453 Sq. Yards, Comprised in Khalsa No. 1177/987-991, 991 Khatta No. 768/1012-768/1012, 768/1012 as per Jamabandi for year 1996-97, (Khatta No. 814/1079, 815/1080, 816/1061 as per Jamabandi for year 2016-17), Situated at Village Barewal Awana, H.B. No. 157, Abaddi Known Shakti Enclave-17, Ludhiana, Punjab. Owned by Mr. Anubhav Kumar Modi.

Boundaries as below:-

East: Road	West: Others Property
North: Plot No. 19(1/2 Share)	South: Plot No. 21

2. All That Part and Parcel Along with Present and Future Structure of Property, Property Measuring DB-08-1B Pukhta, M.C. No. R-BXXX-957-A/101 (As per T.S. Form-1, for year 2021-22), Comprised in Khalsa No. 1177/987-990-991 Khatta No. 768/1012 as per Jamabandi for year 1996-97 (Khatta No. 814/1079, 815/1080, 816/1081 as per Jamabandi for year 2016-17), Situated at Village Barewal Awana, H.B. No. 157, Ludhiana, Punjab. Owned by Mr. Vijay Kumar Modi.

Boundaries as below:-

East: Others Property	West: Owner
North: Common Way/Road	South: Owner

-Sd-
Date:- 15. Oct.2025
Place:- Ludhiana, Punjab
Authorised Officer
Au Small Finance Bank Limited

1999	2000	2009	2015	2022	2049	2059	2068	2073	2075
2102	2109	2126	2160	2166	2203	2231	2257	2261	2268
2273	2284	2300	2318	2323	2344	2361	2365	2396	2398
2416	2422	2433	2435	2440	2441	2449	2455	2463	2480
2496	2500	2501	2507	2521	2529	2534	2542	2545	2546
2554	2563	2598	2603	2609	2629	2634	2659	2661	2691
2706	2740	2741	2751	2773	2783	2799	2829	2856	2866
2871	2880	2891	2894	2907	2912	2927	2935	2993	3015
3016	3020	3022	3027	3089	3090	3105	3159	3161	3167
3174	3182	3195	3200	3230	3260	3268	3282	3288	3296
3319	3336	3339	3362	3386	3393	3396	3423	3454	3462
3495	3496	3498	3512	3535	3543	3561	3565	3571	3578
3592	3598	3607	3614	3671	3693	3699	3723	3766	3767
3771	3773	3780	3787	3790	3803	3809	3817	3826	3830
3835	3837	3844	3854	3859	3863	3869	3894	3904	3904
3936	3996	4000	4023	4033	4034	4049	4049	4063	4064
4065	4073	4079	4098	4105	4110	4125	4129	4137	4143
4145	4159	4166	4167	4174	4179	4185	4187	4190	4191
4205	4211	4217	4229	4232	4238	4246	4248	4251	4254
4269	4272	4281	4293	4305	4320	4357	4358	4359	4379
4383	4392	4395	4404	4415	4417	4423	4430	4434	4455
4479	4490	4494	4524	4550	4562	4582	4592	4602	4619
4635	4637	4648	4648	4708	4728	4738	4745	4762	4766
4802	4808	4819	4823	4836	4839	4840	4892	4904	4900
4902	4915	4919	4973	5004	5006	5014	5045	5062	5079
5082	5093	5098	5109	5123	5134	5138	5139	5144	5151
5162	5168	5180	5199	5220	5244	5246	5267	5300	5311
5313	5330	5331	5332	5346	5364	5370	5374	5383	5445
5452	5466	5471	5482	5495	5545	5552	5555	5556	5559
5570	5588	5664	5691	5692	5699	5716	5736	5738	5746
5749	5756	5758	5766	5769	5785	5786	5801	5804	5810
5820	5829	5830	5835	5839	5843	5849	5857	5867	5868
5898	5903	5917	5926	5927	5936	5939	5976	5983	5986
6076	6082	6091	6094	6096	6098	6113	6116	6144	6156
6160	6183	6195	6216	6231	6236	6265	6291	6292	6293
6294	6319	6320	6323	6361	6401	6459	6462	6521	6528
6533	6545	6547	6569	6578	6579	6596	6599	6603	6606
6658	6659	6671	6677	6686	6727	6733	6759	6770	6798
6804	6819	6850	6854	6858	6866	6868	6871	6903	6950
6975	6997	7000	7004	7007	7026	7026	7029	7066	7066
7093	7115	7128	7134	7148	7149	7167	7183	7187	7267
7277	7295	7307	7310	7315	7350	7385	7400	7434	7437
7438	7458	7467	7496	7508	7509	7510	7519	7534	7536

Sonakshi Sinha gives hilarious response to her pregnancy rumours



Ever since actor Sonakshi Sinha married Zaheer Iqbal, her pregnancy rumours have surfaced multiple times, and the actress has repeatedly clarified that she's not expecting. Most recently, her appearance at a Diwali party once again sparked speculation, and this time, Sonakshi had a hilarious reaction to the buzz. Taking to Instagram, Sonakshi posted several pictures flaunting her festive look from a Diwali bash. However, it's her caption that left everyone in splits. "World record holder for longest pregnancy in human history (16 months and counting according to our lovely and hyper intelligent media) simply for posing with hand around midsection. Scroll to last slide for our reaction... and then continue to dazzle this Diwali," she captioned the post. Sonakshi married Zaheer on June 23 last year in the presence of their loved ones at their residence in Mumbai. It was an intimate wedding. On the work front, Sonakshi Sinha will be seen in the much-awaited Telugu film, 'Jatadhara', which will hit theatres on November 7. Earlier in September, the makers announced the film's release date, revealing that it will be out in both Hindi and Telugu languages. They also unveiled a jaw-dropping motion poster of 'Jatadhara', taking the excitement to the next level.

Madhuri Dixit posts adorable anniversary post for hubby Shriram Nene

Madhuri Dixit and Dr. Shriram Nene are celebrating 26 years of togetherness, and to mark the special day, the 'Dhak Dhak' girl dropped a beautiful post dedicated to her husband. Taking to her Instagram account on Friday, the actress posted a video compilation of some of their most cherished moments together. The clip featured a series of photographs, from candid smiles at home to celebrations and holidays spent across the world. The video was set to the song Tu Hai Toh from Mr. and Mrs. Mahi, which starred Rajkummar Rao and Janhvi Kapoor. Along with the video, Madhuri wrote, "From moments to memories, 26 years of walking through life hand in hand. Happy anniversary." Take a look

Madhuri married Shriram, a doctor, on October 17, 1999. She relocated to the US and lived there for

over a decade. The couple's first son, Arin, was born in 2003, and their second child, Ryan, was born in 2005. Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress was last seen in 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3,' the third film in the popular horror-comedy series directed by Anees Bazmee. The film also starred Kartik Aaryan, Vidya Balan, Triptii Dimri, Rajpal Yadav, and Sanjay Mishra, among others. The story revolves around Ruhaan, a fraudster played by Kartik Aaryan, who poses as an exorcist and takes on a lucrative case at a haunted castle. There, he unravels a sinister plot involving mischievous priests, culminating in a hilarious yet thrilling ride filled with unexpected twists and scares. The film, released on November 1, 2024, was a blockbuster hit.



Sakshi Tanwar, Shweta Kawatra reunite as 'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii' clocks 25 years

CHANDIGARH : Some shows aren't just watched, they're lived. For millions of Indians in the early 2000s, evenings only began after the tune of 'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii' played on TV. Now, as the show marks its 25th anniversary, memories came rushing back when the cast of the iconic family drama reunited to celebrate its silver jubilee. On Thursday evening, actor Shweta Kawatra, who played the negative character Pallavi Agarwal, took to her Instagram account to share a video in which Sakshi Tanwar, Shweta Kawatra, Sweta Keswani, and Sucheta Trivedi were seen reliving their characters: Parvati, Pallavi, Avantika, and Shilpa. Along with the video, Shweta added a caption that read, "Met as strangers. Hung as friends. Became a tribe. 25 years or 25 blinks, we wouldn't know. Because for us, it's all the same! Be it Bahus or Babuji. Be it memories or marriages. We did it all here. And we did it with elan! #theOGs #kahaanighargharkii @manav-gohil." Take a look



Producer Ektaa Kapoor, who created the show under her banner, Balaji

Telefilms, also marked the moment with a heartfelt post. She wrote, "25 years of this show! At 25, making a show on family values, culture, and an older couple that stands for morality, love, and warmth--and is symbolic of the Ramayan--was ironical, to say the least! Sakshi Tanwar and the whole cast of this show, along with the creative teams, made this show a beacon of hope for those scrambling for representation of a culture that was not celebrated enough back then! Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii was too good to be true. But it was what we all wanted to be!!! 25 years of this beautiful journey, and the best part is Sakshi still looks the same," she wrote. First aired on October 16, 2000, Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii ran for eight long years and became one of the biggest hits in Indian television history. With Sakshi Tanwar as Parvati and Kiran Karmarkar as Om Agarwal, the show became a reflection of the values, love, and struggles of middle-class Indian families.

Manoj Bajpayee denies endorsing political party, slams fake viral video

Actor Manoj Bajpayee has refuted rumours that he is endorsing a political party. The actor said that a manipulated video circulating on social media ahead of upcoming Bihar elections, which falsely suggests that he is endorsing a political party. On Friday, the actor took to his X account to share a statement, revealing that the viral video was a "patched-up version" of an old advertisement he had done for an OTT platform. According to Bajpayee, the clip was edited in a way that made it appear to deliver a political message. "I would like to publicly state that I have no association or allegiance with any political party. The video being circulated is a fake, patched-up edit of an ad I did for @PrimeVideoIN. I sincerely appeal to every-



one sharing it to stop spreading such distorted content and urge people not to engage with or encourage misleading content," he wrote on X.

This comes at a time when several celebrities have taken steps to legally protect their image and personality rights. Recently, Hrithik Roshan obtained legal protection against the unauthorized use of his persona for commercial purposes. Similar actions have been taken by Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, and filmmaker Karan Johar. On the workfront, Manoj Bajpayee was last seen in the Netflix film Inspector Zende, where he played a determined police officer who captured the infamous criminal Charles Sobhraj twice in his career. The film, directed by Chinmay Mandlekar, is currently streaming on Netflix.

Diwali is brought alive by COLORS' stars with memories that sparkle beyond the screen

CHANDIGARH : Rubina Dilaik as seen on COLORS' 'Dhamaal with Pati Patni Aur Panga' says, "Back home in Himachal, Diwali is a celebration of the harvest season, and the festivities are very different there. The air smells of pine because homes are cleaned and decorated with pine leaves and earthen lamps. Kitchens come alive with treats like sidu, mittha, and bathu, recipes that have been passed down for generations. Villages light up with deity processions, folk music, and laughter echoing through the hills. This year is extra special because it's our twins' second time witnessing the festival. I can't wait to watch Edhaa and Jeeva clap with excitement and see the joy of Diwali through their eyes.. It excites me to introduce them to the family traditions I grew up with. The celebration this time on the sets of 'Dhamaal with Pati Patni Aur Panga' felt like an extension of that warmth — the same fun chaos, laughter, and togetherness I felt back in my hometown only this time surrounded by my on-set family of co-stars and friends. As the



festival of lights shines upon us, I hope it brings peace, joy, and serenity into everyone's lives. May it remind us that no matter where we are, love and gratitude are the brightest lights of all. Happy Diwali!"

Gurmeet as seen on COLORS' 'Dhamaal with Pati Patni Aur Panga' says, "Diwali, for me, is all about the joy of creating memories. What makes our festivities special is how two worlds come together — the traditions of Bihar from my side of the family and the rituals of Bengal from Debina's. Our home takes on a spirited vibe with chrysanthemums, sweets and dhyas, where every corner carries a piece of both our roots. Debina is the

backbone of our celebrations. The way she brings devotion, décor, and detail together is an art. We are both spiritual, and this festival is about passing that love for rituals to our little ones, letting them know what the festival means for the family. Watching our daughters' eyes light up during aarti feels wholesome. Debina and I are looking forward to bringing in to our audience the Diwali special on 'Dhamaal with Pati Patni Aur Panga'. Standing on that set, surrounded by laughter, lights, and love, feels very much like our home. Wishing everyone a Diwali that glows with togetherness, faith, and joy!"

Ayesha Singh, who plays Mannat in COLORS' Mannat Har Khu-

shi Paane Ki, shares, "I have such fond memories of celebrating festivals with my family — Bhai Dooj, especially, stands out because that's when my brother and I really dial up our sibling banter! Festivals like Diwali have a magical way of bringing out the best in us, reminding us to pause, reconnect, and lead with gratitude. Playing the character of Mannat has been an incredible journey. The Diwali sequence in our show beautifully captures the spirit of persevering through darkness and believing that light will always find its way. This Diwali, let's celebrate not just the festival, but also the people who bring light into our lives. Wishing everyone a very Happy and Prosperous Diwali!"

Manav Gohil portraying the role of Dayanand in COLORS' 'Binddii' shares, "Diwali is the time I need to be surrounded by my people. Growing up in a Gujarati household, our celebrations always

revolved around food, faith, and togetherness. I still remember waiting to feast on my mother's farsan, the laughter around the table, and the excitement of Bestu Varas. At home, we follow all our Gujarati traditions — coming together for a meal, conducting pujas, and celebrating with gratitude. This festival isn't just about illuminating our homes, but about rekindling what matters most: love, faith, and the strength of being together. This year, while filming Binddii, I found myself reflecting on that contrast. Stepping into the world of Dayanand, a man surrounded by shadows and secrets, made me realize just how precious these moments of warmth and connection are. Even when the story dives into tension and darkness, the festival reminds me that hope always finds a way to shine through. This Diwali, I hope everyone reconnects with their loved ones. Because togetherness is the key to happiness. With this thought I wish my audience a very Happy Diwali!"

Deepika Padukone Becomes Experience Abu Dhabi's Newest Brand Ambassador



GURUGRAM : Experience Abu Dhabi, the destination brand of the Department of Culture and Tourism — Abu Dhabi, has announced Deepika Padukone as the newest regional brand ambassador. Deepika joins her husband and Bollywood Icon Ranveer Singh, who has been Experience Abu Dhabi's brand ambassador since 2023, officially making them the first Bollywood power couple to represent the destination together. Together, they show how Abu Dhabi connects with travellers everywhere in ways that feel personal and real.

With her global appeal as a fan favourite to audiences in India and beyond, Deepika will share her journey through Abu Dhabi — showcasing the city as a destination rich in experiences, with something for everyone to see, do and discover. Deepika Padukone said: "Travel is always more meaningful when it is with the people you love. Ranveer has explored and celebrated Abu Dhabi with so much passion over the last 3 years, and now I get to join him on this journey. I cannot wait to travel, explore, and experience everything this beautiful city has to offer — from its vibrant traditions to the warmth of being welcomed like family. Excited for what is ahead with Abu Dhabi!"

"Abu Dhabi is the ultimate family hotspot. They have it all: culture, adventure, beaches, entertainment, you name it," said powerhouse Ranveer Singh. "I am incredibly proud to have shared this city with the world over the years, and what makes me even happier is that I now get to experience this journey with my wife who joins in as a brand ambassador, Deepika. We are celebrating everything that makes Abu Dhabi so special — from its family friendly attractions to the warmth of Emirati hospitality, it is a place where people come to create memories for life."

W.i.S.H. Drop a Power-Packed Reinvention of the Iconic 'Desi Girl'

CHANDIGARH : Riding high on the success of their viral hit 'Bolo Bolo', India's first I-Pop girl group W.i.S.H. is back, this time reimagining one of Bollywood's most loved anthems - 'Desi Girl'. As expected, their latest single asks the timeless question, 'Who's the hottest girl in the world?' and delivers a sparkling, high-energy answer only W.i.S.H. could give.

A glamorous, bold, and unapologetically powerful reimagining of the song that ruled dance floors across generations, Desi Girl fuses nostalgia with a futuristic I-Pop edge. Produced by their mentor and acclaimed composer Mikey McCleary, alongside rising talent Parth Parekh, the track draws from Trinidad and Tobago's Chutney Music and Baile Funk, giving it a fresh, global sound while keeping its desi heart intact.

"We grew up dancing to the iconic Desi Girl," shares W.i.S.H. "It's one of those songs that makes everyone light up. Vishal-Shekhar, Sunidhi Chauhan, Shankar Mahadevan, and Kumar are artists we deeply admire and have always been inspired by. Reimagining this classic and sharing it with the world felt both nostalgic and empowering. This one's for everyone who's proud of where they come from and isn't afraid to own it."

W.i.S.H. dropped the Desi Girl Music Video today, and it brings that spirit to life in full colour. From a glamorous nod to the OG's iconic bulb-lit frame to cruising through Delhi in a convertible, W.i.S.H. blends everyday energy with pop-star shine. Shot in a mix of handy-cam intimacy and glam-pop sheen, the video captures the joy, freedom, and fearless fun of being a Desi Girl - W.i.S.H. style.

The original 'Desi Girl' from 'Dostana', the Priyanka Chopra — Abhishek Bachchan — John Abraham rom-com is written by Kumar, composed by Vishal-Shekhar and sung by Shankar Mahadevan, Sunidhi Chauhan, and Vishal Dadlani. The song released in 2008 and became an instant anthem, defining an era of modern Bollywood music.

Dyson India Offers Essential Checklist for Indoor Air Safety Amid Pollution Season

CHANDIGARH : As northern cities prepare to face the annual challenge of severe smog and deteriorating air quality this October and November, Dyson India has shared a practical checklist aimed at enhancing indoor air safety. According to Stuart Thompson, a Dyson engineer, while outdoor precautions like wearing masks are crucial, the greater concern often lies within our homes, where pollutants can accumulate unnoticed.



Stuart Thompson, a Dyson engineer, offers a practical checklist designed to help families protect their homes from indoor pollutants. To start, it's essential to stop pollutants at the door by using microfibre doormats and encouraging everyone to remove their shoes at the entrance, which minimizes the entry of dust and outdoor contaminants. Investing in an air purifier is crucial: Dyson's advanced models capture up to 99.95% of airborne allergens and utilize Air Multiplier™ technology to ensure efficient circulation of clean air. Regular filter maintenance is also vital; Dyson purifiers alert users via the MyDyson™ app when it's time to replace the filter to maintain optimal performance. Furthermore, consider removing carpets, as they tend to trap dust and allergens; regular deep cleaning with a HEPA-filter vacuum can greatly enhance air quality. Opting for low-VOC products for cleaning and personal care can significantly reduce harmful indoor contaminants. During times of poor outdoor air quality, remember to close windows and ventilate when conditions improve. Lastly, a de-cluttered home reduces dust accumulation, making it easier to maintain a healthier indoor environment. By following these steps, families can create a safer and cleaner living space.

Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival postpones 10th edition in honour of Zubeen Garg's legacy

The Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival (BVFF) has postponed its upcoming 10th edition of the festival in honour of late music icon Zubeen Garg. As confirmed by the organisers at a press conference, the film festival, originally scheduled for December 4-7, 2025, has been postponed to a later date in 2026. The decision comes at a time when Assam has been mourning the loss of its most beloved cultural icon, Zubeen Garg, a musician, filmmaker, and humanitarian whose voice and vision defined generations. With over 38,000 songs across 40 languages, Zubeen was not just an artist; he was an emotion that united people across the Northeast and beyond. In an official statement, Festival Director Tanushree Hazarika said, "His passing is not just a loss for Assam, but for every individual who found their rhythm and identity through his art. As a festival rooted in this land and its people, it doesn't feel right to celebrate when the heart of our culture is in mourning. This year, we pause to remember, to reflect and to honour him."