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NEWS BRIEFS

Swearing-in of new Bihar govt likely on Nov 20

PATNA: The swearing-in ceremony of the new government in Bihar is likely to take place in Patna on November 20, official sources said on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other top leaders of the NDA, including union ministers, are expected to take part in the oath-taking event, they said. The sources said Kumar is likely to submit his resignation to the Governor as head of the outgoing government on November 19. BJP may get 15-odd ministerial berths in the new cabinet, while 14 cabinet positions may go to JDU MLAs. The LJP (Ram Vilas) may get three seats in the new Nitish Kumar government. Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha are likely to get one cabinet berth each.

Mother sets herself and two daughters on fire; two dead, infant critical

JALAUN(UP): A tragic incident occurred at the Konch police station area of Jalaun district on Monday morning when a woman set herself and her two daughters on fire due to an alleged family dispute. All three were rushed to the Community Health Centre in critical condition. Doctors declared the mother and her 7-year-old daughter dead shortly afterwards, while the one-year-old infant, who remains in critical condition, was referred to Jhansi for advanced treatment. The incident occurred in Daadhi village, where preparations were underway for the wedding of the woman's brother-in-law. The groom's procession was scheduled to leave for Bareilly on Tuesday, and a ceremonial mandap program was to take place at the house on Monday evening.

Anil Ambani skips ED summons 2nd time in FEMA case

NEW DELHI: Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani refused to appear before the Enforcement Directorate in a Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) case for the second time on Monday. The businessman said he was ready to depose before the federal probe agency via "virtual appearance/recorded video", a statement he made when he skipped the summons the first time on November 14. The ED had rejected Ambani's offer and issued him a fresh summons for Monday. It was not clear if the agency would issue a third summons now.

Azam Khan, son Abdullah sentenced to 7 years in jail in dual PAN card case

RAMPUR: Senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mohammad Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam were on Monday convicted and sentenced to jail terms of up to seven years by a special MP/MLA court here in a 2019 case related to obtaining two PAN cards using different dates of birth, a prosecution officer said. Delivering the verdict, Special Magistrate (MP/MLA Court) Shobhit Bansal held both father and son guilty after examining documentary evidence and witness testimonies, Prosecution Officer Rakesh Kumar Maurya told reporters. Maurya also said the prosecution would review the judgment and may consider filing an appeal if it feels the punishment is inadequate.

45 Indian pilgrims killed in Saudi bus-tanker collision



UNI HYDERABAD, NOV 17

As many as 45 Indian pilgrims lost their lives when a bus collided with a diesel tanker in the early hours of Monday in Saudi Arabia. Most of the victims are believed to be from Hyderabad, with reports indicating that at least 16 were residents of the Mallepally and Bazarghat areas. The bus was traveling from Mecca to Medina after the pilgrims had completed their visit to the holy city. The crash occurred around 01:30 hours, and the impact sparked a fire that quickly engulfed the vehicle. Many passengers were asleep at the time, contributing to the high death toll.

According to preliminary reports, 20 women and 11 children were among the dead. Only one person is said to have survived. Rescue agencies are still working at the site, and identification of bodies is yet to be completed.

A spokesperson for the Haj Committee

said they are awaiting an official clarification from the Central Government, which is expected later today. He added that efforts are underway to determine which travel agency facilitated the pilgrimage and how many of the deceased were residents of Telangana.

An official statement said that the Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed profound shock over the tragedy and responded immediately. He instructed Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna

Rao and DGP Ravi Gupta to gather full details of the incident. The CM said he was deeply pained by media reports confirming that several Hyderabad residents were among the victims.

On his directions, the Chief Secretary alerted Resident Commissioner Gaurav Uppal in New Delhi and asked him to coordinate with the union Ministry of External Affairs and the Saudi Embassy. The state has also initiated steps for necessary relief measures.

18 members of a Hyderabad family among victims

HYDERABAD: Eighteen members of one family, nine of them children, are among the 42 Indian pilgrims killed in a road accident near Medina in Saudi Arabia. The Hyderabad-based family was to return on Saturday, their relatives told. "My sister-in-law, brother-in-law, their son, three daughters and their children went (for Umrah). They left eight days ago. The Umrah was done, and they were returning to Medina. Around 1.30 am, the accident occurred, and the bus was destroyed in the fire. They were supposed to return on Saturday," Mohamed Asif said.

Delhi car blast case: Court grants 10 days' custody of Amir Rashid Ali to NIA

AGENCY NEW DELHI, NOV 17

A Special NIA court on Monday granted 10 days' custody of Amir Rashid Ali to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for interrogation in the Delhi Blast Case. Earlier in the day, the accused Amir was produced before the NIA court after his arrest on Sunday. Principal District and Sessions Judge (Special NIA Judge) Anju Bajaj Chandana granted 10 days' custody of Amir Rashid Ali to NIA after hearing submissions of the agency. The hearing was conducted in a closed courtroom before an NIA judge. The accused was brought to court amid heavy security. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday said that it has arrested a Kashmiri resident who had conspired with the suicide bomber to carry out the terror attack, which claimed 10 innocent lives and left 32 others injured. As per the NIA statement,



Amir Rashid Ali, in whose name the car involved in the attack was registered, was arrested from Delhi by the NIA, which had launched a massive search operation after taking over the case from the Delhi Police. NIA on Sunday said that its investigations had revealed that the accused, a resident of Samboora, Pampore in Jammu and Kashmir, had conspired with the alleged suicide bomber, Umar Un Nabi, to unleash the terror attack.

First tranche of US-India trade deal is near closure

AGENCY NEW DELHI, NOV 17

India remains engaged with the United States on the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), and the first tranche of the deal, focused on addressing reciprocal tariffs, is now "near closure", Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday while releasing the October trade data. Agrawal noted that India and the US have been holding virtual discussions on the BTA for months. The agreement comprises two components, he explained: one that will naturally take more time to negotiate, and a first tranche aimed at resolving tariff-related issues. "The part relating to reciprocal tariffs should happen sooner rather than later," he said, while cautioning that specific deadlines cannot be set. The BTA, formally proposed in February following directives from the leadership of both nations, seeks to more than double



bilateral trade, from the current USD 191 billion to USD 500 billion by 2030. Talks were first announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington earlier this year. In recent months, negotiations have continued despite tariff escalations by the United States. US President Donald Trump imposed a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods starting August 1, followed by another 25 per cent increase days later, citing India's continued purchase of Russian oil.

SC issues comprehensive directives to protect Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve

UNI NEW DELHI, NOV 17

The Supreme Court issued a series of far-reaching conservation directives to safeguard the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve, observing that the State of Uttarakhand must take concrete restoration measures to make up for the illegal tree felling that occurred inside the protected area.



A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai passed the directions, stressing that tourism in ecologically sensitive zones must strictly be "eco-tourism", and that economic activity cannot be allowed at the cost of the environment.

The Court has listed specific activities that will stand prohibited in the buffer zone and catchment areas surrounding the reserve, with the objective of minimising human interference in these fragile ecosystems.

Highlighting the difficult working conditions of frontline forest staff operating deep inside the core areas and far from their families, the CJI directed that special consideration must be extended to these personnel, including upgraded infrastructure in forest camps.

The Court ordered that forest camps must be equipped with clean drinking water and other essential amenities, ensuring that those entrusted with protecting the reserve receive adequate support.

Ex-Bangladesh PM Hasina sentenced to death for "crimes against humanity"

UNI

DHAKA: The International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh's domestic war crimes court, has sentenced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death over a crackdown on anti-government protests last year, calling it "crimes against humanity".

Hasina, convicted of "various crimes against humanity", was tried in absentia and remains in exile in India.

A three-judge panel ruled that Hasina "incited hundreds of extrajudicial killings carried out by law enforcement during weeks of unrest" in 2024.

According to the court, approximately 1,400 protestors were killed and up to 25,000 injured.

The former leader faced five charges, including inciting murder, ordering hangings, and authorizing the use of lethal weapons, drones, and helicopters to suppress the protests. She has, in several interviews to international media, denied all charges and pointed out that the bullets used to kill protestors were of a calibre different from that used by the Bangladesh police. Several analysts have indicated that the shots may have been fired by snipers.

Hasina's legal team has appealed to the



United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, citing "serious concerns about the lack of fair trial rights and due process."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is set to hold national elections in February next year from which the Awami League is likely to be excluded. The case pertains to alleged crimes committed during the July 2024 mass uprising, which triggered widespread violence and preceded the fall of the Awami League government. Along with Sheikh Hasina, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and former Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun were charged; Al-Mamun later turned approver. Trial proceedings concluded on October 23.

Haryana CM raises SYL issue in Zonal Council meet

BUREAU

CHANDIGARH: Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini said that proper arrangements must be ensured for supplying each state its rightful share of water. Haryana has consistently been giving Delhi more water than its own share. However, due to the non-construction of the SYL canal, Haryana is not receiving its full share of water from Punjab. Once Haryana receives its rightful share of water through SYL, Rajasthan will also get its due share.

While speaking at 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council was held on Monday

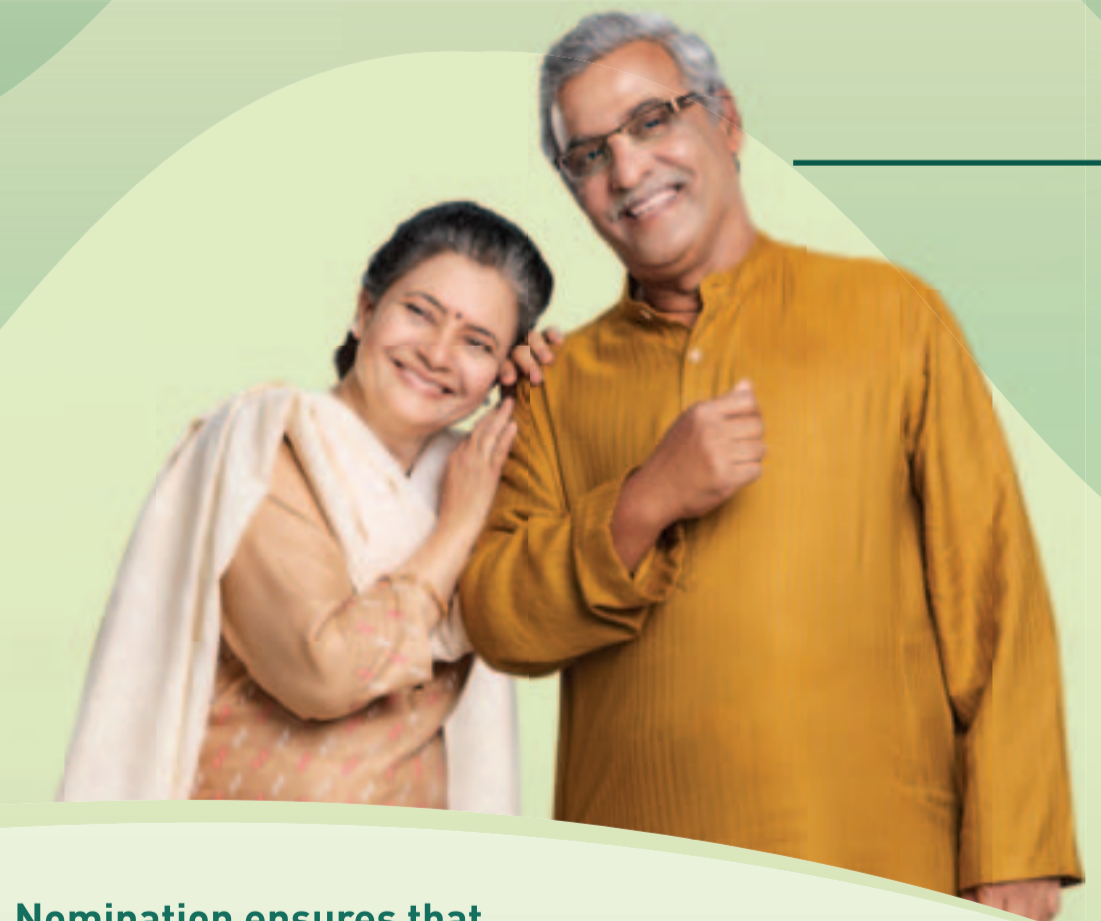
at Surajkund he said that Punjab is the land of the Gurus, the sacred soil where Guru Sevak

Bhai Kanhaiya Ji served even enemy soldiers on the battlefield by giving them water. Through the Council, he urged Punjab to remember the great traditions of the Gurus while addressing the water dispute.

He added that water is a shared resource, and keeping it clean is the collective responsibility of all states. Recalling that rivers are revered as mothers in Indian culture, he specifically mentioned the Yamuna and assured that Haryana is making every effort to keep the Yamuna clean.



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RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA): In the list of district presidents released by the Congress party, former MLA Pritam Singh Kotbhai has been made the district Bathinda rural president. With his becoming the president, the Congress party will be stronger in Bathinda district, these words were expressed by Advocate Jaswinder Singh Jass, the chief servant of Rampura Phul constituency and a very close associate of Pritam Kotbhai. He said that Pritam Kotbhai is the one who brought me into politics, due to whose inspiration I have reached this far. Jass Bajjoana said that Pritam Kotbhai has no faction in the party.



Homi Bhabha cancer hospital & research centre, Punjab hosts two-day orthopedic oncology conference

CHANDIGARH, NOV 17

Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (HBCH&RC), Punjab, successfully organized a two-day conference on Orthopedic Oncology at its New Chandigarh campus. The event brought together many eminent experts and specialists in the field of muscular oncology from across the country to share their knowledge, latest research, and clinical experiences.

The comprehensive scientific agenda focused on a detailed review of the diagnosis and management of bone tumors, both benign and malignant. Participants gained crucial insight into the critical role of imaging and histopathology in evaluating and planning treatment. The sessions offered practical guidance on planning appropriate interventions based on real-world scenarios, complete with case-based discussions and



interactive Q&A with experts across various specialties for an in-depth grasp of multidisciplinary tumor care. Furthermore, the conference provided exposure to emerging trends, such as advanced limb salvage techniques and the application of extracorporeal irradiation for complex bone tumor management.

Dr. (Professor) Ashish Gulia, Director of HBCH&RC Punjab, who also serves as the President of the IMSOS (The Indian Musculo Skeletal Oncology Society), highlighted the importance of such scientific meetings in advancing multidisciplinary care for patients with bone and soft tissue tumors. He emphasized the need for continued collaboration between clinicians, radiologists, and pathologists to enhance patient outcomes through evidence-based, coordinated care. The conference concluded with positive feedback from participants, who appreciated the quality of scientific discussions and the opportunity to exchange knowledge with peers and leading experts.

International conference on green science and technology inaugurated at NIPER, Mohali

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, NOV 17

The two-day International Conference on Green Science and Technology-2025 (ICGST-2025) commenced today at NIPER-Mohali and will continue on 18 November 2025.

The event is being organized in collaboration with Shizuoka University (Japan), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM Malaysia), Universiti Putra Malaysia-Kuala Lumpur (UPM Malaysia), and Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia), with Granules India Ltd. serving as the Sponsorship Partner. In the inaugural Prof. Dulal Panda discussed the opportunities and challenges in discovering FtsZ-targeted antibacterial agents. Prof. Nobuyuki Mase from Shizuoka University, Japan gave the brief



introduction about the history of ICGST, the first ICGST hosted online by Shizuoka University, Japan in 2021 and the 2nd ICGST-2023 in UTM Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He also shared insights on novel plant hormones using fine-bubble and flow technology. Prof. Long Chiau Ming from Sunway University, Malaysia, presented an innovative framework integrating virtual screening

and machine learning for cancer-related drug discovery. Prof. Hesham Ali El Enshasy from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) highlighted recent advancements in natural anti-infective research aimed at reducing antibiotic resistance. Prof. Inder Pal Singh, Organizing Secretary, ICGST-2025 mentioned that the journey of ICGST is truly inspiring and more countries

are being included in it. He said that this diverse participation reflects the spirit of international collaboration of scientists and scholars from across the world for joining hands for the shared goal of advancing green and sustainable technologies featuring 100+ participants, 33 poster presentations, 9 oral presentations, 14 invited and eight keynote speakers.

PHDCCI SHE forum, Haryana organises empowering mind 3rd in the series: Sustainable Women Entrepreneurship

CHANDIGARH: PHDCCI SHE Forum, Haryana organised Empowering Mind 3rd in the Series: Sustainable Women Entrepreneurship at Hotel LaLit, Chandigarh. The session aimed to celebrate women entrepreneurs and discuss strategies for building sustainable and resilient businesses led by women. Ms. Alka Gurnani, Chair, PHDCCI SHE Forum, Haryana emphasised the role of women entrepreneurs as catalysts for inclusive economic growth.

She spoke about the SHE Forum's ongoing initiatives to create mentorship opportunities, promote gender diversity, and support women-led startups in the region. Chief Guest on the occasion, Dr. Priyanka Soni, IAS, Director, Women and Child Development, Government of Haryana commended the PHDCCI SHE Forum for providing a meaningful



platform to encourage women's participation in entrepreneurship and leadership. She also highlighted the importance of skill development, financial literacy, and access to markets as key enablers for women to scale their ventures sustainably. While proposing the vote of thanks, Ms. Bharti Sood, Senior Regional Director, PHDCCI reiterated PHDCCI's commitment to fostering women-led growth and sustainability through continuous engagement and capacity-building initiatives. A panel discussion on Building

Resilient Businesses: The Women Entrepreneurs Way panelist's Ms. Leena Singh, Senior Entrepreneur, Amway India spoke about the importance of consistency, adaptability, and relationship-building in sustaining long-term business success; Ms. Abhilasha Sharma, Co-Founder, uEngage emphasized innovation and customer-centric strategies as the driving forces for modern enterprises; Ms. Swinky Sharma, Founder, CodeAurix highlighted how technology can empower women to overcome traditional business challenges.

Miri Piri Khalsa College students organize educational tour



BARNALA DEHATI (BALWINDER AZAD): Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur, which is functioning under the management of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Sri Amritsar Sahib Ji. This college is recognized by Punjabi University Patiala and All India Council for Technical Education. This institution makes special efforts for the all-round development of the students.

A three-day religious and educational tour was organized under the able guidance of Principal Malvinder Singh. Regarding which Prof. Sukhpal Singh of Religious Studies informed that in this tour, the students were taken to Kangra Fort, Gurdwara Paur Sahib, Gurdwara Dera Sant, Chintpurni Temple, Buddhist Temple of McLeod Ganj, Dharamshala, ancient Shiva Temple and waterfall of Baijnath, as well as the tea gardens of Palampur. The students enjoyed this tour very much. Principal Malvinder Singh appreciated this initiative and said that along with studies, such tours are also important in the life of students. Which provide practical knowledge to the students and play an important role in the development of the personality of the student.

Kharar lawyers go on indefinite strike over concerns of merging 36 villages of Kharar with Rupnagar



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, NOV 17

The Punjab Government is planning to make Sri Anandpur Sahib a new district. In this regard, all the members of the Kharar Bar Association have started an indefinite strike over the discussion of merging 36 villages of Kharar Sub-Division with Rupnagar District. Giving information in this regard today, Kharar Bar Association President Deepak Sharma said that they have come to know that the Government is planning to merge 36 villages of Kharar, which belong to Gharuan Sub-

Tehsil, in Rupnagar district. Similarly, there are discussions of merging some areas of Kurali and Majri with Rupnagar District. He said that since the work of the courts of Kharar will be greatly affected, the lawyers here have started an indefinite strike. He said that the District Mohali Bar Association and the Bar Association Derabassi have also started an indefinite strike over this issue. In this regard, Deepak Sharma said that many farmer organizations and Sarpanches of the area are also opposing this plan of the Government and the struggle will be intensified in the coming days.

Pathankot surgeon released after grilling on possible links to Delhi blast suspect

CHANDIGARH, NOV 17 (UNI)

A senior surgeon from Pathankot's White Medical College, Dr. Raees Bhatt, has been released after security agencies questioned him in connection with the Delhi blast. Officials sought details about Bhatt's professional interactions with Dr Umar Nabi, the man who allegedly caused the blast. Umar had previously worked at Al-Falah University. According to Dr. Bhatt, the investigators asked three specific questions - where he had met Umar, whether they had ever communicated, and if any chats or conversations had taken place recently. Bhatt said he answered all queries, underwent a medical examination, and was then informed that he was free to go. Bhatt told colleagues upon returning to the college that

the sudden pickup created confusion on campus. He said the team initially informed him he would be questioned in Ambala, but the venue was later shifted to Delhi, which led to delays. "My family didn't know. I was worried too," he recounted. The surgeon clarified that he had no connection with Umar apart from knowing him professionally years earlier, when both were associated with the same medical institution. "He was a junior physician; I am a surgeon. That is the extent of our interaction," Bhatt said, adding that he has been serving at the Pathankot medical college for the past two years. Investigators, he said, also questioned whether he had any contact with other doctors from Al-Falah University or had met them elsewhere.

MP Kang warns of action against officials if basic facilities not provided in Kharar's Sectors 123 to 125 by Dec 31



KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): Malwinder Singh Kang, Lok Sabha member from Sri Anandpur Sahib, has clearly announced that if the officials do not provide basic facilities to the people living on both sides of the 200 feet road going from Dara Studio to Khanpur, then he himself will take up the baton from January 1 and ask the government to take action against the officials. He said that it is the responsibility of the government to provide basic facilities to the people and he will do his best for this. Kang was addressing a massive protest rally organized by the 200 Feet Road Sangharsh Committee near the nearby village Jandpur. On this occasion, besides others, senior members of Kharar Municipal Council Ram Saroop Sharma and Gobindar Singh Cheema, Sangharsh Committee President Maninder Singh, Secretary Antar Singh Brar, AAP leader Jatinder Rana, Varun Goyal and office bearers of more than two dozen adjacent societies were present.

Annual function organized by Maxim Mary Senior Secondary School Kharar



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, NOV 17

Maxim Merry Senior Secondary School, Kharar, marked its Annual Function 2025-26 with a vibrant celebration at Tagore Theatre under the theme "Roots & Wings." The programme began with a soulful performance, followed by a warm welcome to Guest of Honour, IAS Officer Mr.

Lalit Jain, Chairman Mr. Ved Kumar Kaushik, Director Mr. Himender Kaushik, Managing Director Mr. Partharathi Kaushik, and Principal Mrs. Pooja Khosla shared messages highlighting values, confidence, and holistic growth. The compelling presentation of Shakespeare's "King Lear" captivated the audience, along with the felicitations of achievers.

Congress leader Gurpartap Singh Padiala releases poster of village Nia Shehar Badala Kabaddi Cup



KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): In village Nia Shehar Badala near Kharar, due to the immense grace of Jathedar Baba Hanuman Singh Ji, the poster of the sixth Kabaddi Cup organized jointly by the entire Gram Panchayat was released by senior Congress leader Gurpartap Singh Padiala (General Secretary Punjab) Kisan Congress.

Talking to reporters on this occasion, Padiala said that this Kabaddi Cup will be held on November 25 at village Nia Shehar Badala (Kharar) in which top teams will participate and show their skills of Kabaddi.

On this occasion, the winning teams will be awarded the first prize of Rs 91,000 in cash, the second place team will be awarded Rs 71,000 in cash. Along with this, the famous Punjabi duo Jasmine Jassi and Deep Dhillon will entertain the audience with their famous Punjabi songs.

On this occasion, President Gurdar Singh, Sahib Singh, Administrator Chanpreet Singh Badali, Pannu Nia Shehar, Deep Rajput, Guri Nia Shehar, Shenty Pannua and many other dignitaries were present.

Dispute over election of Chairman of Shaheed Udham Singh Memorial Building Society resolved: Salinder Kaur Chandi



CHANDIGARH (J K BATTI): Sardar Ram Singh Balogi, General Secretary of the Shaheed Udham Singh Memorial Building Society, Chandigarh, stated in a press conference that the dispute, which had been ongoing for the past five months regarding the election of the Chairman, has now been resolved following consultations with some senior dignitaries. In a joint statement, Mrs Salinder Kaur Chandi, the unanimously elected President of the Shaheed Udham Singh Memorial Building Society, and Mr Ram Singh Balogi, the General Secretary, said that all parties have now resolved to work together to take this building, built in memory of the martyrs, to greater heights. All parties have dissolved their respective committees by mutual consent and formed a joint and unanimous committee. Mrs Salinder Kaur Chandi has been appointed as Chairperson, Mr Hari Bhushan as Senior Vice President, Manjit Singh Kamboj as Vice President, Mr Ram Singh Balogi as General Secretary, and Mr Inderjit Singh Nadda as Secretary. Mr Ram Gopal Dhot will be appointed as Finance Secretary, along with Mr Jatinder Kamboj as Assistant Finance Secretary. Mr Balwinder Singh, Organising Secretary.

RBU organises One-Day summit to boost innovation and employability



MOHALI (LK BANSAL): Rayat Bahra University organised a one-day Career and Entrepreneurship Summit, aimed at fostering employability, innovation and entrepreneurial thinking among students. Prof. (Dr.) Simerjit Kaur welcomed the dignitaries and briefed about the summit. The event was attended by Chancellor Gurbinder Singh Bahra, whose visionary leadership and encouragement continue to inspire the university's initiatives. The university also expressed sincere gratitude to Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kumar, Group Vice-Chancellor and Prof. (Dr.) Satish Kumar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, for their guidance and support.

Special thanks were extended to Sukhman Bath, Deputy CEO, District Bureau of Employment & Enterprises (DBEE) SAS Nagar, Ashish Mehta, COO, Innovation Mission Punjab; Amarpal Singh Walia, Joint Manager, Startup Punjab; and Kanwalpreet Kaur, Functional Manager, District Industries Centre, for their participation and valuable insights.

Addressing the gathering, the spokesperson highlighted that the summit provided the students with practical exposure to the world of startups and entrepreneurship, inspiring them to pursue innovative career paths.

New transformer brings major relief to SC community of Kheri Bir Singh



FATEHGARH SAHIB (AJAY MALHOTRA): The SC community of village Bir Singh, under Bassi Pathana block, finally received major relief from the long-standing low-voltage electricity problem after the Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. Department installed a new transformer in their area.

Former Chairperson of Bassi Pathana Block Samiti Baljeet Kaur, along with Sarpanch Jaswinder Singh, Panch Gurbinder Singh, Paramjit Kaur, Randhir Singh, Amarjeet Kaur, and villagers Gurpreet Singh, Harjeet Singh, Amreek Singh, Gurjit Singh, Ram Singh, Harjinder Singh, Gulshan Kumar, Ranjit Singh (Ghola), and Balvir Singh, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the officials of the Power Department—including the Executive Engineer (XEN) of Sirhind, SDO of Bassi Pathana, JE, and other staff members.

SHO and DSP of police station Moonak shifted overnight to resolve issue



LEHRAGAGA (GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA): In village Dehla Sinha of Sangrur district, the situation in the village became quite tense over the issue of not giving the daughter-in-law her share and throwing her out of the house and locking the gate of the house and due to the biased attitude of the police, the villagers and the police came face to face.

When the police did not stop bullying, someone from the crowd also broke the window of the police vehicle. Following this authoritarian attitude of the police, SHO Sourav Sabharwal and DSP Gurinder Singh Bal of Police Station Moonak were removed from Moonak police station and a new SHO Gurmeet Singh and DSP Sanjeev Singla were appointed in their place overnight. Victim Gagandeep Kaur, who is the widow of Gogi Singh, son of Gurcharan Singh, a resident of Dehla Sihan, said that my father had arranged my marriage with Gogi Singh by investing good money and giving a good dowry as per his customs.

Apart from this, my in-laws were given 11 tolas of saun. Due to his drug habit, he used to beat me and throw me out of the house. In the meantime, I had two daughters but he did not improve and sent me to my parents.

LONGOWAL (RAVI GARG): The SLIET Alumni Association (SAA) officially inaugurated its new Patiala Chapter in a formal ceremony held at the TIET Patiala campus. The event was organized under the leadership of SAA President Er Winnerjit Singh Khadiyal and under the guidance of Professor Mani Kant Paswan, Director of SLIET Longowal and Patron of SAA. The program was conducted under the supervision of Professor Ravi Kant Mishra, Dean (Alumni & Industrial Relations) and Chairman of SAA. During the ceremony, Professor Sunil Singla was unanimously elected as the President of the newly formed SAA Patiala Chapter. His nomination was proposed and supported by all SAA Life Members present.



Cabinet clears revamped 'Navi Dishaa' scheme for women's health: Dr. Baljit Kaur

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, NOV 17

Punjab Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur said that the Punjab Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, has approved the restructuring of the free sanitary napkin distribution programme, now renamed as the 'Navi Dishaa Scheme'. This major decision aims to ensure a more reliable, streamlined and gap-free implementation process across the state.

Under the revamped scheme, needy women will receive 9 sanitary napkins per month, supplied regularly through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). The scheme aims at a benchmark of 50 beneficiaries per AWC, targeting a minimum of 13,65,700 women every month. She added that



structure includes well-defined guidelines for procurement, transportation distribution, monitoring and quality testing to eliminate irregularities.

The scheme also introduces incentives for Anganwadi Workers to enhance implementation at the grassroots level. To improve transparency and accountability, the scheme will make use of IT tools, including mobile applications and digital dashboards, for capturing and reviewing real-time implementation data. An awareness and IEC component has also been introduced to educate women and adolescent girls about healthy menstrual practices and overall well-being.

She further added that the implementation of the scheme will be reviewed after two years to assess progress and further strengthen delivery mechanisms.

CM Bhagwant Mann reiterates claim on Chandigarh, PU before HM Amit Shah

FARIDABAD, NOV 17

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann vehemently reiterated claim over Chandigarh, Punjab University, river waters besides advocating genuine federal structure in the country before the Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held here Monday.

Flagging the issues, the Chief Minister said that the Indian Constitution clearly demarcated areas in which the Union and the States have to function to exercise their respective authority. He said that Federalism remains one of the basic pillars of our Constitution but unfortunately, there has been a trend towards centralization of authority during the past 75 years. Bhagwant Singh Mann underlined that the state governments, being at the cutting edge, are in a much better position to understand, address and solve the problems of their



people. Vehemently pleading for handing over Chandigarh to the state of Punjab, the Chief Minister said that after the reorganization of the state Indira Gandhi Agreement of 1970 explicitly stated that "the capital project area of Chandigarh will, as a whole, go to Punjab, which was a clear commitment from the Central Government."

He said that the Rajiv-Longowal Accord, signed on July 24th, 1985, between the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and

Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, explicitly reaffirmed that Chandigarh will be transferred to Punjab.

However, Bhagwant Singh Mann bemoaned that despite all promises Chandigarh was not transferred to Punjab which has bruised the psyche of every Punjabi. Raising the issue of maintaining the status quo of the 60:40 ratio in the intake of service personnel from Punjab and Haryana in the functioning of the UT of Chandigarh, the Chief

Minister said that it is the need of the hour. He said that it is a matter of grave concern that officers of the IAS and the PCS have been excluded from key positions in the Chandigarh administration. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that posts in departments such as Excise, Education, Finance, and Health are being opened to cadres like the state UT cadre (DANICS), thereby adversely affecting the role of the state of Punjab in the effective functioning of the UT administration.

The Chief Minister said that another linked issue is the posting of Punjab Cadre officers to the post of General Manager FCI (Punjab). He said that considering the consistently highest contribution of the state of Punjab towards the Central pool, the established trend of posting of an IAS officer from Punjab Cadre to the Regional Office of the FCI should not be disturbed by the Government of India.

Cheema urges Dirba residents to personally oversee development works

SUMER GARG
DIRBA, NOV 17

Punjab's finance minister (FM) Harpal Singh Cheema said that development works in the Dirba Assembly constituency (DAC) are going on in full swing. To ensure quality in these development projects, the Punjab government is holding officers and contractors accountable, but it is also the responsibility of the people themselves to remain vigilant.

While releasing grants today, which include, Rs 10 lakh to Dirba Gushala; Rs 20 lakh to village Ramgarh Gijran; Rs 34 lakh to village Khetla and Rs 25 lakh to Ladbanjara, Mr.



Cheema said that he wants to make DAC the most developed constituency in the state. Work is being done in a planned manner to achieve this goal. Development works in the constituency are progressing at full pace. He is personally monitoring every work being done in the constituency. However, it is also the responsibility of the

public to monitor these development works. Works done under proper monitoring will have better quality. The minister informed that cheques worth Rs 89 lakh were distributed today. With this amount, streets, drains, CCTV cameras, street lights, and sheds would be constructed as per the demands of the villagers.

Rana Hospital celebrates Children's Day with grand event at Riyasat-E-Rana, Sirhind



FATEHGARH SAHIB (AJAY MALHOTRA): Rana Hospital organized a heart-warming and memorable Children's Day celebration at Riyasat-E-Rana, Sirhind, bringing together parents and children who were born at the hospital in the past year. The event witnessed an overwhelming response as families gathered to celebrate the joyous occasion. The celebration was hosted by the vibrant RJ Jassi and RJ Golmal Gagan from My FM, who kept the atmosphere lively with engaging activities and entertaining games. Children enthusiastically participated in various fun games, while parents also joined in, adding to the cheerful spirit of the event. Here is the English translation of your Punjabi sentence: To make the occasion even more lively, the children of Rana Munshi Ram Sarvhitkari Vidya Mandir captivated everyone with their various dance and singing performances.

Sardar @150 unity march by students of SLIET Longowal



BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA DEHATI, NOV 17

Under My Bharat Sangrur, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India Sardar @150 Unity March was organized by the students of SLIET Longowal.

In his speech at the district-level Unity March, Honorable Rajya Sabha Member Prof. Sikandar Kumar elaborated on the contributions made by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron

Man of India, to the creation of a united India. Emphasizing Sardar Patel's mission to create unity and a united India, he congratulated and encouraged students and intellectuals to participate in the march and advance the nation's unity and self-reliance. He also described the significant step of revoking Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as a watertight mission, a significant milestone in the nation's unification.

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GBIS MUN-2025 became unforgettable experience



NABHA (RAKESH JINDAL): At GB International School, Nabha, the two-day MUN (Model United Nations) 2025, which began on 15 November 2025 in collaboration with Kaimera Learning, concluded on 16 November 2025 with great enthusiasm and dignity under the leadership of the School Chairman, Sandeep Bansal. Along with the students of GB International School, participants from various reputed institutions such as Indo British School Nabha, Edumont School Nabha, Modern Nabha School, Delhi Public School Patiala, Army Public School, Cambridge Nabha, The Quest Bathinda, Millennium Public School Bathinda, Lovely Professional University, and Khalsa College Patiala took part in this event. According to Mr. Bansal, today's MUN-2025 represents the confident voices of the youth who will shape the future. The first day of the program began with a lamp-lighting ceremony and a prayer song. This was followed by a musical performance by the students that added a cultural touch to the event, while the captivating 'Ganesh Vandana' created a devotional and positive atmosphere.

CIA staff arrests one person with four country-made pistols

ARVIND PATHAK
SULTANPUR LODHI, NOV 17

Senior Superintendent of Police Kapurthala Gaurav Tura briefing the press stated that Prabhjot Singh Virk Superintendent of Police (Investigation) Kapurthala, Parminder Singh Mand Deputy Superintendent of Police (Detective) Kapurthala and SI Raman Kumar in-charge of CIA Kapurthala were given special instructions to take action as part of the campaign against bad elements.

Acting under his supervision ASI Jasvir Singh CIA Kapurthala while patrolling from Talwandi Mahima to Shekhpur on Rink Road arrested Amandeep alias Aman son of Rachhpal resident of



village Tashpur, Police Station Sultanpur Lodhi and searched him. Two country-made pistols and two live cartridges were recovered from his possession. A case was registered at Police Station Sadar Kapurthala under Section 25 of the Arms Act. Two more country-made pistols were recovered at his information. The arrested person Amandeep alias

Aman was produced in court and thoroughly interrogated. It was revealed that he brought illegal weapons from Madhya Pradesh and sold them to customers.

During interrogation he provided further important information and told about his illegal weapon sales. Based on his identification more illegal weapons are being recovered.

Free medical camp organised by Gurdwara Shaheed Baba Matti Sahib Committee



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): Continuing its tradition of community welfare, the management committee of Gurdwara Shaheed Baba Matti Sahib Ji, situated in the village of Daroli Kalan in Jalandhar district, organised a free medical camp alongside its monthly religious programme held on the occasion of Sangrand. As part of the monthly event, devotees from across India and abroad participated in the spiritual congregation. Following the fulfilment of their wishes, they initiated the sacred Akhand Path Sahib at the gurdwara. After the completion of the path and the traditional bhog ceremony, renowned kirtani jathas captivated the congregation with soulful Gurbani hymns. Humanitarian Service Alongside Faithful keeping with the committee's long-standing commitment to social welfare, the families who undertook the Akhand Path Sahib were honoured with siropaos (robes of honour) by the gurdwara management. Under the leadership of Jathedar Manohar Singh and with the support of NRI social worker Jatinder J. Minhas and others, a free general medical camp was organised for the local community.

DAV School tops in state level competition of know India



SURINDER DAMDAMI
KOTKAPURA, NOV 17

The teams from DAV Public School, Kotkapura, representing the main branch of the organization, performed brilliantly in the state-level competition organized by Bharat Vikas Parishad Punjab South under the national project "Know India" in Mansa.

During the competition, DAV brought laurels to the school and the city by securing first place in the junior category and third place in the senior category. Kapil Goyal, President of the Bharat Vikas Parishad

Main Branch, and Subhash Goyal, State Advisor, stated that both branches of Kotkapura held branch-level competitions last week, in which top teams from 15 schools participated.

In the junior category, Pranita Sharma and Madhav Garg of DAV Public School won first place, while Yadavir Singh and Arjun of Dashmesh Global School won second place. In the senior category, Kirtanur Kaur and Himanshi Yadav of DAV Public School won first place, while Khushpreet Kaur and Harshatpreet Kaur of Dreamland Public School won second place.

Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar organises CPR training initiative to strengthen community emergency response; trains 330 people in CPR skills



AMRITSAR: In a landmark step to strengthen community emergency response and preparedness, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar today launched a CPR awareness and training drive under its ongoing 'Fortis Hai Na' campaign. The initiative aims to equip citizens with critical life-saving skills, reinforcing the message that in any emergency - Fortis is there. The coordinated drive was simultaneously conducted across all Fortis hospitals in India, with participation from two Gleenagles hospitals, making it the largest-ever CPR training initiative undertaken by the network. Together, the campaign trained over 4,000 participants across hospitals and community venues. Each 90-minute session included a hands-on demonstration of CPR techniques, choking rescue methods, and an interactive Q&A led by emergency medicine specialists, trained nurses, and certified CPR instructors. The participants also received a Certificate of Participation and a First Aid Booklet outlining key emergency response steps.

Extending beyond hospital premises, the sessions were organised in collaboration with Global Group of Institutes, Amritsar Global Group of Institutes, Amritsar. The goal is to take life-saving knowledge directly to communities, reaching students, corporate employees, fitness trainers, traffic police.

Mata Sundari Girls College Dhadde celebrates Bharat Scouts and Guides foundation day

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, NOV 17

Mata Sundari Girls College Dhadde celebrated Bharat Scouts and Guides Foundation Day. On this occasion, the students of the college participated with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The college also organized a special seminar on the completion of 150 years of "Vande Mataram" on this day. Chairman of the institution Kulwant Singh Sidhu and MD Gurbinder Singh Balli said that it is a very commendable step for Mata Sundari Girls College to celebrate Bharat Scouts and Guides Foundation Day and the completion of 150 years of "Vande Mataram". Such programs awaken the spirit of patriotism in the students and motivate them towards social service. Parminder Singh Sidhu, Director Administration of the institution, said that by celebrating such cultural and national celebrations by the college, the students get an opportunity to connect with their national heritage.

"Vande Mataram" is a symbol of the spiritual power of our country and celebrating its 150th anniversary is a matter of pride for every Indian.

On this occasion, the college principal Raj Singh Bagha motivated the students to be patriotic, service-minded and fulfill their responsibility towards the society. During the function, the students were organized a



competition of patriotic songs, speeches, poster making and during this, they captivated everyone by presenting a cultural program. On this occasion, Prof. Maninderpreet Kaur of the institution played an important role in this program. The director of the institution, Madam Simbaljit Kaur and treasurer, Madam Parshotam Kaur, appreciated this initiative. On this occasion, besides others, Senior Prof. Jaswinder Singh, Prof. Rabinder Sharma, Prof. Karanvir Singh, Prof. Jagjit Singh, Prof. Gurpreet Singh, Prof. Manpreet Kaur, Prof. Rajwinder Kaur, Prof. Harsh Rani, Prof. Ranjit Kaur, Prof. Amandeep Sharma, Prof. Amandeep Kaur Fashion Designing, Prof. Kiran Khan, Prof. Kiranjit Kaur etc.

NEWS BRIEF

Dr. Ishank Kumar distributes Rs 2.92 cr to 195 families for new houses under housing scheme

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: In an effort to ensure that every family has a permanent roof over their head, MLA Dr. Ishank Kumar from Chabbawal Assembly

Constituency distributed financial assistance of Rs 2.92 crore to 195 families under a government housing scheme. Each beneficiary family received Rs 1.50 lakh for the construction of new homes. Commitment to Welfare and Development

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Kumar said that the government remains committed to ensuring that the benefits of all welfare schemes reach every deserving family.

Laddoos distributed in Doraha to celebrate AAP victory



AMRISH ANAND
DORAHA: AAP workers in Doraha celebrated the victory of Harmeet Singh Sandhu in the Sri Tarn Taran Sahib by-election by distributing laddoos under the leadership of Municipal Council President Sudarshan Kumar Sharma (Pappu). Sharma said the result reflects public approval of the Punjab Government's development work and pro-people policies. He added that the mandate shows continued trust in the Aam Aadmi Party ahead of 2027. Several local leaders and councillors were present during the celebration.

Annual function celebrated with grandeur at BGN Adarsh Public School, Shergarh, Bathinda



ISHWER GARG
TALWANDI SABO: BGN Adarsh Public School celebrated its Annual Function with remarkable grandeur, enthusiasm, and cultural splendour. Centred around the theme "Punjab - The Land of Five Rivers and Heritage," the event beautifully showcased the vibrant traditions and rich cultural tapestry of Punjab. It proved to be a deeply meaningful and memorable experience for students, parents, and dignitaries alike. The school continually strives to provide its learners with opportunities that enhance confidence, creativity, expressive skills, and holistic development. At BGN, education extends far beyond textbooks—it reflects a commitment to excellence in every dimension of a child's journey. The event was graced by esteemed guests: Dr. Akhilesh Pathak, DEAN, AIMS Bathinda, Ms. Simple Arora, Celebrity makeup artist, Sangeet, a budding singer, and Mr. Lucky Unkheela, an emerging music director.

Fateh College wins 2 gold, 2 bronze medals in Punjabi University Inter-College Gatka



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL: The Inter-College Gatka Championship organized by Punjabi University Patiala was organized in a grand manner from November 10 to 11 at Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College, Sri Anandpur Sahib. In this two-day competition, the players of Fateh Group of Institutions, Rampura Phul, showed commendable sportsmanship and brought pride to the institution by winning two gold and two bronze medals. In the first watch competition, the trio of Harmandeep Kaur, Sumandeep Kaur and Sukhdeep Kaur, under the single stick team, dominated the field from the beginning and won the gold medal with a flawless performance. In the second watch, in the single stick individual category, Sumandeep Kaur won the gold medal, leaving her opponents behind with the best technique and strong courage. In the exciting competitions of the third watch, in the free stick individual category, Hardeep Kaur won the bronze medal by demonstrating courage and patience.

SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA: Three students from Hollyhock International School's Class 7 class participated in the district-level inter-school Karate Championship held in Baijnath, Kangra district. Sarishtika and Manya won silver medals, and Naman Awasthi won bronze. The school administration hopes they will continue to work hard and win more medals in the future.



NEWS BRIEF

Engineer Sushil Thakur elected unopposed as Director for second consecutive term

ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR: Engineer Sushil Thakur has once again been elected unopposed as Director of the District Cooperative Development Federation, marking his second consecutive term in the post. Thakur has also been serving as Vice Chairman and a member of the Federation's Board of Directors since 2020. Thakur was elected unopposed from the Bhoranj zone, as no other candidate filed a nomination against him. Following the completion of the nomination process, he was unanimously declared elected. On the beginning of his new term, Sushil Thakur expressed gratitude to all cooperative societies, representatives and supporters of the Bhoranj zone. He said this renewed trust inspires him to work with greater dedication for the development of the cooperative sector and the welfare of farmer-members.

CM strongly advocates release of HP's rightful 7.19% share on Chandigarh

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, NOV 17

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has strongly advocated for Himachal Pradesh legitimate right of 7.19 percent share on Chandigarh, in its land and assets. This is as per mandate under the Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966. He also referred to the Supreme court's judgement of 2011 which held, that Himachal Pradesh is entitled to a share of 7.19 percent in the composite Punjab, on the basis of population ratio transfer under the Punjab reorganization Act and this was the basis for the legitimate share in the power also being generated by BBMB. The Chief Minister was addressing the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council



held in Faridabad, Haryana, under the chairmanship of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah. He also sought the release of pending dues from the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) as per the Supreme Court's decision and appointment of a permanent member from Himachal in the BBMB. He also urged for implementation of the policy granting 12 percent free power royalty to the State in centrally operated hydropower projects and enhancement of Himachal's

free royalty to 50 percent in projects where the cost has already been recovered. He urged that the issue be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Northern Zonal Council to ensure Himachal receives its lawful entitlement. He requested that hydropower projects in Himachal Pradesh that have completed 40 years be handed over to the State. The Chief Minister sought full central funding of the power components of the under-construction Kishau

and Renuka dam hydel projects and demanded that once completed, 50-50 percent electricity be provided to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Sh. Sukhu urged the Centre to review disaster relief rules and to suitably revise pre and post-disaster management norms in view of the increasing vulnerability of hill states. He called for a unified, interdependent and sustainable development framework for the entire northern region in view of the

rising frequency of natural disasters caused by climate change and the extensive loss they inflict every year. He said that such a coordinated plan was essential to protect the economy of hill states like Himachal Pradesh and to minimize valuable human loss through collective and focused efforts. Highlighting the State's strategic location and tourism potential, Sh. Sukhu stressed the urgent need to expand the air network in Himachal. He informed that the State Government was working on expanding the Kangra Airport having International level facility and requested the Centre to bear the land acquisition cost, provide full funding for the project, and prepare a separate master plan for developing small airports and heliports in the State.

Government committed for holistic development of children: SJE Minister



DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, NOV 17

The three-day 'Children of the State Sports and Cultural Meet'-2025 concluded on Sunday evening with a grand closing ceremony presided over by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. (Col) Dhani Ram Shandil. The Minister appreciated the enthusiasm, talent, confidence, and outstanding performances of the children in various events. He said that the meet truly celebrated the dreams, courage and positive spirit of the children. He reiterated that every child, regardless of family background, deserves equal opportunity and dignity. He

stated that the State Government accords high priority to the protection, education, training and holistic development of children. All child care institutions across the state are being strengthened with robust safety measures and improved facilities in health, education, skill development, sports and cultural activities. These efforts aim to ensure that children become self-reliant, capable and empowered to fulfil their aspirations. Dr. Shandil emphasized that the government's vision is clear, every child should become self-dependent and confident enough to realize their dreams.

BJP now has 1,654 MLAs across India, up from 1,035 in 2014: Suresh Kashyap

SUBHASH MAHAJAN CHAMBA, NOV 17

BJP former state president and MP Suresh Kashyap began his tour of the parliamentary constituency from the Rohru Assembly segment as part of a nationwide padyatra marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Addressing the gathering, Kashyap said the BJP has emerged as the most powerful political organisation in India and across the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that in 2014 the party had 1,035 MLAs across the country, which increased to 1,207 in 2020 and has now reached 1,654 in 2025. According to him, these numbers reflect the party's



continuous rise under the leadership of PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda. He said the Congress, on the other hand, has witnessed a sharp decline. In the recent Bihar Assembly election, the party was reduced to just six seats. He added that the Congress secured only 21 per cent vote share in the 2024

Lok Sabha elections, compared to the BJP's 37 per cent. Kashyap further said that in the 2025 Bihar Assembly polls, the Congress managed to secure only an estimated 8.7 per cent vote share. Kashyap said that real development in the Rohru constituency took place during the government led by former chief minister Jairam

Thakur. He said that CT scan facilities were introduced at Rohru Civil Hospital, the community health centre at Sandasu was upgraded from 20 to 50 beds, a helipad was constructed at Kulgaon, and an additional floor was added to the Chief Minister Lok Bhawan in Samoli. He added that sub-tehsils were announced for Samarkot and Dhamwari, and new trades were introduced at ITI Chirgaon and ITI Dodra Kwar. Speaking on the legacy of Sardar Patel, he said that Patel believed in creating history rather than spending time writing it. He recalled Patel's extraordinary achievement of integrating more than 550 princely states after Independence—a task once considered nearly impossible.

BJP Hamirpur district appoints mandal- and district-level in-charges for upcoming organisational programmes



RAJNEESH SHARMA HAMIRPUR: The Bharatiya Janata Party's Hamirpur district unit has made a series of organisational appointments in view of the programmes and campaigns scheduled to begin in December. The new in-charges have been assigned responsibilities at both mandal and district levels to strengthen coordination and ensure smooth execution of upcoming activities. For mandal-level organisational work, the party has appointed Vipin Agnihotri (district vice president) for Bhoranj mandal, Chaman Lal Thakur (district vice president) for Sameerpur, Vinod Thakur (district spokesperson) for Bamsan, Jagan Katoch (district vice president) for Sujanpur, Surender Minhas (district secretary) for Hamirpur Urban, Hoshier Singh (district office secretary) for Hamirpur Rural, Sanjeev Sharma (district vice president) for Barsar, Rajesh Sehgal (district general secretary) for Dhatwal, Manjeet Thakur (district secretary) for Nadaun and Rajinder Kumar (district secretary) for Galo?.

Journalist is fourth pillar of democracy: DC Jatin Lal



KISHOR ILAL BAINS

UNA: National Press Day was celebrated in Unaorganized by District Public Relation Department Unaat Maya Hotel yesterday. And topic of this program for discussion was "Increasing Misleading News and Credibility of Press". Jatin Lal Deputy Commissioner Una was the Chief Guest of this program. While addressing to the media persons on this occasion JatinLalDC said that credibility of Press should be maintained by avoiding misleading news. He said that journalist is the fourth pillar of the democracy. He said that truth based news should be published by the journalists. Some journalists also delivered their views on this topic. Sachin Sangar DPRO Unaalso described in detail on this topic. JatinLal Deputy Commissioner Unahonoured the media persons by giving shawls and plants on this occasion.

Bobby demands public disclosure of five lakh job promise for unemployed youth

ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR, NOV 17

Harshvardhan Bobby, the youngest leader in Himachal Pradesh to be appointed as the BJP Yuva Morcha Vice President from Ghumarwin constituency, held his first press conference after assuming office. Addressing the media in Bilaspur, Bobby said that every section of society in Himachal Pradesh is disappointed, distressed and frustrated under the present Congress government, which came to power by making false promises. He said the public anger will be clearly visible in the upcoming Panchayati Raj elections. Bobby said there is a huge gap between what the Congress says and what it actually does, and the Sukhu government—"intoxicated by power"—is unable to see



this. He stated that unemployed youth in Himachal Pradesh are wandering in search of jobs, yet the government has failed to fulfil the promise of providing five lakh government jobs to the youth. He demanded that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu make the complete details of these five lakh jobs public. Taking a strong dig at the government, Bobby asked the Congress to clarify how

many unemployed youth have actually been provided government jobs so far. If no jobs have been given, he said, the government must now fulfil its election promise. He also accused the Congress government of being anti-women. Bobby said the current government had promised to deposit Rs. 1,500 per month into the accounts of women after coming to power, but not a single woman has received this amount.

Nutritional support helps TB patients in their treatment: Bairwa

SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA, NOV 17

Under the "TB will lose, Kangra will win" program, Deputy Commissioner Kangra Hemraj Bairwa flagged off a vehicle carrying nutrition kits for TB patients in the Dharamshala development block. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stated that Dharamshala became the first block to launch this campaign and provide nutrition kits with funds from the 15th Finance Commission. Nutrition kits are being provided to TB patients in the Dharamshala development block with the help of 15th Finance Commission grants from the Panchayats. He stated that patients who receive nutritional support are more likely to complete their treatment, leading to better cure rates and lower dropout rates. Therefore, the district is ensuring that nutrition kits are provided to all



TB patients across the district with the help of 15th Finance Commission grants. Additionally, under NRLM, self-help group members are being encouraged to act as Nikshay Mitras for identified TB patients to counsel them to complete treatment without dropouts. These kits contain items such as pulses, soybeans, and fortified foods to ensure patients receive proper nutrition during their long treatment period. He stated that nutrition kits are provided to TB patients to support their recovery by including energy-dense protein-rich foods in their diet, which

strengthens the immune system of TB patients and improves treatment outcomes. The program aims to facilitate the successful treatment of TB patients from poor socioeconomic backgrounds by providing nutrition kits during the 6-month treatment phase. Block Development Officer Abhineet Katyayan said that the kits provided to 27 TB patients include 4 kg whole moong, 5 kg gram dal, 4 kg red lentils, 4 kg green dal, 5 kg wheat flour, 1 kg peanuts, 1 kg soya chunks, 2 litres mustard oil, 6 kg munga rice, skimmed milk and Chyawanprash packs.

Baddi-Sai road to be built at cost of Rs. 8 crore after technical approval

ANWAR HUSSAIN

BADDI: Road improvement works across the Doon Assembly constituency, including the National Highway stretch, are progressing rapidly, MLA Ramkumar Chaudhary said during a press briefing on Friday. He noted that this year's heavy rainfall caused extensive damage across Himachal Pradesh, and as soon as the monsoon ended, restoration of roads in the constituency began at full pace.

Vehicle carrying 10 boxes of illicit liquor seized near Khairi, driver booked

SUBHASH MAHAJAN DALHOUSIE, NOV 17

DSP Dalhousie Mayank Sharma said that ASI Sunil Kumar, Incharge PP Bakloh of Police Station Chowari, along with the police team, was on routine patrol from Tunuhatti to Nainikhad on Sunday evening. Around 5:15 pm, while the police party was checking vehicles at Zero Point, Link Road Khairi, a Winger vehicle (HP01C 1112) coming from the Nainikhad side was signalled to stop. The vehicle was being driven by Anuj Kumar, son of Kishan Chand, resident of village Luthnu, Post Office Bathri, Tehsil Dalhousie, District Chamba. On initial



visual inspection, ASI Sunil Kumar noticed objectionable items inside the vehicle. Acting on suspicion, he conducted a detailed search in the presence of witnesses. During checking, the police recovered 10 boxes of Country Liquor Marka Una No. 1 from the vehicle. The driver failed to produce any valid documents, licence, or

permit for transporting the liquor. Following this, a rukka was prepared against Anuj Kumar and sent to Police Station Chowari for the registration of an FIR. Based on the rukka, a case has been registered under the relevant sections of the Himachal Pradesh Excise Act, and further investigation is underway.

Himachal aims to bring cooperatives to every village with modern technology: Rajesh Dharmani

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR, NOV 17

The district-level celebration of the 72nd was held with great enthusiasm at the 'The Chhat Gram Seva Sahakari Sabha Samiti, Bhedaghat'. The event, organized jointly by the Himachal Pradesh Cooperative Development Union and the District Cooperative Union, highlighted the growing strength and expanding role of cooperative institutions in rural development. Minister of Town and Country Planning, Housing, Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training Rajesh Dharmani graced the function as chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he said that 2025 being observed as the



International Year of Cooperatives presents a valuable opportunity to further strengthen cooperative principles at both national and global levels. Dharmani stated that the Himachal Pradesh government views cooperatives as the backbone of rural progress, and is committed to extending their reach to every village while integrating them with modern digital technologies. He said cooperative societies in the

state are significantly contributing to sectors including agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, dairy, marketing, and financial services—creating new livelihood opportunities for farmers, women, and youth. The theme of this year's celebration, "The Role of Cooperative Societies in Rural Development," underscores the vision of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who considered cooperation vital for rural prosperity.

AXIS BANK

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POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitization, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower 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 on the below-mentioned dates.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

Sr. No.	NAME OF THE BORROWER/ CO-BORROWER	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1.	1. Mr. Ramesh Kumar S/o Alakh Chand, #165, Jandpur, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Kharar, Punjab-140301. Also At: Mr. Ramesh Kumar S/o Alakh Chand, Flat No. 403, Tower-1, 4th Floor, Emerging Heights 3, Situated At Kharar L, Landran Banur Road, Sector-115, Mohali Kharar - 140301.	5- July- 2025	13th- Nov- 2025	Rs. 1,018,453/- (Rs. Ten lacs eighteen thousand four hundred and fifty three Only)
2.	2. Mrs Satwinder Kaur W/o Ramesh Kumar, #165, Jandpur, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Kharar, Punjab- 140301.			

DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the Residential Flat No. J-403, 1BKh, 4th Floor, Emerging Heights 111, Kharar, Landran road, sector 115, Mohali pertaining to khatoni no. 99/120, 347/361, khasra no. 39/2(3-4), 39/3(8-3), 39/8(8-0), 39/9(0-12), 39/12(0-14), 39/13(7-15), 39/18(1-2,4), 39/19(0-9) kitta 8, total rakba total land measuring 30 kanal 18 marla. Boundaries (As per Docu-ments): East: NA, West: NA, North: NA, South: NA.

2.	1. Mrs. Raj Rani W/o Gobind Ram, Address : House No. 2868, Devi Mandi Road, Old Rajpura, Ward No. 6, Rajpura, Patiala, 140401., Also At: Mrs. Raj Rani W/o Gobind Ram, Address : House No. 527-A, Bharat Colony, Ward No. 2, Rajpura, Patiala-140401.	8th- Aug- 2025	13th- Nov- 2025	Rs. 2,124,039/- (Rs. Twenty one lakhs twenty four thousand and thirty nine Only)
	2. Mr Arun Kumar S/o Gobind Ram Address : House No. 2868, Devi Mandi Road, Old Rajpura, Ward No. 6, Rajpura, Patiala-140401.			

DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property Plot No 493 to-gather with all the building and structures thereon measuring 100s sq yd comprised in khatas no 354/109 khasra no 1258 15 as per jamabandi for the year 2006-2007 Hadabst no 78 situated at Tarai Sekhwal Anand pur colony, Tehsil and Distt. Ludhiana. Registered in the name of Mr Tek Chand vide sale deed no 4462 dt 8.12.2010. Boundaries as under: East: Neighbour Side 50'-0", West:Neighbour Side 50'-0", North: Street 20' wide Side 18'-0", South: Neighbour Side 18'-0".

3.	1. S. P. OIL MILL THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR MRS. EKTA SOODEN W/O MR. PUNEET SOODEN, R/O M/S S P MILLS, OPP. UK PALACE, GT ROAD, BULLEPUR, KHANNA, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB-141401.	12th- July- 2025	23th Oct- 2025	Rs. 99,58,680/- (Rs. Ninety nine lacs fifty eight thousand six hundred and eighty only)
	2. MRS. EKTA SOODEN W/O MR. PUNEET SOODEN, R/O M/S S P MILLS, OPP. UK PALACE, GT ROAD, BULLEPUR, KHANNA, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB - 141401, 2nd Address: MRS. EKTA SOODEN W/O MR. PUNEET SOODEN, STREET NO. 2, PEER KHANNA ROAD, KHANNA, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB- 141401.			

DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

(I) All That Piece and Part of Property land Measuring Ok 3-1/2M i.e. 3-1/2/70 Share in Land Measuring 3K 3-10M, Comprised in Khatwat No. 1842, Khatuani No. 2478, Khasra No. 2752 (3-10).

(II) All That Piece and Part of Property land Measuring Ok 5M i.e. 5/158 Share in Land Measuring 7K 1-18M, Comprised in Khatwat No. 1844, Khatuani No. 2480, Khasra No. 2755 (7-18) Kite 1As per Jamabandi for the years 2011-12 Situated in the Village Khanna Hababst No. 223, Tehsil Khanna District Ludhiana Punjab. Transfer Deed No. 2022-23/1071/1750, Dated: 14-09-2022. Registered in the Name of Smt. Ekta Sooden W/o Punit Sooden. Boundries as per Site: East : Satpal 509", West: Hansraj 523", North: Om Parkash 439", South: Street 20 Wide 439".

Date : 15.11.2025
Place: Punjab
Sd/- (Authorized Officer),
Axis Bank Ltd.

SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA: Shahpur MLA and Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania inaugurated the Common Service Center, constructed at a cost of approximately Rs. 7 lakh (approximately Rs. 7 lakh) in Draman, Gram Panchayat Manjhran, on Sunday. He then laid the foundation stone for the Satyamev Yuvak Mandal Bhawan, to be



constructed at a cost of Rs. 3 lakh (approximately Rs. 3 lakh). Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Whip

stated that all demands raised by the Panchayat residents would be met on priority. He informed that guidelines have been issued to the Public Works Department for the construction of a 900-meter-long link road to Narguin. He also appealed to landowners to register gift deeds of their land with the department to expedite the road construction process.

NEWS BRIEF

Partial area of Tabba panchayat proposed to be included in Una MC

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: The state government has issued a notification proposing the expansion of the Una Municipal Corporation by including a partial area of Tabba panchayat. The notification, issued under Section 3(3) of the Himachal Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 1994, proposes the inclusion of patwar circles Dhawalpura Kalan, Mahal Tabba, and a part of Gram Panchayat Tabba within the municipal limits. This information was shared by Mahendra Pal Gurjar, Commissioner of the Una Municipal Corporation. Gurjar said the total proposed area covers 0-40-18 hectares, which includes 30 khasra numbers. These comprise khasra numbers 2597/80 to 2607/80, 2608/81 to 2616/81, and 2617/82 to 2626/82. Objections can be filed within two weeks. The Commissioner said that any person affected by the proposed inclusion may submit objections or suggestions within two weeks from the date of publication of the notification in the e-gazette. Objections must be sent in writing to the Principal Secretary (Urban Development) through the Deputy Commissioner of Una. He added that only objections received within the stipulated timeframe will be considered by the state government. Objections received after the deadline will not be taken into account.

Vikramaditya Singh to visit Chamba on 18-19 November

SUBHASH MAHAJAN
CHAMBA: Public Works and Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh will be on a two-day visit to Chamba district on 18 and 19 November. According to the departmental spokesperson, the minister will arrive in Dalhousie at 7 pm on 18 November, where he will stay overnight at the Circuit House. On 19 November, he will release the Dalhousie Master Plan book at 10 am, after which he will lay the foundation stone of the road connecting Chakra to Sherpur at 11:30 am under the Dalhousie Assembly constituency.

BJP to elect Legislature Party leader in Bihar on Nov 18: Dilip Jaiswal

AGENCY PATNA, NOV 17

After the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) triumph in the Bihar Assembly Elections 2025, Bihar BJP President Dilip Jaiswal on Monday announced that the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) is scheduled to choose its Legislature Party leader on November 18. He emphasised that the work of forming the government will be completed by November 21. "Tomorrow morning at 10 AM, there will be a meeting of the BJP Legislature Party at the BJP's Atal Sabhaghar, and in the meeting of the Legislature Party, the BJP will choose its leader. Our observers from the Centre will also come, and then there will be an NDA meeting, and then the work of government formation will be completed. By the 21st, the work of government formation will be completed," Dilip Jaiswal stated. Earlier on Monday, BJP MP Janardan Singh Sigrwal also affirmed



that the process of government formation has started. Speaking to reporters, Sigrwal said, "The process for the government formation has begun, and the government will soon take form. People have given us a massive mandate, and we have to stand up to their expectations. People have voted on the development plank and trust. People have rejected the SIR issue. On Sunday, Union Minister and HAM(S) founder Jitan Ram Manjhi met Union Minister and BJP

Bihar election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan in Delhi, while ruling out any talks on Cabinet berths, asserting that Nitish Kumar will be the face for the Chief Minister's post. Before the meeting, Manjhi had told ANI, "We will not discuss any ministerial position. I need to discuss certain issues with him. One thing is clear: Nitish Kumar will be the face for the Chief Minister's post." On Cabinet representation, Manjhi added, "We have never pressured ourselves or our party to seek a Cabinet post or department. We have remained patient with whatever responsibilities were given to us. Today, our legislative party meeting convened, and we made it clear that there is no need to request a ministerial position; we will be content with whatever is offered. In our 46 years in politics, we have never demanded any position." Manjhi also spoke about the swearing-in ceremony for the Bihar government, saying, "The ceremony will be held at Gandhi

Maidan. Preparations are underway, but the date will be finalised once Prime Minister Narendra Modi confirms it. On Monday, the Chief Minister will hold the final cabinet meeting, give his vote of thanks, and submit his resignation to the Governor." The Bihar Assembly Elections 2025 were held in two phases, on November 6 and November 11. The counting of the votes was done on November 14, resulting in the NDA's victory in Bihar. The ruling NDA got 202 seats, a three-fourths majority in the 243-member House. This is the second time the NDA has crossed the 200-mark in the assembly polls. In the 2010 polls, it had won 206 seats. Mahagathbandhan got just 35 seats with Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) winning 25 seats, Congress 6, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation) - CPI(ML)(L)-two, Indian Inclusive Party (IIP) - one and Communist Party of India (Marxist) - CPI(M) one seat.

Bulldozers raze smuggler's house, 16 cases registered



KULDEEP SOOD BARNALA, NOV 17

Barnala Police demolished the entire house of a drug smuggler in Dhanaula with a bulldozer in minutes and seconds as part of the 'war against drugs' campaign. On this occasion, District Police Chief Mr. Mohammad Sarfaraz Alam, DSP Barnala Satbir Singh Bains, SHO Lakhbir Singh Dhanaula and a large number of police officers and employees were present. According to the information given to the journalists, this action was taken by the Market Committee because drug smuggler Shiv Soni had illegally occupied the land of the Market

Committee and built his house. The Market Committee issued several notices to Shiv Soni but he did not respond to any of the notices. Talking to reporters on this occasion, SSP Barnala Mr. Mohammad Sarfaraz Alam said that this action is part of the strict action initiated against those accused who are showing off their social status by building luxurious houses by earning money from illegal drug business. According to the information received, a total of 16 cases have been registered against Shiv Soni, who is currently in police custody, out of which 8 are of drug smuggling, 3 of illegal liquor selling, 3 of NDPS Act and two other cases have been registered.

Lala Lajpat Rai remembered for freedom struggle on 97th Martyrdom Day

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA MOGA, NOV 17

The 97th martyrdom day of the great freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai Ji, known as Punjab Kesari, was celebrated with full devotion and respect today at his birthplace village Dhudike, Punjab Tourism, Cultural Affairs, Labor, Hospitality, Rural Development and Panchayats Minister Mr. Tarunpreet Singh Saund attended as the chief guest, while MLA Nihal Singh Wala Mr. Manjit Singh Bilaspur, MLA Dharamkot Mr. Davinderjit Singh Ladi Dhos, Chairman District Planning Board Barinder Kumar Madheke, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Sagar Setia, SSP Mr. Ajay Gandhi specially arrived. On this occasion, former Minister Mrs. Malti Thapar, Vice Chairman of Lala Lajpat Rai



Janam Asthan Memorial Committee Mr. Ranjit Singh Dhanna, Secretary Rajjung Singh, current and former Sarpanch, students and other people were present. Cabinet Minister Mr. Tarunpreet Singh Saund in

his address said that Punjab Kesari Lala Lajpat Rai Ji had a special contribution in starting the freedom struggle. Every Indian is proud of the martyrdom and sacrifices of Lala Lajpat Rai and all the freedom fighters, on whose heads we are breathing in the air of freedom today. He said that while Lala Lajpat Rai Ji was a great freedom fighter, he is also known as the leader of the Swadeshi movement. This historical land is the birthplace of the great martyr Lala Lajpat Rai Ji, our Ghadri Babas were born from this land. When our country was in the chains of slavery, at that time our Ghadri Babas, Lala Lajpat Rai Ji, Shaheed-e-Azam Mr. Bhagat Singh Ji, Mr. Kartar Singh Sarabha Ji, Mr. Many sons of Punjab, including Udharn Singh Ji, risked their lives to give our country freedom.

Carnival Day brings fun, food, and friendship to Cambridge Morinda

RADHE SHYAM SHARMA MORINDA: Cambridge Morinda celebrated Children's Day with smiles, laughter, and a vibrant Carnival Day that filled the entire campus with joy.

The school grounds came alive as young learners enjoyed a fun-packed celebration full of games, activities, music, and delicious treats. Students spent the day exploring colourful stalls, playing exciting games, and winning prizes, creating lasting memories with their friends. The carnival offered a wide range of attractions, including Crazy Ball in a Bucket, Knock Them Down, Feed the Clown, Hoopla, Fortune Wheel, Car Racing, Touch Trap (Iron Rod), Angry Bird Catapult, Coin in the Bucket, and lively music and dance sessions. Each game added its share of giggles, cheers, and friendly competition—everything that makes childhood special. The festivities were made even more delightful with an array of tasty snacks at the food stalls. Children enjoyed sandwiches, muffins, pizza, packed food, and refreshing cold drinks, making the celebration both fun-filled and flavourful. Children's Day serves as a reminder to cherish the innocence, imagination, and curiosity of childhood. At Cambridge, the focus remains on creating joyful and meaningful learning experiences for every child—and the Carnival Day was a beautiful reflection of that commitment. The school extended heartfelt thanks to all teachers and administrative staff whose hard work and enthusiasm made the day truly unforgettable for the children.



Sant Nischal Singh Public School, Yamuna Nagar organises annual fete 'n fair



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: The school successfully organised its Annual Fete 'n Fair on 14 November 2025. The event was honoured by the presence of Shri Shyam Singh Rana, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Haryana, as the Chief Guest. Shri Mandeep Rana, District president, BJP Ambala graced the occasion as Special guest. The programme commenced with a formal welcome, followed by the esteemed Chief Guest's visit to the thematic stalls and creative displays. The cultural lineup featured insightful speeches on Children's Day and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru vibrant classical and regional dance presentations—Goan, Kashmiri, Western, and Bhangra—along with poems and a musical medley. Mementos were presented to the Chief Guest and Special Guests. Dr. Waryam Singh ji, Chairman of the Governing Body, bestowed his blessings on the occasion. The gracious presence of Dr. Rupinder Singh (Secretary), Dr. Ramneet Singh (Trustee Sports), Dr. Leena Khara (Director), and Dr. Mamta Verma (Principal) added dignity and distinction to the event.

Global Peace and Development Summit 2025 concludes in New Delhi

VERMA GURDASPUR, NOV 17

The Global Peace and Development Summit 2025 concluded yesterday with great enthusiasm at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Paschim Vihar, New Delhi. The international conference was jointly organized under the banner of the Asia Africa Development Council, the Council for Sustainable Peace and Development, and Langbustech University, USA. The summit aimed to strengthen global peace, promote sustainable development, and enhance international cooperation among nations.



The event was led by Prof. Ripu Ranjan Sinha, Founder Chairman of the Global Group and Chairman of ADCO, CSPD, WAIMS, Langbustech, and PWBL, who also serves as the Secretary General of the WANI IGGA Foundation in South Sudan. Delegates from India and several other countries participated, engaging in serious discussions on global issues and development challenges. Five distinguished guests were present as chief dignitaries: Amit Sharma, Chairman of Leon Industries India; Surjit Singh, Chairman of Sahjada Foundation India; Adam

Luzidana Buyinza, Founder and Chairman of People Opinions International, Uganda; Prof. Ripu Ranjan Sinha, Founder Chairman of the Global Group; and Pankaj Kumar Sharma, President of the Bhartiya Lokmat Rastrawadi Party, an ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). All the dignitaries shared their views on peace, development, human rights, global partnerships, and the vital role of youth leadership.

"The Gita is not just a scripture, it is the science of life": Madan Mohan Chhabra

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, NOV 17

Preparations for the upcoming Scholarly Gita Symposium, to be held on November 26 as part of the International Gita Mahotsav, gained momentum at the Gita Gyan Sansthan. A key preparatory meeting was convened under the chairmanship of symposium convener Madan Mohan Chhabra, where the roadmap for the programme was thoroughly discussed and finalized.

The meeting witnessed active participation from coordinators, faculty members and volunteers, all committed to ensuring the event's grand success. Speaking on the occasion, Madan Mohan Chhabra said that inspired by Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji



Maharaj, the institute has initiated a significant effort to spread the teachings of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita beyond traditional boundaries. "The Gita is not just a scripture—it is the science of life. Applying its principles according to the needs of each sector is the true pathway to nation-building," he asserted. Highlighting the transformative vision of a Swami Gyananand Ji's 'Jeeo Geeta' (Live Gita)

campaign, Chhabra noted that dedicated Gita versions have now been developed for sectors including education, administration, politics, judiciary, police, military, prison administration, media, and social leadership. "This initiative provides new direction to national development by enabling each field to adopt the wisdom of the Gita in a practical and structured way," he added.

650 students meditate



RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL: Bharat Khurana, Secretary of Art of Living organization, told that meditation meeting was organized by organization in Government School of Barot. Acharya Suraj Bhan told students importance of meditation and yoga. He told how yoga helps us in leading our daily routine in right manner. It is often seen that doing yoga in morning keeps body healthy and the mind fresh. Students also took full advantage of this opportunity. Their enthusiasm was worth seeing. Principal Subhash Chandra and other staff members were also present on this occasion.

'Gen AI Ready Naari' campaign launched to train 50,000 women in artificial intelligence



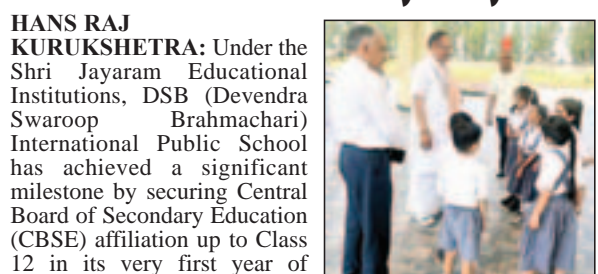
YAGYADUTT SHASTRI PEHOWA: Nimaya Foundation and Naveen Jindal Foundation have jointly launched the "Gen AI Ready Naari" initiative to provide AI training to women, empowering them with future-ready skills. The programme was introduced at Seth Navrang Rai Lohia Jayram Girls College, Lohar Majra, under the skill training drive of the Naveen Jindal Foundation. Navya Naveli Nanda, granddaughter of veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan, attended the event as the chief guest, while Jayram Sansthan chairman Brahm Swaroop Brahmchari presided over the ceremony. MP Naveen Jindal joined as the guest of honour. Addressing the gathering, Navya Naveli Nanda said that women possess the ability to work faster than AI, and only need the right direction to channel their potential. Calling mothers the "best CEOs of the world", she said they naturally train their children in life skills from the very beginning. Unlike AI, she added, women have the emotional intelligence to deeply understand situations and respond with sensitivity. She emphasised that women are no longer confined to sewing or cooking, but are excelling in every sector alongside men.

Gurukul students shine in block-level contests at International Gita Mahotsav 2025



DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA: Students of Gurukul Kurukshetra once again showcased their exceptional talent, winning top honours in various competitions organised by the School Education Department as part of the ongoing International Gita Mahotsav 2025. Their victories not only enhanced the reputation of the Gurukul but also brought pride to their teachers. Upon their return to the campus, the winning students received a grand welcome with garlands from Director Brigadier Dr. Praveen Kumar, Principal Subey Pratap and other faculty members. Sanskrit scholars Satyavrat Arya and Shubham Shastri were also present on the occasion. Director Dr. Praveen Kumar said that the School Education Department has been conducting competitions from school level to state level during the Mahotsav. School-level events were held on November 6 and 7, while block-level competitions were organised on November 17. Gurukul students secured first position in both junior and senior categories of speech, dialogue and quiz competitions.

DSB International Public School receives CBSE affiliation in its very first year



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: Under the Shri Jayaram Educational Institutions, DSB (Devendra Swaroop Brahmachari) International Public School has achieved a significant milestone by securing Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) affiliation up to Class 12 in its very first year of establishment. This marks a new chapter in the journey of providing international-standard education inspired by the ideals of Brahmaleen Devendra Swaroop Brahmachari. Guided by the vision and blessings of Brahmawarop Brahmachari Maharaj, the head of Shri Jayaram Institutions and Chairman of Shri Jayaram Educational Trust, the organisation has been consistently achieving new accomplishments across several states. The establishment of DSB International Public School in Kurukshetra this academic session is one such major achievement. According to Rajesh Singla, Media In-charge of Shri Jayaram Institutions, the early CBSE affiliation reflects the institution's farsighted approach, committed management and the dedication of its experienced faculty. The school aims to deliver international-level education while ensuring the holistic development of students so they excel not only academically but in every aspect of life.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hry enhances dearness allowance for government employees under 5th Pay Commission

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana Government has approved an increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for State Government employees who are drawing their salaries as per the 5th Pay Commission. The revised DA rate has been enhanced from the existing 466% to 474% of basic pay, with effect from 1st July, 2025. An order in this regard has been issued by Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi, who also holds the charge of Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department. The enhanced DA will be included in the salary for the month of November 2025, while arrears for the months July 2025 to October 2025 will be disbursed in December 2025. As per standard financial norms, any Dearness Allowance amount involving fractions of 50 paise or more will be rounded off to the next higher rupee, while fractions below 50 paise will be ignored.

Cooperation among states is essential to realize the vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat': CM

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, NOV 17

The 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council was held on Monday at Surajkund, Faridabad under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister and Chairman, NZC, Sh. Amit Shah. Haryana Chief Minister and Vice-Chairman, NZC, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, Punjab Chief Minister, Sh. Bhagwant Mann, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sh. Sukhinder Singh Sukhu, Rajasthan Chief Minister Sh. Bhajan Lal Sharma, Lt. Governor, Delhi Sh. Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chief Minister, Smt. Rekha Gupta, Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir Sh. Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Sh. Omar Abdullah, Lt. Governor, Ladakh Sh. Kavinder Gupta, Administrator, Chandigarh Sh. Gulab Chand Kataria, Haryana Revenue Minister Sh. Vipul Goel, Cooperation Minister Sh. Arvind Kumar Sharma, along with senior officers from the Member States and Union Territories attended the meeting.

Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini welcomed the Union Home Minister and the dignitaries by presenting shawls and mementos on their arrival.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that sustained cooperation between states is extremely important for the progress of the



nation. By pooling our resources, sharing knowledge, and adopting each other's best practices, we can turn the vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' into reality. Haryana has made several successful efforts in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve of Viksit Bharat @2047.

While discussing key agenda items, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that proper

arrangements must be ensured for supplying each state its rightful share of water. Haryana has consistently been giving Delhi more water than its own share. However, due to the non-construction of the SYL canal, Haryana is not receiving its full share of water from Punjab. Once Haryana receives its rightful share of water through SYL, Rajasthan will also get its due share.

Baba Bu Ali Shah Kalandar worked to unite the community: Jagmohan Anand

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: The annual Urs and feast of Baba Bu Ali Shah Kalandar Maharaj were held today at the Baba Bu Ali Shah Kalandar Maharaj shrine. The Urs celebrations began with a procession. The annual fair, feast, and Qawwali Mehfil-e-Qalandar were held at the Qalandari Gate shrine in Karnal. The procession began this morning. MLA Jagmohan Anand and Mayor Renu Wala Gupta flagged it off. Upon arriving, both sought the blessings of Ramkaran Ji Maharaj. On this occasion, Jagmohan Anand said that Kalandar Sahib was a Sufi saint. He worked to unite society. He said that everyone should draw inspiration from Baba Kalandar Bu Ali Shah. Mayor Renu Wala Gupta, on this occasion, said that people's wishes are fulfilled at the shrine of Kalandar Sahib. Baba Ramkaran Maharaj honored the guests. He added that the Urs of Kalandar Sahib has been taking place since before independence. Before independence, flower processions and fans were carried. The procession, featuring the Lord Ram Temple and Operation Sindoor, was a major attraction. The procession began at Darbar Shri Kalandar Sahib Yad Sarai, Jundla Gate, Karnal, and passed through the city's main thoroughfares, including Baso Gate, Chowda Bazaar, Karna Gate, and Sachdeva Sweets, and will reach Dargah Sharif Kalandari Gate. Baba Ramkaran Ji Maharaj, Ravi Kashyap, Veey Chand Gupta, Taranjit Singh, Rakesh, and Lalit participated in the



procession. Guru Maharaj Shri Ramkaran Ji and the Gaddi-Nasheen Shri Ravi Sai Ji walked with greetings from hundreds of devotees.

In the procession, servants on horses carried fans to be offered in Baba Ji's honor. The procession featured Baba Ji's image on a chariot-carriage, and prominent bands from Karnal city performed alongside. Tableaus depicting Operation Sindoor, Sarvadhama Ekta, and Ram Lalla attracted the crowd. A Chadar Mubarak was presented at the Dargah with great enthusiasm in Baba Ji's honor. A feast was then organized at Ranbir Singh Hooda Park, a designated spot on the Mughal Canal outside the Dargah. At 7 p.m., Qawwali recitals were held at the Dargah Sharif, where Mumbai's renowned Sufi singer Raees Anish Sabri and renowned Sufi singer Farooq Shahrulk Kalandri sang Baba Ji's praises. Devotees from Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya

Pradesh come to this feast to pray for the fulfillment of their wishes. The shrine of Baba Bu Ali Shah Kalandar Sahib has a history of approximately 800 years. This organisation also strives to eradicate the evils prevalent in our society. Hazrat Bu Ali Shah Kalandar Sahib's four shrines are located in Panipat, Karnal, Budha Khera, and Indri.

His main shrine is in Panipat, where the tomb of Bu Ali Shah Kalandar Sahib is located. It is said that when Bu Ali Shah Kalandar came to Budha Khera from Panipat, the Yamuna River flowed nearby. He stood there and prayed to God for 12 years. After 12 years, God asked him what he wanted, and he replied, "I need the power of divine grace." God said, "I had to give it to you once, and I have already given it to you, but I will give you the fragrance of Hazrat Ali Shah." This is why he was named Boo Ali Shah Qalandar. His real name was Sarfuddin.

BJP Kisan Morcha distributes laddoos to celebrate Bihar election victory: Sunil Vats

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA PANIPAT, NOV 17

The BJP Kisan Morcha celebrated the Bihar election results by distributing laddoos at Tau Devi Lal College, Samalkha, where District President Subhash Kuhang chaired a meeting attended by State General Secretary Sunil Vats.

Responding to the opposition's allegations of "vote theft," Vats said the opposition must learn from its defeat in Bihar. He asserted that the BJP does not steal votes but instead works to "remove problems" and ensure that welfare benefits reach the last person in society. This, he added, is the reason people appreciate the party's work and why BJP governments are being elected across states.

Newly appointed District President Subhash Kuhang encouraged farmers to adopt crop diversification, saying it would bring significant benefits to



farmers while also helping conserve water, ensuring that future generations do not face water scarcity. He thanked senior party leaders for entrusting him with the new responsibility.

Newly appointed District General Secretary Balindra Hooda also expressed gratitude to party leaders and affirmed his commitment to work for the party with com-

plete dedication, saying those who work tirelessly for the organisation always progress.

Party workers congratulated Subhash Kuhang and Balindra Hooda on their new roles. The event was attended by State Secretary Dinesh Pujara, Ish Kumar Rana, Jagbir Arya, Kuldeep Jangra, Azad Khalila, Anil Beniwal, Ashok Chauhan, and several other party leaders.

Resolving public issues is my priority, says MLA Yogendra Rana

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, NOV 17

MLA Yogendra Rana held a public grievance hearing at his office in the New Grain Market, Assandh, on Monday, where he listened to the concerns of residents and directed officials to ensure immediate redressal.

Rana said that addressing public issues is his core objective, and meaningful solutions emerge only through open communication. He added that direct dialogue between the people and the government is essential for strengthening democracy.

He emphasized that whether an issue is public or personal, resolving it within a fixed timeframe is true good governance. The present government, he said, continues to work on this path. Officials have already been instructed to ensure timely disposal of



each case, and daily public hearings are being held.

The MLA noted that due to the government's seriousness towards public concerns, people's trust has strengthened, and more citizens are approaching their representatives to share their problems. He assured the public that his doors remain open and that every possible effort will be made to resolve their issues.

Residents of the Assandh constituency shared various grievances during the hearing, and Rana issued on-the-spot

directions to the concerned officials for their resolution. He said that timely redressal of public issues enhances the government's credibility among citizens, and the Haryana government has consistently worked with the same seriousness over the past 10 years — a key reason why it has been given a third opportunity to serve. Rana reiterated that the all-round development of the Assandh constituency is his primary goal, and addressing public grievances will remain his top priority.

Astrologer Swami Dayanand Sabri of Kaithal receives international honour in Delhi

RANVIR PARASHAR

KAITHAL: Renowned astrologer Swami Dayanand Sabri of Kaithal was presented with the "Best Astrologer of India" award and a certificate by Sonu Sood, a popular actor and philanthropist, at the prestigious Precious Banquet Star Achiever Awards Season 17 held in Delhi. The award ceremony was organized to encourage outstanding individuals across the country in various fields. Swami Dayanand Sabri's more than four decades of outstanding service to astrology was particularly recognized. Guests present at the event also praised Swami Dayanand Sabri's simplicity, social service, and dedication to astrology. It is noteworthy that Swami Sabri has previously distinguished himself on numerous national and international platforms. He has also been honored by the President and Prime Minister of India, a testament to his unique knowledge and contributions. Swami Sabri, who has been active in the field of astrology for over 40 years, has guided thousands of people, and his predictions have often proven to be extremely accurate. Given his contributions to society, he is also known as the "Pole Star of the Astrological World." Swami Dayanand Sabri's personal secretary, Ramesh, told the media that Swamiji will soon showcase his scholarship internationally. According to him, Swami Sabri will represent India at the International Astrology Conference to be held in Tokyo, Japan, on May 22, 2026. This conference is considered a major platform for renowned astrologers and researchers from around the world, where experts from various countries will discuss their experiences, research, and astrological theories. Swami Sabri has been invited as a special invited speaker to this prestigious event, which is a matter of pride not only for Kaithal but for the entire country. Ramesh stated that this honor for Swami Sabri is not only a result of his personal contributions, but will also serve as a means of gaining global recognition for the cultural and intellectual heritage of Kaithal district and the state of Haryana. He explained that Swamiji's goal was to bring astrology to the common people through a scientific approach, so that people could understand the true nature of astrology by staying away from superstition.



Programme in Kurukshetra on Nov 25 to mark 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur

RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: Prabhleen Singh, OSD to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, today held a review meeting with administrative officials at the PWD Rest House regarding preparations for the Hind Ki Chadar Yatra, along with the district's Gurdwara Management Committees, on the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Parth Gupta was also present. OSD Prabhleen Singh informed that the state government will organize a grand state-level program in Kurukshetra district on November 25, 2025, to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur, in which lakhs of devotees will participate. DC Parth Gupta provided necessary guidelines to officials for the successful organization of the Nagar Kirtan. He informed that the Nagar Kirtan Yatra will be inaugurated by Honorable Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini from Sadhaura. He directed that no administrative officer or employee should be negligent in their work and should work in coordination with each other to complete their tasks on time. He said that a Nagar Kirtan Yatra will be organized in the district from November 18th to 21st, 2025, to commemorate the martyrdom of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur. Members and officials of all social and religious organizations will participate in this Yatra.



CM Flying cracks down on overloaded vehicles in Hisar and Hansi; 9 challaned, 6 impounded

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA HISAR, 17 NOVEMBER

A CM Flying team conducted an extensive checking drive across Hisar district on Monday, taking strict action against overloaded vehicles and drivers violating traffic regulations. The operation, which lasted from morning until late afternoon, resulted in challans for nine vehicles and the impounding of six overloaded vehicles. A total fine of 2.17 lakh was imposed on the violators.

The drive was carried out under the supervision of CM Flying Hisar Range In-charge Sunaina, accompanied by RTA Traffic Inspector Harminder Singh, ASI Surender and HC Vijay.

Acting on a tip-off that several drivers were operating overloaded vehicles without following norms—and were also evading tax payments and carrying invalid insurance or pollution certificates—the CM Flying team launched a special checking operation at multiple key roads in Hisar and Hansi.

Sunaina said that the team thoroughly examined vehicle documents including registration certificates, driving licences, insurance papers, pollution certificates, tax receipts and even checked the width



and weight of the loaded goods. Nine vehicles were challaned on the spot, attracting penalties worth 2.17,000.

Owners who deposited the fine online at the spot were allowed to proceed, while six vehicles were impounded for non-payment. Among the violations detected were seven cases of overloaded vehicles, one case of air pollution, and one case involving a school/college bus operating without the driver in uniform and without an attendant.

Sunaina emphasised that the government has issued clear instructions against operating overloaded vehicles, noting that such violations are a major cause of accidents and loss of life and property. She said



timely tax payment and carrying valid documents such as pollution certificates, insurance papers, registration certificates and driving licences is mandatory. She also highlighted the strict safety norms for school and college buses, which must be equipped with CCTV cameras, have an attendant on board, ensure drivers wear uniforms, carry first-aid boxes and follow prescribed speed limits. Drivers must also exercise extra caution while boarding or disembarking children and ensure they carry all required documents at all times.

Sunaina said that the CM Flying team will continue to conduct surprise inspections and strict action will be taken wherever traffic rules are violated.

Sports contests organised in Bakali village

RINKU SAINI

LADWA: Under the MP Sports Competition, sporting events were organised today in Bakali village of Gudha Mandal of Ladwa Assembly constituency. Cricket, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Discus Throw, Shot Put, and Pulling Wrist were played. During this, I had the privilege of distributing the prize money sent by MP Naveen Jindal to the winning teams. In this, the first prize was given to the team of Sunaria and the second prize was given to the team of Beed Mangoli in the Kabaddi final match. On this occasion, MP Naveen Jindal's Ladwa in-charge Sainder ji, senior BJP leader Sat Prakash Sharma ji, Ward 11 councillor Sanjeev Kumar (Sanju Cable Wale), Sarpanch of Bakali village Parminder Singh, General Secretary of Gudha Mandal Vijay Gaba, Raju Bakali, Naresh Sharma Bakali, and other BJP workers were present with me.



Students of Pratap Public School bringing Indian cultural heritage to life on stage commendable: Kalyan

KAMAL SHARMA TARAORI, NOVEMBER 17

Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan said that the energy, confidence, and glimpse of Indian culture with which the children of Pratap Public School, Taraori, presented their performances on stage is truly commendable. These little ones are imbued with religious faith and Indian values. The beauty with which they brought our traditions, values, and cultural heritage to life on stage proves that in the future, these children will bring pride not only to their region but to the entire country of India. Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan was addressing the Keshav Katha programme organised as part of the annual festival of Pratap Public School, Taraori.



mementos and said that the excellent values and moral education being imparted to the children by Pratap Public School is an important contribution in building the society. He also congratulated the school management, teachers and parents who are continuously striving to prepare such characterful and cultured children. During the programme, the school's Chair-

man Honey Chaudhary and Director Pithi Chaudhary warmly welcomed the chief guest, Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, and Member of Haryana Staff Selection Commission Kapil Atreja. On this occasion, many dignitaries including School Director Honey Chaudhary, Director Pithi Chaudhary and Principal Vikas Uttareja were present.

350th martyrdom anniversary yatra of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji to enter Karnal on Nov 19

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: The Hind Di Chadar Yatra, dedicated to the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, will enter Karnal district on November 19th and, after a halt until November 23, will depart for Kurukshetra district on November 24. Clean drinking water, ambulances, and a team of doctors will also be provided along the yatra route. This information was provided by SDM Anubhav Mehta. Giving detailed information about the yatra route, the SDM said that the yatra will begin on November 19 from Gurdwara Sahib Israna Panipat Toll Tax, pass through various villages in the Gharanda Assembly constituency, and will stay overnight at Gurdwara Dera Kar Seva Jundla, located in Jundla village in the Assandh Assembly constituency. Similarly, on November 20, the yatra will begin from Jundla and pass through various villages, with an overnight halt at Dera Sahib Bada Gurdwara Assandh in Assandh city. He informed that on November 21, the Yatra will begin from Dera Sahib Bada Gurdwara Assandh and will stay overnight at Gurdwara Rori Sahib Nising. Following this, on November 22, the Yatra will begin from Gurdwara Rori Sahib Nising and travel through various locations in Karnal, including Ramnagar, Premnagar, Hansi Chowk, Khanda Chowk, Rest House Chowk, Ambedkar Chowk, Gandhi Chowk, Kalpana Chawla Medical College, Civil Hospital Chowk, Kunjura Road, and will halt overnight at Kalandari Gate Dera Car Seva. He informed that on November 23, the Yatra will begin from Kalandari Gate Dera Car Seva, passing through various locations and Gurdwaras in Karnal city, and will halt overnight at Gurdwara Sheeshganj Nauvin Patshahi Tarawadi.

To promote natural farming, 2 markets will be opened in Gurgaon and Hisar: Shyam Singh Rana

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, NOVEMBER 17

The government is working seriously to promote natural farming. Because growing organic grains will improve everyone's health. To ensure farmers face no difficulties in selling their organic crops, the government will open two markets in Gurgaon and Hisar. Farmers will be able to sell their organic crops, significantly increasing their income. Shyam Singh Rana, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, made these remarks during his visit to Maharana Pratap Horticulture University on Monday. Upon arrival at MHU, Vice Chancellor Prof. Suresh Malhotra welcomed the Agriculture Minister with a bouquet of flowers. The Agriculture Minister said that farmers mostly cultivate wheat and paddy, which require a high use of fertilisers and pesticides. This is what causes serious diseases. The government

them to embrace natural farming. Furthermore, two markets are being established to ensure farmers face no difficulties in selling their organic produce. He stated that crops grown without fertilizers and pesticides are considered natural farming. Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Suresh Malhotra provided the Agriculture Minister with detailed information about MHU's academic, research, and promotional activities. The Agriculture Minister was informed that the construction of the main campus was progressing rapidly. The Minister asked Vice Chancellor Prof. Suresh when the construction would be completed. Vice Chancellor Prof. Suresh stated that the construction work would be completed by 2026.



wants farmers to cultivate coarse grains, which will improve their health and increase their income. To promote natural farming, the government is providing substantial subsidies to farmers, encouraging

ing rapidly. The Minister asked Vice Chancellor Prof. Suresh when the construction would be completed. Vice Chancellor Prof. Suresh stated that the construction work would be completed by 2026.

EDITORIAL

Self-employment

Self-employment has emerged as the strongest engine of India's job growth over the past six years, according to HDFC Bank's Employment Trends in India report. The study showed that self-employment (farm + non-farm) surged from 239 million in FY18 to 358 million in FY24, marking what the report describes as a "healthy CAGR of 7.0 per cent." This surge makes self-employment the fastest-growing category across India's labour market, outpacing the growth of salaried work and casual labour. Salaried or regular wage jobs increased only marginally, from 105 million in FY18 to 119 million in FY24, growing at a more subdued "CAGR: 4.1 per cent", while casual labour stagnated, inching up from 114 million to 122 million at a "CAGR: 1.1 per cent" during the same period. This rapid expansion in self-employment occurred alongside a broader rise in labour market participation. The report highlighted that the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for the working-age population (15-59 years) increased from 53 per cent in FY18 to 64.3 per cent in FY24, and that "women's participation has increased and stands at 31.7 per cent as of FY24", while male LFPR stands at 58.2 per cent. The report noted that, between FY18 and FY24, total employment increased by 155 million, and a notable share of this surge was driven by women. The report stated, "the increase in employment of 155 mn people was driven by higher female workers," with female employment rising by 103 million, nearly double the addition of male workers at 52 million. This suggests that more women and youth have been entering the labour force, many of whom may be turning toward self-employment due to limited availability of wage-based jobs. The report noted that, with the self-employed now accounting for well over half of India's total employed population, this expanding segment has become central to the country's employment landscape. It adds, a significant backdrop to rising self-employment is India's shifting sectoral employment landscape. As of FY24, 614 million people were employed in India, with the non-farm sector accounting for 54 per cent and agriculture 46 per cent of total employment. But, despite the rise of non-farm opportunities, agriculture continued to add employment, primarily through female workers. In the farm sector, the increase was "driven by higher female employment (+74 million) while male employment increased marginally (+5 million)." At the same time, non-farm job creation was led by services, construction, and manufacturing. Services alone added 41 million jobs between FY18 and FY24, construction added 20 million, and manufacturing added 15 million. Within services, the largest contributors to employment were wholesale and retail trade, transport, education, hotels and restaurants, and communication-related activities. Wholesale and retail trade alone accounted for "nearly 40 per cent of total increase in trade and services employment" and over one-fifth of non-farm job creation. Manufacturing employment grew to 70 million, led by textiles, food and beverages, metals, furniture, and tobacco.



Ms. Jyoti Vij

A simplified, inclusive, and progressive framework to benefit employers, workers, gig economy participants, women employees, and society at large

India stands at the cusp of a historic transformation in its economic and labour landscape. The consolidation of over 29 central labour laws into four comprehensive Labour Codes is not just a legislative exercise—it is a step towards building a labour ecosystem that is modern, inclusive, and responsive to the realities of a rapidly changing economy. Labour reform has long been a pressing demand by the industry. With global supply

chains integrating, technology disrupting industries, and new forms of employment emerging, India needs a framework that could both support business competitiveness and protect the rights and dignity of workers. The four Labour Codes—on Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions—seek to do precisely that by providing a unified and simplified system that reduces ambiguity and ensures greater equity.

BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS

For enterprises, particularly in a competitive global environment, the Labour Codes offer much-needed simplification. Multiple compliances and overlapping definitions have been replaced with a clear and unified system. Digital filing, uniform wage definitions, and streamlined licensing processes reduce the compliance burden and bring transparency.

The reforms are especially significant for India's MSMEs and start-ups. By reducing compliance complexity and enabling single-window clearances, the Codes empower smaller businesses to scale up quickly and participate more effectively in domestic and global markets. Importantly, provisions for fixed-term employment and modern dispute resolution provide businesses with the flexibility to grow and adapt without being hindered by procedural delays.

Equally significant is the

decriminalisation of minor offences, which substitutes imprisonment with monetary fines for specific procedural infractions. This represents a progressive initiative to a more trust-based compliance environment, diminishes unnecessary litigation, and promotes a culture of self-regulation and collaboration between employers and regulators.

BENEFITS FOR WORKERS

For workers, the Codes reinforce the principle of fairness. The Code on Wages ensures universal minimum wages and timely payment of salaries, eliminating the possibility of arbitrary or delayed payments. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code strengthens workplace safety, mandates welfare facilities, and introduces periodic health check-ups. Social security benefits—including provident fund, gratuity, maternity leave, and insurance—are extended to a wider base of workers, bringing financial security to millions who were previously excluded. Interstate migrant workers, often invisible in regulatory frameworks, now find recognition and protection within the Codes. These provisions strengthen the social contract between employers and employees, upholding the dignity of work.

BENEFITS FOR GIG AND PLATFORM WORKERS

Perhaps the most forward-looking provision is the formal recognition of gig and platform workers and aggregators. With nearly 8 million Indians engaged in the

gig economy—a number expected to grow significantly in the coming decade—the Labour Codes provide a foundation for inclusive growth. The Code on Social Security provides protection through schemes that cover health, maternity, insurance, and old-age benefits. This is a landmark step that bridges the gap between traditional and new forms of work, ensuring that as technology reshapes the future of jobs, workers in emerging sectors are not left behind.

BENEFITS FOR WOMEN EMPLOYEES

The Codes are also a step forward in advancing gender equity in the workplace. They reaffirm the principle of equal pay for equal work, strengthen maternity benefits, and make provisions for crèche facilities. By easing restrictions on women's working hours—with necessary safeguards for safety and dignity—the Codes create opportunities for women to participate in sectors and shifts that were traditionally inaccessible. Providing the opportunity to work in high-paying job roles like mine work, operating heavy machinery, etc., also protects women from discrimination. At a time when India's female labour force participation is below global averages, such reforms are crucial to enabling women to contribute more fully to economic growth.

BENEFITS FOR OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Beyond employers and employees, the Labour Codes also bring benefits to MSMEs

and start-ups by simplifying compliance and enabling growth, while giving government agencies a modern framework for transparent implementation. For investors, a predictable and business-friendly labour regime enhances confidence in India's growth story. Trade unions gain clarity in recognition and negotiation processes, strengthening the framework for social dialogue. Ultimately, society as a whole benefits when work becomes safer, fairer, and more inclusive.

A SHARED JOURNEY AHEAD

The Labour Codes are not the end of the journey but the beginning of a new chapter. Their success will depend on smooth implementation, coordination across states, and active participation by all stakeholders. India is entering a critical decade where it must harness its demographic dividend and prepare for a future of work shaped by technology, globalisation, and sustainability imperatives. The Labour Codes provide the legal foundation for this transition—offering enterprises flexibility, workers' security, and social equity. If implemented in letter and spirit, the Labour Codes can strengthen India's position as a global economic powerhouse while ensuring that growth is inclusive, sustainable, and future-ready.

The author is the Director General, FICCI

One Piece becomes resistance symbol in Mexico clashes as GenZ protests



secretary also said 20 people were arrested and another 20 "referred for administrative offences," as per Al Jazeera. The flag comes from the wildly popular 1997 Japanese manga One Piece by Eiichiro Oda, which tells the swashbuckling story of the charming pirate captain Monkey D Luffy and his misfit "Straw Hat" crew. Together, they set sail under a Jolly Roger flag that wears Luffy's quintessential straw hat and his trademark beaming smile, as per CNN. To One Piece fans, the flag symbolizes Luffy's quest to chase his dreams, liberate oppressed people, and fight the autocratic World Government. He's fearless and determined - with a few tricks up his sleeve to thwart opponents, including the enviable ability to evade capture with a rubber body that stretches, bounces and bends. But in the real world, the One Piece flag that adorns Luffy's ship has transcended borders and languages to become a rallying cry and symbol for youth-led protest movements, CNN reported. In Asia, the flag gained popularity as a tool of political expression and defiance during protests in Indonesia, the Philippines and Nepal, and has also popped up on the streets of Paris, as per CNN.

As Mexico protestors are determined to rattle the government, they hung a manga flag showing a skull wearing a straw hat. The juxtaposition of the cartoon flag with the protests may have seemed bizarre, but for the Gen Z protestors who filled the streets of Mexico, the gesture was packed with meaning. Characters and symbols from popular culture are often adopted by protestors to convey a shared cause or value system, as the pirate skull flag became a symbol of GenZ protests across the world, Al Jazeera reported. In Mexico City, a small

group of hooded protestors tore down fences around the National Palace where President Claudia Sheinbaum lives, prompting a clash with riot police who deployed tear gas, according to Al Jazeera. Demonstrations in Mexico were organised by the GenZ against growing crime, corruption and impunity. Mexico City's public safety secretary, Pablo Vazquez, said in a news conference that 100 police officers were injured, including 40 who required hospital treatment. Another 20 civilians were also injured, Vazquez told local media outlet Milenio. The public safety

UK announces drastic reduction in protection for asylum seekers

The United Kingdom announced a drastic reduction in the protections for asylum seekers and refugees under a new plan aimed at slashing irregular immigration and countering the far right, as per Al Jazeera. The measures, modelled on Denmark's strict asylum system, were announced late on Saturday (local



time) as Prime Minister Keir Starmer comes under pressure from surging popularity for the anti-immigrant Reform UK party. "I'll end UK's golden ticket for asylum seekers," Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood declared in a statement, with the Home Office, as her ministry is known, calling the new proposals the "largest overhaul of asylum policy in modern times," Al Jazeera reported. Mahmood is due to lay out the policy in parliament on Monday. Meanwhile, the head of the UK's Refugee Council warned the government that the measures would not deter people from trying to reach the

country and urged a rethink. "They should ensure that refugees who work hard and contribute to Britain can build secure, settled lives and give back to their communities," Enver Solomon said, Al Jazeera quoted.

Currently, people get refugee status for five years, after which they can apply for indefinite leave to remain and eventually, citizenship. Mahmood's ministry says it would cut the length of refugee status to 30 months. That protection will be "regularly reviewed", and refugees will be forced to return to their home countries once they are deemed safe, it added. The ministry also said it intended to make those refugees who were granted asylum wait 20 years before applying to be allowed to live in the UK long-term. Asylum claims in Britain are at a record high. Polls suggest immigration has overtaken the economy as voters' top

concern. Some 109,343 people claimed asylum in the UK in the year ending March 2025, a 17 per cent rise on the previous year and 6 per cent above the 2002 peak of 103,081, as per Al Jazeera. The Home Office said the reforms would make it less attractive for irregular migrants and refugees to come to the UK and make it easier to remove those already in the country. A statutory legal duty to provide support to asylum seekers, introduced in a 2005 law, would also be revoked, the ministry said. That means housing and weekly financial allowances would no longer be guaranteed for asylum seekers.

POEMS

Mira's Over It

Translated from the Braj Bhasha

Just let him go! Honey, who calls a yogi her own?

He's always indifferent to me, sister, he makes no sense.

Girl, you can't own a yogi. Walk away.

He appeases with sweet talk, but he won't tie the knot.

Give up! You can't lock down a yogi, dear.

Should I stay or move on?

He's left me neither here nor there.

Whose is a yogi, sweetie?

Set him free.

Mira's lord is Syam,

the dark one, the heart-thief,
the adored, the lover, the friend.

By Mirabai

International Ayurveda Conference marks 40 years of Ayurveda in Brazil

The 3rd International Ayurveda Conference was jointly organized by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) and Conayur, Sao Paulo, Brazil, from November 14-15, 2025. The two-day event, held under the aegis of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), commemorated 40 years of Ayurveda in Brazil and brought together experts, practitioners, scholars, and students from across Latin America and India.

The deliberations centered on the theme "Diversity and Inclusion in Ayurveda: Caring for Everybody and Every Being", an official statement from the Ministry of AYUSH said. As per the statement, the conference was inaugurated by Ambassador of India to Brazil, Dinesh Bhatia, who highlighted the growing collaboration between India and Brazil in

traditional systems of healthcare. He observed that Ayurveda's global relevance is being reinforced through advancing scientific research and international collaboration, which will further find expression at the forthcoming WHO-Ministry of Ayush Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, to be held in New Delhi from December 17-19. The Ambassador acknowledged Brazil's pioneering contribution as the first South American country to officially recognize Ayurveda and referred to the recent visit of Brazil's Vice President, Geraldo Alckmin, to the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, as a landmark in strengthening bilateral cooperation. Commending SVCC for its continued dedication to promoting Ayurveda and Indian culture,



the Ambassador conveyed appreciation to the Ministry of Ayush for supporting such initiatives. Delivering the keynote address, Secretary,

Ministry of Ayush, Dr. (Vaidya) Rajesh Kotecha, emphasized that Ayurveda embodies inclusivity, compassion, and the holistic equilibrium of

body, mind, and environment. He highlighted the strong India-Brazil partnership in traditional medicine, reinforced through a

Memorandum of Understanding between the respective Ministries of Health and through institutional collaborations involving the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, and Brazilian universities, the statement highlighted. Dr. Kotecha lauded the teachers, researchers, and practitioners who have advanced Ayurveda in Brazil over the past four decades. On behalf of the Union Minister of Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, he reiterated India's commitment, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to deepen cooperation between the two nations in advancing evidence-based traditional medicine.

In her remarks, Dr. Jyoti Kiran Shukla, Director of SVCC, emphasized the shared

heritage of wellness traditions between India and Brazil and the role of SVCC and ICCR in promoting cultural and academic collaboration in Ayurveda. The conference featured thematic lectures, plenary sessions, and a general assembly focusing on critical issues including ancestral knowledge, diversity and inclusion in Ayurveda, and the professional regulation of Ayurveda in Brazil. Organizers announced that Ayurveda has now been included in the Brazilian Classification of Occupations, marking a historic recognition for the system, the statement said. The Consul General of India in Sao Paulo, Shri Hansraj Singh Verma underscored the importance of India-Brazil cooperation in advancing natural and preventive healthcare solutions.

CHAMANLAL KARNAL: The annual Urs and bhandara of Baba Bu Ali Shah Kalandar Maharaj was held today at the sacred Dargah of Baba Bu Ali Shah Kalandar in Karnal. The celebrations began with a grand shobha yatra (procession). The annual fair, community feast, and



Mahfil-e-Qawwali "Shaan-e-Kalandar" were organized at Kalandari Gate, Karnal. The morning procession was flagged off by MLA Jagmohan Anand and Mayor Renu Bala Gupta. Upon reaching the Dargah, both dignitaries received blessings from Ramkaran Ji Maharaj. Speaking on

the occasion, MLA Jagmohan Anand said that Kalandar Sahib was a revered Sufi saint who worked tirelessly to unite society. "Everyone should take inspiration from Baba Kalandar Bu Ali Shah," he said. Mayor Renu Bala Gupta said that people's wishes are fulfilled at the Dargah of Kalandar Sahib.

CHANDIGARH
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NEWS BRIEF

PAU signs MoU with Ruchira Papers Limited to promote agroforestry



SHASHI PAL JAIN LUDHIANA: In a significant step toward strengthening industry-academia collaboration and promoting sustainable raw-material security, Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana and Ruchira Papers Limited today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly undertake research, development and large-scale deployment of improved commercial eucalyptus clones and other fast-growing tree species. The Ruchira Papers Limited will fund a research project, submitted by the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources in collaboration with the scientists from the Department of Soil Science, for the development of clones and to evaluate the suitability of treated wastewater from paper mill for agroforestry plantations and its impact on soil and groundwater quality. The MoU was formally signed by Dr Armer Singh Dharti, Director of Research, representing the University, and Mr Shalabh Bhardwaj, Assistant General Manager, on behalf of the paper mill in the presence of senior officials, scientists and representatives from both organizations.

Dengue outbreak continues; rising cases and deaths create panic in Sardulgarh

KULWINDER KARWAL SARDULGARH, NOV 17



Cases of dengue and viral fever continue to rise in the City, showing no signs of decline despite a drop in temperature. According to local residents, multiple members in several households are suffering from fever, with many being admitted to major hospitals in Sirsa, Ludhiana, and other nearby cities. Public fear intensified after the death of a 30-32-year-old woman due to dengue on Sunday. Another death reported the same evening further increased anxiety across the city. Continuous fatalities have left residents deeply worried, creating an atmosphere of tension and concern. Residents allege that the local government hospital lacks dedicated facilities for dengue and chikungunya treatment. Poor sanitation in the town has also become a major issue, with citizens blaming it as one of the main reasons for the spread of dengue and viral infections. A severe shortage of specialist doctors, including a medicine specialist, at the Sardulgarh Civil Hospital is adding to the challenges.

As a result, residents are being forced to seek treatment in distant cities like Sirsa and Ludhiana, where hospitals are already overcrowded and patients face long waiting hours. Citizens also expressed disappointment with the government and administration, alleging negligence towards the situation. They questioned when effective measures, improved sanitation, and better healthcare facilities would finally be ensured. Speaking to our correspondent, senior doctor Ved Prakash Sandhu stated that hospital staff are conducting daily door-to-door inspections to check for dengue larvae and are raising awareness about preventive measures. He said that a meeting was held today

JE sacked for using substandard material in road project; SDO served notice

KULWINDER KARWAL

MANSA: The Punjab Government has terminated the services of a Junior Engineer (JE) of the Mandi Board, Mansa, after an inquiry revealed the use of substandard material in a newly constructed road. The action was taken following an investigation by the Chief Minister's Flag Squad team. Residents of Makha Chehlan had lodged a complaint with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, alleging poor-quality construction on the Makha Chehlan-Ralla-Joga road. Acting on the complaint, the Chief Minister directed his Flag Squad team to inspect the site. The inspection reportedly confirmed the use of inferior material, prompting the government to dismiss JE Gurpreet Singh from service. The government has also issued a notice to Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Chamkaur Singh, placing all projects under his supervision on hold until further orders. The road, constructed at a cost of several lakh rupees, had shown signs of damage soon after completion. Villagers claimed the surface was so weak it could be scraped off by hand. Taking serious note of the matter, the government initiated swift disciplinary action against the officials concerned.



with all laboratory technicians, hospital staff, the Nagar Panchayat president, and social organizations. During the meeting, it was directed that any information related to dengue cases should immediately be reported to the hospital administration. Dr. Sandhu further informed that, so far, 1,651 fever-related cases have been

reported in the Sardulgarh block, out of which 12 have tested positive for dengue, and 2 for chikungunya. In October, 17 challans were issued where dengue larvae were found. When questioned about the number of dengue-related deaths this season, he said that the hospital does not have any such official record.

CM Dhama pays tribute to VHP leader Ashok Singhal on his death anniversary

AGENCY DEHRADUN, NOV 17



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on Monday morning paid homage to Ashok Singhal, former president of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), on his death anniversary, remembering his contributions to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi movement and the promotion of Sanatan Dharma. In a post on X, Dhama wrote, "On the death anniversary of the revered Ashok Singhal Ji, former president of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, who gave a new direction to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi movement, countless salutations." "Your penance, sacrifice, and unwavering faith in Sanatan Dharma have worked to instill a new consciousness in Indian society. Your life was dedicated, like that of an ascetic, to protecting the Sanatan tradition and strengthening the cultural foundation of the nation," CM Dhama further wrote.

making anti-Muslim statements. Singhal served as the international president of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), connected to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), for over 20 years. The VHP is a close ally of Prime Minister Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Ashok Singhal was a key leader in the effort to build a temple at a disputed religious site in Ayodhya. He was known for

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the Chief Minister engaged with expatriate Uttarakhandi advocates at Uttarakhand Sadan in New Delhi on the occasion of Uttarakhand's Silver Jubilee, highlighting the state's achievements in law enforcement, economic development, tourism, and youth empowerment while seeking inputs for the next 25 years of growth.

General parade held at District Police Lines Jagadhri



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: A police spokesperson informed that a general parade was held at District Police Lines Jagadhri today where Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal and Additional SP Amrinder Singh inspected parade. It began with a salute to SP. He closely inspected parade and thoroughly evaluated uniforms, discipline, drill and preparedness of police officers and personnel participating in the parade. Following the inspection, SP emphasized importance of maintaining physical and mental fitness for all police personnel, stating that fitness, discipline, and vigilance are foundation of a police force's capability. He conducted an on-the-spot parade and practice running, encouraging the police to prioritize fitness alongside their daily duties. Superintendent of Police emphasized that in today's world, with increasing police workload, technological challenges and responsibility of ensuring public safety, it is crucial to remain fit so that police personnel can respond promptly in every situation. He also conducted a drill to strengthen uniformity and discipline during parade and instructed all police officers to continuously improve their turnout, punctuality, and professionalism.

MP Sports Festival becomes national campaign to connect youth with sports: Subhash Kalsana



GOLDY CHUGH

SHAHABAD: Hockey competitions under the MP Sports Festival began at Markandeshwar Hockey Stadium in an atmosphere filled with sportsmanship and enthusiasm. BJP leader Subhash Kalsana inaugurated the hockey matches in morning session and Councilor Ishu Sachdeva introduced the players in afternoon session. Subhash Kalsana credited MP Naveen Jindal for initiating the festival, saying that he, along with his political career, has been working tirelessly to promote sports and protect the interests of athletes. He added that MP Naveen Jindal is providing all possible support to financially challenged but talented athletes, ensuring that no child, despite their abilities, is deprived of opportunities. He added that the MP Sports Festival is not just a competition, but has become a national campaign to connect youth with sports. He said that sports are not only important for health but also develop qualities like discipline, teamwork and leadership skills. Councilor Isha Sachdeva said that MP Naveen Jindal himself has been a player, hence he understands feelings, challenges and needs of the players very well.

Nadda's wife pays obeisance at Saraswati temple



YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI

PEHOWA: Dr. Mallika Nadda, wife of BJP National President JP Nadda, arrived in Pehowa unexpectedly on Sunday evening. She paid obeisance at historic Saraswati Temple. Temple priest, Pandit Sanjay Sharma, performed ritualistic worship for her. Earlier, upon her arrival, she was welcomed by Municipal Council President Ashish Chakrapani, social worker Krishna Avtaar Nikku Ambaliya, Kuldeep Chhatrivala, Satish Kithania, Hanu Chakrapani, Rakesh Dixit, DC Tiwari, Richik Kaushik, and BJP workers. Dr. Mallika Nadda accepted the workers' greetings with folded hands. The temple priest, Pandit Sanjay Sharma, presented her with a Mata Chunari and offered her Prasad. Former Kalka MLA Latika Sharma was also present with her. After paying obeisance at the Saraswati Temple, Dr. Mallika Nadda and former MLA Latika Sharma also visited the sixth Patshahi Gurdwara Sahib at Saraswati Tirtha. They also paid obeisance and offered prayers there.

GM, Northern Railway inspects Srinagar- Baramulla rail section



BUREAU

SRINAGAR: General Manager, Northern Railway, Ashok Kumar Verma, on Monday, conducted an extensive inspection of the Srinagar-Baramulla rail section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu, Shri Vivek Kumar and other senior divisional officials were present during the inspection. The primary purpose of the inspection was to assess the progress of ongoing works and passenger amenities. During the inspection, the General Manager reviewed various aspects related to passenger safety, train operations, and infrastructure development. He particularly emphasized maintaining safety protocols and quality of work on this important national project. The inspection included inspection of almost all railway stations within the approximately 60-kilometer stretch from Srinagar to Baramulla. He also analyzed all passenger amenities available at the station. During the inspection, he also inspected the goods shed at Anantnag Railway Station in the Kashmir Valley. The Anantnag Goods Terminal is a key point in the rail freight network in the Kashmir Valley. During his inspection, the General Manager directed project officials to closely monitor all work and meet set targets within the stipulated timeframe.

ICFAI University launches Grand Prospectus 2026; AYUSH Ministry and Skill Development Corporation praise institutional initiatives



SHANTI GAUTAM

BADDI: ICFAI University unveiled its Grand Prospectus 2026 on Monday at the university's Kalujhinda campus. Sharing the information, Cluster Head Naresh Kumar, B.M. Priyanka Sharma and Swati said that the launch ceremony was graced by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Keshav Sharma and All-India Vice President Srikanth Pathari as chief guests. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Keshav Sharma said that under the ICFAI Group, a network of 11 universities, 9 B-schools, 7 technical schools, 9 law schools and 3 pharmacy schools is functioning across the country. He informed that the National Education Policy 2025 has also been implemented in the university with an A+ grade.

Assailants open fire near Banga bus stand, five injured



MANJINDER SINGH

BANGA: In a shocking incident today, unidentified assailants opened indiscriminate fire near the Banga bus stand in broad daylight, spreading panic in the area. During the firing, five persons were seriously injured. The victims were travelling in a Scorpio vehicle (registration number PB12 AB 4627). The injured have been identified as: Mandeep Singh, resident of Kariam Soojal, resident of Bhronjwara Rimple, resident of Poonia Harpreet Singh, resident of Khankhana Sahil, son of Sukhveer Singh, resident of Banga. All the injured were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors, observing their critical condition, referred them to DMC Ludhiana for further treatment. According to information gathered from the spot, the firing incident occurred just a few metres away from the bus stand during the afternoon. Shockingly, the entire episode unfolded barely 200 metres from the Banga City Police Station.

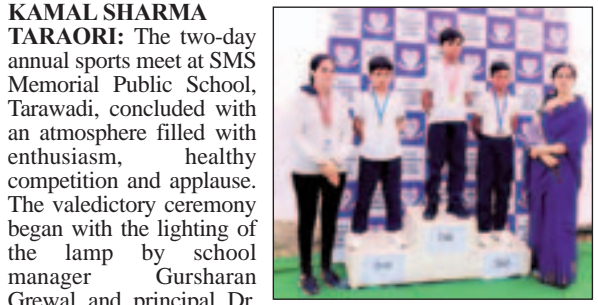
Educational tour group of Panchayati Raj representatives departs for Uttarakhand



MAINPAL KASHYAP

INDRI: As directed by Haryana government, 5-day educational tour group of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj institutions departed from Indri for Uttarakhand today. Village Secretary Naveen Sain stated that group of representatives from Indri region will visit various religious, tourist and development model sites, including Tehri, Dob Nagar, and Rani Pokhari. He explained that government has organized this tour to familiarize representatives with development work and successful schemes of other states. Group, which departed today morning, includes more than a dozen elected representatives. Naveen Sain stated that such tours help public representatives implement better schemes at the Panchayat level. All members of group are excited and hope to gain valuable experience from this study tour. All Sarpanch representatives were present with him on occasion.

Two-day sports meet concludes at SMS Memorial Public School, winners felicitated



KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: The two-day annual sports meet at SMS Memorial Public School, Tarawadi, concluded with an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm, healthy competition and applause. The valedictory ceremony began with the lighting of the lamp by school manager Gursharan Grewal and principal Dr. Vibha Kaushik. A wide range of track and field events was organised for students of various classes, giving them a platform to showcase their skills, agility and sporting spirit. Students participated in the 100m, 200m and 400m races, long jump, high jump, shot put, three-legged race, relay race, as well as volleyball and badminton matches. The playground resonated with energy and excitement throughout the competitions. The Nilgiri House emerged victorious in badminton, while students delivered commendable performances in volleyball and various track events, adding valuable points to their respective houses.

Athletic meet and prize distribution ceremony held at Ganpati Convent Smart School on Children's Day



PREETI SAINI

SADHAURA: A colorful athletic meet and prize distribution ceremony was organized at Ganpati Convent Smart School, Sadhaura on occasion of Children's Day today. Event was inaugurated by the school's Principal, Ravneet Kaur with march past and sports pledge. Under Children's Day theme of "Play, Learn and Smile," various sports competitions were held including 100, 200, 300, and 400 meter races, long jump, tug-of-war, three-legged race, bag race, and javelin throw. Students participated with enthusiasm, zeal and discipline, captivating everyone. Highlight of event was prize distribution ceremony where Principal Ravneet Kaur presented medals, certificates and trophies to winning students. He said, "Sports are an important part of children's all-round development. Such competitions foster self-confidence, leadership skills and team spirit." Sam House performed exceptionally well in this year's athletic meet, winning title of winning house.

Global industrial training to open for KU Media students: VC

DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA, NOV 17



An MoU was signed today in the Committee Room between the Institute of Mass Communication & Media Technology, Kurukshetra University, and the Offset Printers Association, Punjab. Presiding over the event, Kurukshetra University Vice Chancellor Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva said that signing MoUs with industrial units is a step towards accelerating the objectives of the National Education Policy. Through this MoU, university students will receive industrial training in associated units, which will enhance their practical knowledge. Prof. Sachdeva added that this MoU will not only help students secure employment

but will also support those who wish to start their own ventures in the printing and packaging sector. The MoU was formally signed by University Registrar Lt. Dr. Virender Pal on behalf of Kurukshetra University, and by General Secretary Prof. Kamal Chopra on behalf of the Offset Printers Association. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Kamal Chopra said that all industrial units under the association will remain open for the students of Kurukshetra University's Printing and Packaging programmes. He assured full support in providing jobs and industrial training. Prof. Chopra also informed that their association, in collaboration with the Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication, has been signing MoUs with various printing institutes across India. He proposed similar collaboration between Kurukshetra University's Printing, Graphics, and Packaging departments and the Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication, China.

Guru Nanak School, Doraha student selected for state-level hockey tournament

AMRISH ANAND
DORAHA: Taranjeet Singh Gill, a Class XII (Medical) student of Guru Nanak Model Senior Secondary School, Doraha, has been selected to participate in the State-Level Hockey Tournament. This tournament is scheduled to be held from November 17 to November 20, 2025, at Faridkot. Taranjeet Singh Gill has brought laurels to the school through his remarkable achievements in hockey. He showcased his exceptional talent by participating in the district-level hockey tournament held at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana in 2023, and again in 2025 at Government Senior Secondary School, Ghawaddi. On this occasion, the President of Guru Nanak Management Board, S. Harpratap Singh Brar, congratulated Taranjeet Singh Gill on his selection and stated that this achievement has elevated the pride of the entire school.



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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(14) 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
HEENA KUKREJA, YOGESH KUMAR GUARANTOR: SUNIL KUMAR SHARMA (A/C NO.) 331218803172711	6 SEP 25 Rs. 3562301/- 4 SEP 25	PLOT NO 48, KHASARA NO-1445, WARD NO 06, SITARPUR BRHU VIHAR COLONY, GRAM- JAMALPUR, NAGAR NIGAM- HARIYWAR, DISTRICT HARIYWAR, UK 249407 ADMEASURING 55.76 SQ.MTR/ COVERED AREA-65.05 SQ.MTR	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 14 NOV 25

Place: UTTARAKHAND Date: 18-11-2025 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

NEWS BRIEF

'Direct to Biplane Neuro Cathlab' approach gives new lease of life to stroke patients at Fortis Mohali

CHANDIGARH : Brain stroke is a predominant factor for long-term disability and even death. The life-threatening medical condition causes irreversible damage to the brain cells. This highlights the importance of the "golden hour," implying that the first 60 minutes after the occurrence of a stroke are important for survival. Dr Vivek Gupta, Additional Director, Interventional Neuro radiology, and Director, Biplane Neuro Cathlab, said, "One minute of stroke or lack of blood supply affects nearly 20 lakh brain cells. However, emerging advanced healthcare technologies such as Biplane Neuro Cathlab along with its advanced softwares, at Fortis Hospital Mohali, have helped give a new lease of life to several stroke patients."

Flipkart launches Zero Commission Model for products below Rs. 1,000

KARNAL : Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has announced an important enhancement to its seller rate card with the introduction of the Zero Commission Model for products below Rs. 1000. In line with its continued commitment to making online selling more inclusive and growth-led, this model simplifies cost structures, promotes competitive pricing, and further strengthens Flipkart's value proposition for small and medium businesses across the country. This strategic development in the rate card powerfully impacts Shoppy, Flipkart's hyper-value platform. The zero commission model is now extended to all products on Shoppy, irrespective of price, further solidifying its position as a key enabler for sellers targeting the hyper-value segment and enhancing affordability for customers.

Last Call for Registration: XAT 2026 – Apply by 5th December 2025

Chandigarh : The Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT) 2026, one of India's most trusted management entrance exams, is approaching its registration deadline on December 5, 2025. Candidates aspiring to pursue MBA PGDM programmes at over 250 reputed institutes across India are encouraged to complete their applications before the closing date. Registration for XAT 2026 opened on 10 July 2025, and thousands of candidates are already in the race for admission. With the countdown on, it's essential to complete the online form, upload required documents, finalise test-city preferences and pay the fee well ahead of the deadline. Missing the deadline means losing eligibility to appear in the XAT exam, scheduled for 4 January 2026 (2:00 PM to 5:00 PM).

Air India to Resume Operations to Mainland China with Non Stop Flight

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: Air India today announced the resumption of its non-stop flights between Delhi and Shanghai (PVG), effective 01 February 2026, marking Air India's return to mainland China after nearly six years. Subject to the requisite regulatory approvals, Air India also intends to introduce non-stop flights between Mumbai and Shanghai in 2026. Shanghai is the 48th international destination to be served by Air India group, which continues to carry more passengers internationally than any other airline in India.

Fortis Escorts Hospital Becomes First in Punjab to Launch Advanced Endoscopic Technology

AMRITSAR : In a major advancement for gastrointestinal healthcare, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar has become the first medical facility in Punjab to introduce Advanced Endoscopy, a cutting-edge endoscopic technique that enables complete visualisation and treatment of small intestine disorders. Traditional endoscopy and colonoscopy are unable to access most parts of the six-metre-long small intestine, often making it a "blind spot" for doctors. The newly launched endoscopic technology offers a high-resolution, comprehensive view of the entire small intestine. Unlike capsule endoscopy, which only captures images, this advanced scope allows doctors to diagnose conditions and also perform procedures such as controlling internal bleeding, removing tumours and placing stents—all in a single session.

Chartbuster creators Rony & Gill finally tell their own story with "Pindaan De Munde"

AMRITSAR : After crafting chartbusters for industry giants including Yo Yo Honey Singh, Jassie Gill and Guru Randhawa, the renowned Punjabi composer-songwriter duo Rony Ajnali & Gill Machhirai are stepping out from behind the scenes with their latest release, Pindaan De Munde. The track is a high-energy celebration of Punjabi culture, laced with their signature mix of folk authenticity and modern beats. With its infectious hook and desi swagger, Pindaan De Munde is set to become a new anthem for today's youth, adding yet another milestone to Rony & Gill's musical journey. Talking about the track, the duo says: "For years, we've been creating music for others. With Pindaan De Munde, we wanted to tell our own story of success, but also of where we come from. It's about enjoying the highs without forgetting the people and places that made you."

Hybrid seeds can be a win-win for farmers and Punjab government, say experts

CHANDIGARH : In the backdrop of lower rice yields this year in Punjab, triggered by floods and Punjab's growing water crisis, seed experts have called for an urgent need to promote hybrid and flood-resistant rice varieties. They believe that wider adoption of hybrid seeds could have helped farmers mitigate losses, improve productivity, and conserve precious groundwater. According to agricultural experts, the use of hybrid seeds will prove beneficial for both farmers and the state government. These seeds deliver higher yields in less time, require less water, and are more resilient to climate stress, thereby strengthening both productivity and sustainability. Aja Rana, Chairman, Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) and CEO and Managing Director, Savanah Seeds said, described hybrid seeds as a "boom" for a water-stressed state like Punjab.

Purushottam Das Rungta Charitable Trust Organizes Community Kitchen

PANCHKULA : Fulfilling its social responsibility, the Purushottam Das Rungta Charitable Trust organized its 189th community kitchen or 'ann bhandara' with a spirit of service at Industrial Area, Phase-1, Panchkula. During the camp, food was distributed with devotion to the needy and to passersby. Amitabh Rungta, the founder of the Trust and a noted social worker, said that organizing such community kitchens or 'ann bhandaras' is not only religiously significant but also socially important. He stated that those who lead public service with a selfless spirit are always viewed with respect by society. Their goodwill spreads to such an extent that it not only connects but many others also wish to stay connected with them. He further said that service initiatives like community kitchen involve various sections of society, encouraging people to contribute to public service in their own ways and establish.

Star Public school hosts annual day celebration at MGSIPA auditorium



CHANDIGARH: Star Public School marked a proud milestone as it celebrated its spectacular 29th Annual Day at the prestigious MGSIPA Auditorium, Sector 26, Chandigarh. The event was a grand showcase of the students' diverse talents, creativity, and confidence.

The celebration commenced with the ceremonial Lamp Lighting, followed by a warm welcome address by Principal Mrs. Suman Sharma, who highlighted the school's notable achievements in academics and co-curricular activities over the past year. The cultural program unfolded vibrantly, beginning with a soulful Ganesh Vandana and a melodious Shabad. Students from all classes presented captivating performances, including charming dances by Nursery, LKG, UKG, and Grades 1 to 3, featuring a lively Punjabi dance that enthralled the audience. Senior students delivered a beautifully coordinated Welcome Group Song, while the event also showcased harmonious English song ensembles and an energetic Karate demonstration, earning applause from all present.

The school had the honor of hosting Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal, Principal of Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector 42, Chandigarh, as the Chief Guest. She presided over the Prize Distribution Ceremony, felicitating students who excelled in academics and extracurricular pursuits. The Guest of Honour, Mrs. Prajakta Avadh, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Council and Founder-President of the Samvedana Organisation, inspired everyone with her thought-provoking and motivational address.

The evening concluded with a powerful and impactful performance titled "Operation Sindoor" by students of Classes 4 and 5, leaving the audience deeply moved and marking the perfect end to a memorable celebration.

Global experts convene to transform animal care with new-age technologies

CHANDIGARH More than a thousand veterinary professionals, scientists and policymakers from India and overseas gathered in Chandigarh for the 23rd WSAVA Continuing Education India Program and the 16th FSAPAI National Symposium International Conference held from 14-16 November 2025. The three-day event was hosted by the Small Animal Clinicians' Association, Chandigarh (SACA) which highlighted the evolving landscape of small animal care driven by technological innovation and compassionate clinical practices. Held at The Lalit Hotel, the conference featured sessions on advanced diagnostics, minimally invasive surgeries, improved welfare protocols and the integration of acclaimed international experts from Australia—Associate Professor Christopher Tan, specialist surgeon and co-hospital director at SASH Vets, Sydney and Dr. Ellie Leister, critical care specialist and Director, Pet Intensive Care Unit (PICU), Brisbane. Both shared insights from their pioneering work in surgery and critical care, inspiring Indian practitioners to adopt globally benchmarked clinical approaches.



Major Industry–Academia Collaborations Mark Day 3 of Machma Expo 2025



CHANDIGARH: Day 3 of the 12th Edition of Machma Expo 2025 at Parade Ground, Sector 17, Chandigarh witnessed remarkable momentum with strong engagement from industry leaders, researchers, innovators, technology enthusiasts and distinguished guests. Sahib Singh Saini, former Cabinet Minister in the UP Government, attended the show on the third day, adding significance to the proceedings. With over 400 exhibitors and more than 10,000 product displays, the expo continued to attract high footfall, reinforcing its position as North India's most influential platform for machine tools, automation, and engineering innovation. A special session was also organized, bringing together leading voices from industry, academia, and universities to explore how collaborative models can be strengthened. The session focused on building an ecosystem where innovation and entrepreneurship can truly thrive, ensuring that knowledge, research, and technology move seamlessly from institutions to industry. Providing details about the expo, Mr. Karamjit Singh shared that Machma Expo continues to create remarkable opportunities for industrialists, enabling growth and collaboration across sectors. He emphasized the mission of the expo—to support businesses in achieving excellence through specialized and impactful trade fairs. He added that this edition brings industry and academia together to promote Make in India, advanced technology, and research transfer.

Iconic luxury menswear brand Reid & Taylor unveils Punjab's first exclusive store in Ludhiana



LUDHIANA: Reid & Taylor, one of India's most admired luxury menswear brands, has unveiled its first exclusive store in Punjab at Mall Road, Ludhiana. The launch marks a significant milestone in the brand's strategic expansion across North India and serves as the first step in a robust regional growth plan. Ajay Agarwal, Group CEO, Reid & Taylor inaugurated the store in the presence of Sanjiv Mahajan, Partner, Bombay Traders – Trade Partner, Reid & Taylor and Udhay Mahajan, Director, Motif Men LLP – Franchisee, Reid & Taylor. Talking to reporters on the occasion, Ajay Agarwal, Group CEO, Reid & Taylor, said, "Reid & Taylor's new store in Ludhiana aligns with our expansion strategy in north India, focusing on catering to the city's discerning clientele and leveraging its textile heritage. We are excited to bring our premium products and bespoke services to this key market. Ludhiana is the gateway to Punjab for our premium offering to the customers." "We are looking at expanding Reid & Taylor's footprint by opening 3 more stores in the region in the cities of Amritsar & Mohali in Punjab and one in Jammu," added Agarwal in UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India brings road safety lessons to Bahadurgarh's young minds



Bahadurgarh: In its continued efforts to create safer roads and responsible citizens, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) organized an impactful road safety awareness campaign held at Vijaya Senior Secondary School and K.R. Mangalam World School at Bahadurgarh, Haryana. The campaign engaged over 2300 participants who came together to learn the essentials of safe and responsible road behavior. The initiative is designed to encourage young minds to view road safety as an everyday responsibility rather than a one-time lesson. The sessions encouraged students to reflect on how simple actions like using pedestrian crossings, avoiding distractions and wearing helmets can make a meaningful difference. With interactive modules and demonstrations, the initiative helped participants connect road awareness to real-life situations, making the message of road safety more relatable and lasting. The sessions also inspired the younger generation to act as safety influencers within their families, helping spread awareness beyond the classrooms. The initiative marked another chapter in HMSI's pan-India effort to build a culture of safety consciousness.

Cyclegarh organised Saree Ride with 40 participants

Chandigarh. Women of the Cycligiri Group delivered a unique message on Sunday morning by cycling in traditional sarees, proving that one can ride with confidence in any attire. The special "Saree Ride" began at 6:45 AM from Fragrance Garden in Sector 36, passed through Sector 44, reached Sukhna Lake, and concluded at



At the end of the ride, a lively Zumba session was held, where women dressed in vibrant sarees participated with great enthusiasm. Participants were also honoured in various categories based on creativity and overall performance. The award for Best Decorative Cycle went to Nandini and Rama Gupta. The Most Stylish Jewellery award was given to Nikita and Poonam. Parminder and Dr. Simran won the Best Dressed title. The youngest cyclists, 9-year-old Amayra and Tanishi, were specially felicitated.

This Children's Day, Fortis Jalandhar to organize Free Pediatric Health Camp from November 17 to November 30

Jalandhar : As India edges closer to universal child immunization, Fortis Hospital, Jalandhar has taken a leading step to strengthen this national momentum. To mark Children's Day, the hospital has announced a Free Paediatric Health Camp from November 17 to 30, 2025, offering free paediatric consultations by Dr. Pankaj Paul, Paediatrician, Fortis Hospital, Jalandhar and a 30% discount on diagnostic tests. The initiative puts the spotlight on preventive care, early detection and timely vaccination - the three pillars of a healthy childhood. Through this camp, Fortis Jalandhar aims to bridge those gaps and empower parents with the right information and guidance. "Children's Day is not only a time to celebrate childhood but to commit to protecting it," said Dr. Pankaj Paul, Paediatrician, Fortis Hospital, Jalandhar. "Good health in childhood builds the foundation of a strong nation. Timely vaccination and routine check-ups can prevent illness before it begins." Dr. Paul emphasized that vaccination is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways to protect children. "Timely vaccination not only shields an individual child but strengthens community immunity, reducing outbreaks," he said. The hospital's initiative comes as India continues to lower its Under-Five Mortality Rate, which has already fallen by 78% since 1990, reinforcing its commitment to holistic paediatric care.

Adarsh Public Smart School (APS-20) Chandigarh organized the Annual Sports Meet- 2025

CHANDIGARH : Adarsh Public Smart School (APS-20) Sector 20B Chandigarh organized the Annual Sports Meet- 2025 in the school premises. The program was started by the school principal Mrs. Sunita Thakur by lighting the torch and students of senior classes conducted march past. The head boys of the school administered the oath to all the students. At the end of the sports meet, Principal Sunita Thakur appreciated the participants and honored the winners with medals, trophies and certificates. Principal Sunita Thakur told the importance of sports in life. Students of Junior and Senior Wing enjoyed Fun Games and National Games like Bug Race, Bunny Race, Jelly Fish Race, Hurdle Race with Ice - Cream, Ring Hulla Hoo Race, Hula Hoop, Sack Race, Three Legged Race, One Leg Race, break the pot with blinded fold, musical chair, Matka Race, Slow cycling, Skipping Rope, Kho-Kho and net ball were also played. Fun games have also been organized for teachers to encourage live participation in every area.

Bandhan Mutual Fund Opens New Branch Office in Ludhiana

LUDHIANA : Bandhan AMC Limited (Bandhan AMC) opened a new branch in Ludhiana to help serve investors and mutual fund distributors (MFDs) better. The new branch office is located at Ground Floor, Ludhiana Stock Exchange Building, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana - 141001. The new branch in Ludhiana will include a fully equipped meeting cum training room which aims to enhance its customer service and investor awareness activities in Ludhiana. Talking about the new branch launch, Mr. Gaurab Parja, Head Sales, Bandhan AMC said that, "Ludhiana has been a high-growth market for us, and we are happy to have received strong feedback and support from our partners and investors over several years. Our new office further strengthens our commitment and presence in this key market, and we are confident that our team and partners in Ludhiana will use it to further increase financial awareness, generate greater interest in mutual funds, and provide superior service to our customers."

Punjab Bachao Morcha Delegation Met Takht Kesgarh Sahib



Ropar: A delegation of the Punjab Bachao Morcha, under the leadership of its President Tejasi Minhas, met Akal Takht Sahib's Acting Jathedar, Singh Sahib Giani Kuldeep Singh Gadgaj, on Monday at Takht Kesgarh Sahib, Anandpur Sahib. During the meeting, the Morcha members submitted an important memorandum, urging that necessary directives be issued to safeguard the Sikh identity, its original form, and the sanctity of the code of conduct bestowed by the Guru Sahib. In its memorandum, the Morcha specifically requested that individuals who leave the Sikh faith should respectfully refrain from using the names 'Singh' and 'Kaur', as these names represent the historical, spiritual, and moral legacy of the Khalsa established by Sri Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji. The Morcha further appealed that those who part ways with the Sikh faith should not use the Dastar, Kirpan, or other Kakars, so that the sanctity of the Sikh 'Swaroo' given by Guru Sahib remains intact. The Morcha members believe that such directions would play a significant role in preserving the true identity of the Sikh Panth, its dignity, and its sacred traditions. The members present at the meeting included Sardar Mankirat Singh Sahni, Surender Pal Singh Goidy (Panthic Talmaal Organisation), Jagdeep Singh Sonu Sander, Sukhwinder Singh Lally (President, Fikr-e-Hind & Jatt Sikh Council), Sardar Gurmeet Singh, Advocate Ravi Vinayak, and Vishal Vinayak.

SAFE Observes World Day of Remembrance



CHANDIGARH: In observance of the United Nations World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Victims, Safety Alliance for Everyone (SAFE), a society dedicated to road safety, organized an emotional and impactful event at the Chandigarh Press Club today. This solemn annual observance honours road crash victims, supports bereaved families, and calls for decisive action to prevent further tragedies. The global theme for 2025, "Lost Talents," underscores the tremendous loss of human potential caused by preventable road crashes. The event was graced by A. S. Rai, IPS, Special DGP, Road Safety & Traffic Management, Punjab, Mohinder Singh KP Ex-MP, who recently lost his young son in a tragic road crash. Families who lost their loved ones gathered to remember and honour them. SAFE also created a powerful visual reminder of the national crisis by representing the 473 daily road deaths in India with 473 candles, symbolizing the scale of loss and the urgency for action.

SNAP 2025 Registration Closing 20th November: Your Final Chance to Apply for Symbiosis MBA Programmes

CHANDIGARH : Symbiosis International (Deemed University) announces the closing of its registration window for the Symbiosis National Aptitude (SNAP) Test 2025 on 20th November. It is a national-level entrance examination for MBA aspirants. With over five decades of academic excellence, Symbiosis remains a top choice for students seeking management education that is globally relevant, industry-aligned, and academically rigorous. There will be no further extension for the application filing date. Aspirants are strongly encouraged to complete their application process before the deadline. The Computer-Based Test (CBT) will be held on three dates, with candidates allowed to attempt the test up to three times. The best score will be considered for the admission process. The admit cards for the Symbiosis National Aptitude Test (SNAP) 2025 will be released in phases corresponding to each test date. For SNAP Test 01, the admit card will be available from November 28, 2025 (Friday), and the test will be conducted on December 6, 2025 (Saturday). For SNAP Test 02, the admit card can be downloaded from December 8, 2025 (Monday), while the test is scheduled for December 14, 2025 (Sunday). Similarly, for SNAP Test 03, the admit card will be available from December 15, 2025 (Monday), and the test will be held on December 20, 2025 (Saturday). Result Announcement: January 9, 2026 (Friday) SNAP 2025 will be conducted in 79 cities across India. The test consists of objective-type questions, each with four response options.



Kangra Valley Welfare Association Celebrates Its 21st Annual Function

CHANDIGARH: The Kangra Valley Welfare Association, Chandigarh celebrated its 21st annual function on Sunday at the IMA Complex in Sector 35. The event saw enthusiastic participation from residents of Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali, and people originally from different parts of Himachal Pradesh now settled in the Tricity. The program began with Stage Secretary Sunisha Sharma paying tribute to the Association's founders—S. Bhatnagar, Rajendra Gupta, and Pratap Chand Gupta. This was followed by the ceremonial lamp lighting by Association President Rup Kamal Gupta, General Secretary Anuj Mahajan, and senior members, marking the formal beginning of the celebrations. General Secretary Pradeep Gupta presented the annual report, highlighting the Association's activities and accounts over the past year. Visitors were treated to a captivating showcase of the rich cultural heritage of Devbhoomi Himachal, including traditional attire, folk music, and theatre performances. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the soulful folk singing and engaging dramatic presentations. A special highlight was the serving of the traditional Kangri Dham, prepared by expert chefs invited from Nagrota Bagwan in Himachal. Eleven authentic dishes were served, delighting everyone present and earning widespread appreciation for the Association's warm hospitality. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anil Mahajan, expressing gratitude to all attendees and contributors.

Dabur Chyawanprash and Akshay Kumar Champion the Spirit of Preparedness with New Campaign: 'Beemaar Ya Taiyyar'



NEW DELHI - Conceptualized by McCann India, the campaign urges a shift from reactive to proactive health, making immunity a foundation for consistent success. Dabur, India's most trusted natural health care company, announced the launch of its new, high-impact campaign for Dabur Chyawanprash, titled 'Beemaar Ya Taiyyar' (Sick or Ready). The campaign, featuring brand ambassador and fitness icon Akshay Kumar, conceptualised and executed by McCann Worldgroup India, emphasizes the critical importance of being perpetually prepared, especially in the face of fluctuating seasonal changes and environmental challenges. The new communication highlights a critical observation: a lack of preparedness can lead to falling sick, interrupting one's flow and ambition. It strategically positions Dabur Chyawanprash—powered by 40+ Ayurvedic herbs, not just as a remedy, but as a daily ritual for building inner strength and proactive immunity. The campaign seeks to shift the consumer focus from a reactive approach (treating illness) to a proactive one (preventing it). Sriram Padmanabhan, Director Healthcare, Dabur India Ltd said launching the campaign said: "The fundamental truth we are addressing is that in today's demanding world, being fully 'Taiyyar' (Ready) is the only way to win. You simply cannot afford an unexplained break due to illness. We believe immunity is the ultimate edge of readiness. With 'Beemaar Ya Taiyyar', we are challenging consumers to move beyond thinking of health as merely fixing a problem when it appears."

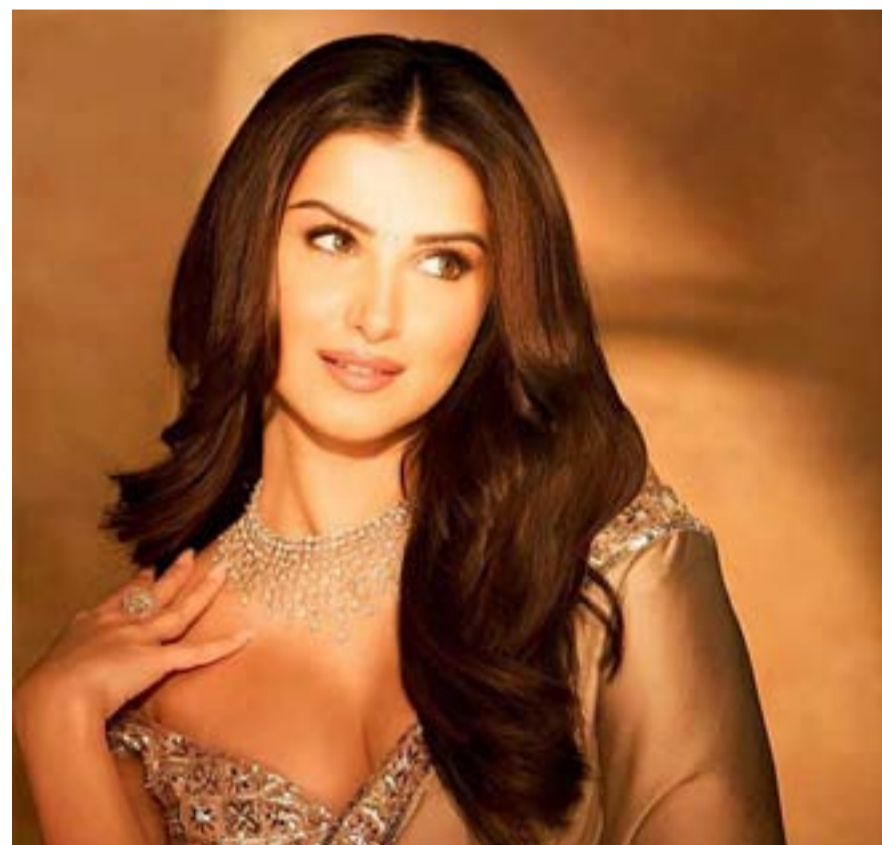
Aaditi Pohankar praises Bobby Deol post her 'Aashram' experience



Actress Aaditi Pohankar was all praise for star Bobby Deol while sharing her experience of working with him in the crime drama series 'Aashram'. Pohankar, who debuted in Bollywood with the romance/crime caper 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha' described Bobby Deol as a "genuine and pure" actor. The duo starred together in the series 'Aashram', which was directed by Prakash Jha. "I don't know how to say I just miss Bobby Sir now. It was that amazing (experience with him in Aashram). I mean, he's such a cool guy and such a great co-actor. Ashram is like a family and I think that it never moves from there because we spent so much time together COVID," said Pohankar. She continued, "Almost, three years we have shot together all of us. So it was Bobby Sir is just a very genuine, pure guy, who is a very good actor, and he's exploring that even more now, I think. "The actress will be next seen in the upcoming revenge drama series 'Ziddi Ishq', which also stars Parambata Chattopadhyay, Sumeet Vyas, Barkha Bisht, and Riya Sen in key roles. The 'Aashram' actress shared her inspiration behind including 'Ziddi Ishq' series in her emerging career. "Primarily as an actor, that's all you want to do. You want a script which can show many shades, many layers, and I think this clearly defines that for moving from 'She', 'Ashram' and getting something like 'Ziddi Ishq' was, I think, something I was waiting for because it shows a very different, innocent, young and vulnerable adolescence of that girl," said Aaditi Pohankar. 'Ziddi Ishq' is set in Bengal and follows Mehul (played by Aaditi Pohankar), a young woman whose love for Shekhar Da (Parambrata Chattopadhyay) turns into obsession after his sudden death. When his death is dismissed as suicide, she sets out to find the truth, leading to a chain of events tangled in secrets, betrayal, and revenge. Aaditi Pohankar is known for her critically acclaimed roles in the series 'Aashram', 'Madala Murders' and 'She'.



Tara Sutaria indulges into pre-birthday celebrations with beach getaway



Actor Tara Sutaria is already basking in her birthday festivities and clearly with a blast. Tara took to her Instagram handle and treated fans to her pre-birthday special getaway to the Maldives. In her post, Tara could be seen posing elegantly in front of a customised setup, with the words "Happy Birthday Tara" designed with bright, red LED lights. The actor looked stunning dressed in a black beachwear, which she paired with dangling earrings. "BIRTHDAY WEEK BEGINS! T-3 TO GO," Tara wrote in the caption. She followed up with glimpses from her vacation destination, offering a sneak peek into the scenic beauty of the Maldives. The actor is set to mark her birthday on Wednesday, November 19. Tara Sutaria, who has lately been very active on social media, recently also offered a sneak peek into a romantic Italian vacation with Veer Pahariya. Tara shared a string of pictures, showing her soaking in the scenic beauty of Italy while also indulging in the local food, boat rides, music, and much more. Among them, Veer Pahariya made sure to make an entrance, and with style! On the work front, Tara made her film debut with Karan Johar's 'Student of the Year 2' in the year 2019 alongside Ananya Panday. She was also seen in 'Ek Villain Returns', which starred Arjun Kapoor, Disha Patani and John Abraham. Among Tara's other acting credits are 'Marjaavaan', 'Tadap', 'Heropanti 2', and 'Apurva'.

Huma Qureshi says playing Rani Bharti in 'Maharani 4' was challenging



Actor Huma Qureshi, who is winning praise for her role as Rani Bharti in the fourth season of Maharani, opened up about the hard work and pressure that came with playing such a powerful and intense character. While speaking to ANI, Huma explained in detail how difficult it was for her to step into a world so different from her own. She said that she is "such an urban girl" who grew up in Delhi and studied in an English-medium school. Because of this, she shared that playing someone "very, very rural" and "rustic" took serious effort. Huma also added that a lot of people around her even wondered "Huma kaise karegi?" "I'm such an urban girl. I've grown up in Delhi. So, I mean, I went to an English medium school, college. I'm very urban in my thought process and how I am. So, for me to play these very, very rural, rustic characters is, of course, a challenge because it's not me. It doesn't come naturally

to me. Of course, I had to work hard and everybody was like, Huma kaise karegi? But bahut maza aata hai. And I think that's my job as an actor is to dhalo myself into each and every character," said Huma while speaking to a news agency. Maharani 4 follows Rani Bharti after she is forced to resign as the Chief Minister of Bihar. The new season takes her into a national-level political fight, where she faces the Prime Minister. The story explores power struggles, betrayal, and personal battles as Rani tries to rebuild her position. The series is directed by Puneet Prakash and produced by Kangra Talkies Pvt. Ltd., with Subhash Kapoor as the creator. Along with Huma Qureshi, the show features Shweta Basu Prasad, Vipin Sharma, Amit Sial, Vineet Kumar, Sharad Bhardwaj, Kani Kusruti, and Pramod Pathak. The Huma Qureshi-starrer 'Maharani Season 4' was released on Sony LIV on November 7.

Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone enjoy musical night with Aamir and MS Dhoni



Bollywood couple Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone were recently seen enjoying a musical evening in Gujarat. The event turned star-studded as Aamir Khan and MS Dhoni were also present. Singer Rakshita Suresh took to her Instagram account on Saturday to share a series of photos and videos from the night. In one picture, she is seen hugging Deepika and posing with the couple. Another selfie shows her smiling with Aamir Khan, who wore a simple black kurta. She also posted a short video in which she is seen with former India cricket captain MS Dhoni. Deepika looked elegant in a pink saree which she paired with an oversized pink coat and a bun decorated with garja. Ranveer matched her style in a white bandhgala suit. Take a look Ranveer and Deepika recently celebrated their wedding anniversary on November 14. The couple, who welcomed their daughter Dua in September last year, revealed her face to the world during Diwali. Post Diwali, they shared a sweet Instagram post featuring photos of their baby girl. On the work front, Ranveer Singh is gearing up for the release of 'Dhurandhar', directed by Aditya Dhar. The film also stars Akshaye Khanna, R. Madhavan, Sanjay Dutt, and Arjun Rampal, and will release in cinemas on December 5. Deepika Padukone has two major films coming up. She will star opposite Shah Rukh Khan in 'King', directed by Siddharth Anand, which also features Suhana Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, and Jaideep Ahlawat. She also has Altee's AA22xA6, co-starring Allu Arjun.

"My mind has opened up": Kyle Richards on her sexuality



American television personality Kyle Richards has spoken candidly about her evolving views on sexuality, saying she no longer feels the need to define herself with labels, according to Page Six. Speaking to Variety at BravoCon, the Real Housewives of Beverly Hills star addressed buzz surrounding a Season 15 trailer in which she joked, "I could go Brad, I could go Angelina." Richards clarified the remark was made in jest to amuse her co-stars, but it quickly sparked speculation she had come out as bisexual. Richards, 55, said her perspective has shifted in recent years. "I always had a type -- tall, dark and handsome -- and that's what I married," she said, referencing her estranged husband Mauricio Umansky. "I am growing and evolving, and my mind has opened up. I don't know what the future holds now, and I'm fine with that," according to Page Six. When told by reporters that they were both lesbians, Richards admitted it was not something she would have considered in the past. "That would never have crossed my mind before, ever in my life -- and now I'm like, that's totally an option," she said. The reality star added that she is not looking to be set up with anyone at the moment. "Whatever happens, happens," she said. "I like hanging out with myself alone too," according to Page Six. Richards' personal life has garnered increased attention since she appeared in a music video with country singer Morgan Wade in 2023, leading to widespread romance speculation. The pair were later spotted together in Paris, appearing "very intimate," according to eyewitness accounts. Despite ongoing rumours, Richards has maintained that she and Wade are close friends. Richards and Umansky announced their separation in 2023 after 27 years of marriage. The couple shares daughters Alexia (29), Sophia (25) and Portia (17). Richards also shares daughter Farrar, 37, with ex-husband Guraish Aldjufrie, to whom Richards was married from 1988 to 1992. The reality star previously opened up to Page Six's "Virtual Reality-Tea" about her evolving sexuality.

Mastercard to create unforgettable moments with Sunidhi Chauhan's 10-city tour

CHANDIGARH : Celebrating India's rich music landscape and passion for live performances, Mastercard is launching a 10-city concert tour headlined by one of the nation's most electrifying performers—Sunidhi Chauhan. Renowned for her powerhouse vocals and dynamic stage presence, Sunidhi will captivate audiences across age groups with unforgettable experiences. Sunidhi's electrifying performances are part of a nationwide concert series, presented by Mastercard in collaboration with leading live entertainment company EVA Live—featuring an all-star lineup and delivering the magic of music to fans across India. Following the success of two sold-out Enrique Iglesias concerts in Mumbai, Sunidhi Chauhan's tour marks the next chapter in Mastercard's commitment to bringing world-class entertainment to Indian audiences. The concert series not only celebrates global icons but also elevates homegrown talent—honoring India's rich musical heritage and deepening Mastercard's connection with the country's vibrant live music culture. The 10-city tour will begin in Mumbai on December 24, followed by performances in Delhi on December 27, Bangalore on January 17 and Ahmedabad on January 31. In February, Sunidhi will perform in Chennai on the 7th, Jaipur on the 14th, and Chandigarh on the 21st, before heading to Indore on February 28. The tour will continue in Lucknow on March 7 and conclude in Kolkata on March 14. Each concert will be tailored to the local audience, with a focus on delivering a memorable live music experience.

The Wealth Company Mutual Fund Unveils a True-to-Label Hybrid Multi Asset Allocation Fund

LUDHIANA : The Wealth Company Asset Management Holdings Private Limited, one of India's fastest-growing AMCs under the Pantomath Financial Services Group, is launching 'The Wealth Company Multi Asset Allocation Fund'. The true-to-label hybrid, commodity-anchored multi-asset fund will actively balance equity, debt, and commodities. Thus, it helps investors with long-term wealth creation by creating a resilient and well-diversified portfolios across market cycles. The New Fund Offer (NFO) opens on November 19, 2025, and closes on December 3, 2025. The fund follows an active allocation framework, combining metals such as gold and silver for diversification and inflation hedging, fixed income for potential stability, and equity for long-term wealth creation. Each asset class endeavours to serve a distinct role in growth, potential stability, and generating risk adjusted returns. What differentiates the fund is its hybrid-like structure, which provides broad flexibility to move dynamically across asset classes while benefiting from a favourable tax framework. The Wealth Company Multi Asset Allocation Fund aims to maintain its asset mix in line with the requirements for hybrid taxation under the Income Tax Act. With the ability to allocate up to 50% in commodities, the fund offers managers greater latitude to adjust positioning based on changing macro and market conditions. This may ensure the portfolio is not a residual holder of alternative assets but an active, forward-looking allocator, designed to capture opportunities across cycles and aim to deliver smoother, risk-adjusted returns over time. Rounded Rectangle: NFO Details NFO Opening Date: 19th November 2025 NFO Closing Date: 3rd December 2025 Scheme: An Open-ended Multi-Asset Allocation Scheme investing across equity/equity related securities, debt/money market instruments, commodity ETFs, exchange traded commodity derivatives Benchmark: NIFTY 200TRI (40%) + NIFTY Short Duration Debt Index

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