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NEWS BRIEFS

Sensex tumbles 533.50 pts dragged by foreign fund outflows

MUMBAI: Benchmark Sensex tumbled 533.50 points and the broader Nifty declined to the 25,860 level on Tuesday as persistent foreign fund outflows, a weak rupee and sluggish global market trends dented investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 533.50 points or 0.63 per cent to settle at 84,679.86. During the day, it dived 592.75 points or 0.69 per cent to 84,620.61. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 167.20 points or 0.64 per cent to 25,860.10.

Australia beach shooting suspect originally from Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: Sajid Akram, one of the suspects in the recent mass shooting at Bondi beach in Australia, is a native of Hyderabad, the Telangana Police said on Tuesday. He migrated to Australia 27 years ago and had limited contact with his family in Hyderabad, the Telangana DGP office said in a statement. The factors that led to radicalisation of Sajid Akram and his son Naveed Akram appear to have no connection with India or any local influence in Telangana, it said.

Two workers killed as crane hook snaps at auto parts unit in Ghaziabad

GHAZIABAD: Two workers were killed and as many were seriously injured when a crane hook snapped at an auto parts manufacturing unit in the Sibi industrial area here, police said on Tuesday. "The accident occurred on Monday night. A crane hook snapped when the labourers were working on iron frames, injuring four workers," Additional Commissioner of Police (ACP), Modinagar, Amit Saxena said. All four workers were rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared two of them 'brought dead'. The condition of the other two injured workers is critical, he said.

Luthra brothers arrested in Delhi by Goa Police on deportation from Thailand

NEW DELHI: The Goa Police has formally arrested the Luthra brothers-Gaurav and Saurabh from the Immigration control at New Delhi International airport on Tuesday after they were deported from Thailand. A team from the Goa Police had been present at the Airport to take custody of the brothers. The brothers are the owners of the Goa Nightclub Birch by Romeo Lane where 25 people had been killed in a fire on December 6. After fleeing to Phuket on the morning after the fire the brothers were detained and then deported this morning to India. The accused duo will be produced before the Patiala House court in the national capital, following which the Goa police will take them to Goa.

13 killed, 43 injured in mishap on Delhi-Agra Expressway amid fog

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, DEC 16

Thirteen people died of burns, and 43 sustained injuries when a vehicle pile-up in dense fog on the Yamuna Expressway here early Tuesday turned into an inferno, according to police.

Eight buses and three smaller vehicles collided with each other in the thick fog around 4.30 am, the officer said.

Chandra Prakash Singh, Mathura District Magistrate said that the death toll in the multi-vehicle collision that took place on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura has risen to 13. Among the deceased, one was from Prayagraj, one from Gonda, and one from Azamgarh. Efforts are underway to identify the other victims of the accident, he said. All 60 people injured in the accident are receiving treatment in different hospitals. The District Magistrate has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the horrific road accident. The Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue) will submit an inquiry report on the accident's cause and measures to prevent similar accidents in the future. An FIR is being registered by the police, the District Magistrate said. Moreover, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also taken cognisance of the tragic accident. The administration will provide assistance of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the deceased. The mishap took place this morning at Milestone 127 under the Baldev police station area on the Yamuna Expressway. After the collision of 11 vehicles, a massive fire broke out in 10 of them. At least 14 fire tenders brought the fire under control after several hours. Traffic movement on the Agra-Noida Expressway was restricted after a four-hour rescue operation.



Mathura CMO Dr Radha Vallabh today said that medical teams have been deployed to identify the dead bodies through DNA samples, further outlining that the total number of bodies is still unconfirmed. He assured that the post-mortem examinations are underway and the entire medical team has been deployed. "There was an accident on the highway involving several buses that collided with one another. A fire broke out afterwards... We do not yet have any information about the bodies. Post-mortem examinations are currently being carried out here."

PM announces Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia for victims

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in a tragic multi-vehicle accident on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh and announced ex-gratia assistance for the victims from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). "The loss of lives due to a mishap on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura is extremely painful. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," the Prime Minister said in a message posted on the official X handle of the Prime Minister's Office. The Prime Minister announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from the PMNRF for the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the accident, while the injured would receive Rs 50,000 each. The mishap occurred this morning at Milestone 127, near the Baldev police station on the Yamuna Expressway.

CM Saini announces Hansi as Haryana's 23rd district



BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, DEC 16

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday announced that Hansi will be accorded district status as the 23rd district of Haryana, marking a significant administrative milestone for the region. The Chief Minister further stated that the official notification will be issued within a week, after which Hansi will formally attain district status from the revenue administration perspective.

Addressing a 'Vikas rally' in Hansi, the Chief Minister also inaugurated and laid foundation stones of three development projects worth Rs. 77.30 crore.

Recalling Hansi's rich historical and cultural legacy, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini described it as a land of valour and sacrifice, once known as the gateway of Hindustan. He paid homage to the sacrifices made during the First War of Independence in 1857, stating that the historic Lal Sadak still bears testimony to the brutal atrocities of the British, where freedom fighters were mercilessly crushed. He said Hansi's prominence predates even the freedom struggle, noting that the town was earlier known as Asi and Asigarh, and during the reign of Emperor Harsha, it served as the capital of the Satluj province.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to regional development, the Chief Minister said that no stone would be left unturned for the progress of Hansi. Highlighting development works, he stated that projects worth Rs. 1,008 crore have been executed in the Hansi Assembly constituency over the last 11 years, whereas only Rs. 253 crore worth of works were undertaken during the Congress regime. The Chief Minister said that out of the 217 promises made in the Sankalp Patra election manifesto, the double-engine government has fulfilled 54 promises within a year, while work on 163 promises is currently underway. Though one year may appear brief, he said, it has witnessed development progressing at three times the earlier pace, reflecting the government's commitment to non-stop development.

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Court refuses to take cognisance of chargesheet in National Herald case



UNI NEW DELHI: In a significant relief to former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and senior party leader Rahul Gandhi, Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday declined to take cognisance of the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) chargesheet in the National Herald money laundering case. The order also brings relief to five other accused named in the case. The court, however, said the ED was free to continue its investigation, if it so desired. In its observations, the court noted, "In the absence of a registered FIR, a money laundering investigation and the prosecution complaint filed on its basis could not be sustained."

"Legal proceedings for money laundering based on such a complaint are also not maintainable. Taking cognisance on a complaint filed by a private individual is not legally permissible," the court said, adding that there was no need to examine other arguments on the merits of the case. The ED's chargesheet had named Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Sam Pitroda, Suman Dubey, Sunil Bhandari, Young Indian and Dotex Merchandise Private Limited, alleging the wrongful takeover of assets worth over Rs 2,000 crore belonging to Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL). Reacting to the court's order, the Congress termed it a "victory of truth" and reiterated that the case was politically motivated.

India fenced over 93% border with Pakistan, nearly 80% with Bangladesh

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, DEC 16

Aimed at strengthening security and preventing infiltration, India has physically fenced over 93 per cent length of India-Pakistan International Border as well as nearly 79 per cent India-Bangladesh border, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. As per the MHA data, fencing has been completed along 2135.136 kilometres, covering 93.25 per cent of the total 2,289.66 kilometres India-Pakistan International Border. Shared by the Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai in a written reply to the Lower House of the Parliament, the MHA data mentions that the remaining 154.524 kilometres, or 6.75 per cent, India-Pakistan border is yet to be fenced. Similarly, the data states, the India-Bangladesh International Border, measuring 4,096.70 kilometres, has fencing along 3,239.92 kilometres, accounting for 79.08 per cent of the border. The remaining 856.778 kilometres, or 20.92 per cent, remains unfenced. In addition, it further pointed out, progress has been made along the India-Myanmar border, which has a total length of 1,643 kilometres, and "physical fencing has been completed along 9.214 kilometres of this border so far." The government has stated that border fencing remains a key component of its strategy to curb infiltration and enhance national security. Rai replied to a query raised by two Trinamool Congress MPs—Jagdish Chandra Barma Basunia and Sharmila Sarkar—about the area of the border which is not fenced (in kms and as a percentage of the total border). In total, India has 15,106.7 km of land border and a coastal line of 7,516.6 km, including island territories.



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4,096.70 kilometres, has fencing along 3,239.92 kilometres, accounting for 79.08 per cent of the border. The remaining 856.778 kilometres, or 20.92

Rasam Pagri and Shardhanjali Samaroh of Narinder Singh Gupta today at Mata Mansa Devi Gaudham

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH,
DECEMBER 16

Narinder Singh Gupta, father of well known Chandigarh Homeopath Doctor Varinder Gupta of Chandigarh, passed away on December 6.

A prayer meeting and Rasam Pagri for his eternal peace is being organized today, December 17, from 2 to 3 pm at Mata Mansa Devi

Gaudham, Sector 4, MDC Panchkula.

Shri Narinder Singh Gupta was 85 years old and leaves behind a well connected and well settled large family.

He retired as SDO from the Punjab Irrigation Department in 1998. He was a very sweet, loveable and cheerful person. A large number of people are expected to participate in his last prayers today.



CM Mann pitches Punjab as key investment hub for UK

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, DEC 16

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday pushed for stronger and broader engagement with the United Kingdom, especially in unexplored business domains, while chairing the Punjab UK Engagement Strategic Dialogue here.

During a meeting with British Deputy High Commissioner Alba Smeriglio and representatives of various UK-linked and multinational companies, the Chief Minister said Punjab is keen to deepen ties with the UK in both traditional and emerging sectors. He said the state has identified five core pillars of collaboration higher education, textiles, engineering, auto components and agro & food processing along with new focus areas including pharmaceuticals and



healthcare, information technology, Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and business services. Bhagwant Singh Mann shared a detailed dossier showcasing Punjab's strengths, highlighting

that the state enjoys world-class physical connectivity with five airports and robust national highway links, giving seamless access to domestic and international markets.

The Chief Minister said that Punjab has a highly skilled workforce, which is crucial for the growth of every sector and added that the state offers competitive and peaceful labour, making it an attractive destination for investment. Bhagwant Singh Mann underlined that Punjab has a unified investment facilitation mechanism adding that Invest Punjab, acts as a single regulator and provides all requisite clearances within a stipulated time frame under a deemed approval regime, thereby giving confidence and certainty to investors. He also drew attention to the state's fast-track portal and single-window initiative aimed at simplifying procedures, reducing compliance burden and further improving Ease of Doing Business in Punjab.

PM Modi invites Jordanian companies to invest in India



AGENCY AMMAN: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday invited Jordanian companies to invest in India, saying they can look forward to good returns on their investments as the country is growing at over 8 per cent.

Speaking at the India-Jordan Business Forum meet here, Modi said India is soon going to become the third-largest economy in the world, and presents opportunities for Jordanian companies to become part of the growth story.

He said India's high GDP numbers are due to productivity-driven governance and innovation-led growth policies.

Modi said numbers are important in the universe of business, but he has come to Jordan to build a long-term relationship between the two nations.

"The relationship between India and Jordan is one where historical trust

and future economic opportunities come together," he noted.

India is growing at a fast pace, and new doors of opportunities are opening for Jordanian companies as well, the Prime Minister emphasised.

"You (Jordan) can become a partner in India's high growth and earn good returns on your investments," he said.

Indian companies in Jordan can manufacture medicines and medical devices. This will benefit the people of Jordan, and the country can also become a reliable hub for West Asia and Africa, he added.

While highlighting potential sectors of bilateral cooperation, Modi said India has a lot of experience in farming in dry climates.

"This experience of ours can make a real difference in Jordan. We can work on solutions like precision farming."

Himachali Janhit Maha Sabha to hold event on Dec 21 at Sri Ram Bhawan

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR: Himachal Janhit Maha Sabha Punjab is organizing its annual function on December 21 at Sri Ram Bhawan Kharar. Giving information in this regard, Sabha President Jagdev Patial, Mahamantri Prithvi Raj Shukla, Secretary Parvesh Bharti and Treasurer Sham Lal Shastri said that this event will run from 10 am to 3 pm and in addition to cultural programs, Himachali Dham will be served. Its chief guest will be BJP leader Ranjit Singh Gill. In this, famous singer Mohit Garg from Himachal will present his program.

Arrangements for vote counting completed: SDM Dhuri



RAJESHWAR PINTU
DHURI: All arrangements for counting of votes polled in the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections held on December 14 have been completed in the Dhuri constituency. The counting of votes will take place at the local University College, Benna. Providing details, SDM Dhuri Rishabh Bansal said that the counting process will commence at 8:00 am on December 17. He stated that the civil and police administrations have jointly completed all necessary preparations. As many as 12 counting tables have been set up for 12 counting teams, and additional staff has been kept on standby to meet any requirement. DSP Dhuri Gurpreet Singh said that strict vigil, similar to the polling day arrangements, will be maintained on the day of counting as well. He informed that CCTV cameras have been installed around the strong room and police personnel have been deployed with full alertness.

Central Bank of India marks 115th foundation day with plantation drive



CHANDIGARH: To commemorate its 115th Foundation Day, Central Bank of India, Chandigarh Zone and Region, organised a plantation drive at various locations in and around Chandigarh. The drive was conducted at SD College, Chandigarh, Shree E Ram Techno School, New Chandigarh and Government Model School, Sector 18 in collaboration with the Rotary Club. Senior bank officials, including the Zonal Head Sh. Arvind Kumar and Regional Head Sh. Ram Kumar Yadav participated in the drive, reaffirming the Bank's commitment to environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University concludes interfaith dialogue workshop successfully



AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, DEC 16

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib, successfully concluded a four-day workshop on Interfaith Dialogue aimed at promoting harmony and mutual understanding among diverse communities. The workshop was jointly organised in collaboration with the Agriculture and Environmental Awareness Centre and Rubaroo, a Hyderabad-based organisation. It formed part of Rubaroo's three-month Interfaith

Kabaddi promoter murder : Mohali police identify assailants

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, DEC 16

In a major breakthrough in the brutal murder case of noted Kabaddi promoter Kunwar Digvijay Singh alias Rana Balachauria, Mohali Police have identified the assailants involved in the crime and launched an intensive manhunt to apprehend them, disclosed Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Harmandeep Singh Hans, here today.

Sharing details, SSP Hans stated that the shooters have been identified as Aditya Kapur alias Makhan and Karan Pathak alias Defaulter Karan. Preliminary investigation has revealed that both accused are linked to the Donny Bal and Lucky Patial gangs.

He added that the motive behind the murder appears to be the assertion of dominance in Kabaddi tournaments.



The SSP further informed that twelve special police teams have been constituted and dispatched to various locations to trace and arrest the accused at the earliest.

Categorically refuting claims circulating on social media, SSP Hans stated that the murder is not linked to any act of revenge related to the Sidhu Moosewala case.

He emphasised that the primary motive, as indicated by initial findings, revolves

around control and dominance over Kabaddi events by rival gangs.

Providing background on the accused, SSP Hans said that Aditya Kapur is involved in as many as 13 FIRs registered at different police stations, while Karan Pathak is named in two FIRs. The SSP also clarified that the tournament organising committee had obtained all requisite permissions to conduct the Kabaddi tournament. The incident occurred after the match of the team sponsored by Rana Balachauria had concluded and the victim was exiting the venue. Reiterating the commitment of the police force, SSP Hans stated that Punjab Police, under the leadership of Director General of Police Mr. Gaurav Yadav, is fully capable of curbing such criminal activities, and sustained efforts are being made to ensure the swift arrest of the accused.

Complaint to PM regarding very bad condition of Kharar to Tepla National Highway No. 205 A

KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): A businessman from Kharar, Arun Kumar, has sent a complaint regarding the very bad condition of Kharar to Tepla National Highway No. 205 A and demanded that orders should be issued to the officials of the National Highway Authority of India to immediately repair this road.

He has written in his complaint that this road connects to Amritsar-Delhi National Highway. He said that it is very difficult to drive on this road because there are potholes on it at places. He said that when the National Highway Authority collects toll tax from the people, then why is this road in such a bad condition?

He has demanded that immediate action be taken in this regard. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's Office has sent this complaint to the concerned department of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Ministries for action. That department has forwarded it to the Chief General Manager.

Counting of votes to be held on December 17

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, DEC 16

In order to ensure a free, fair and transparent counting process for the Panchayat Samiti Elections-2025 held in the Kharar, Majri and Derabassi blocks of Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar district, the randomization of counting teams and allocation of counting staff to various constituencies was conducted today in the presence of Election Observer Ms. Amrit Singh.

Providing details, District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Mrs. Komal Mittal informed that for each constituency, counting arrangements have been made with 14 counting tables, with four-member counting teams deployed at each table, along with five reserve teams to meet any exigency.

She stated that the counting for Kharar and Majri



Panchayat Samitis will be conducted at the Government Polytechnic College, Khooni-majra (Kharar) while the counting for Derabassi Panchayat Samiti will be held at Government College, Derabassi.

The Deputy Commissioner further informed that all counting personnel have already been imparted requisite training regarding the counting process to ensure smooth, systematic and time

ly completion of the counting exercise.

All counting staff have been directed to report at their respective counting centres at 6:00 am. The counting of votes will commence at 8:00 am on December 17.

Additional Deputy Commissioner-cum-Additional District Election Officer Mrs. Sonam Chaudhary was also present during the randomization process of the counting teams.

SBI Chandigarh circle inaugurates inter circle Kho-Kho tournament 2025



CHANDIGARH, DEC 16

State Bank of India (SBI), Chandigarh Circle, today inaugurated the Inter Circle Kho-Kho Tournament 2025, marking the beginning of four days of competitive sporting action and camaraderie among SBI employees. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Shri Manmeet S. Chhabra, General Manager (Network 1), Dr. Mahinder Singh, Joint Director of Sports, Chandigarh Administration along with other senior dignitaries from SBI and representatives of various SBI associations.

A total of 28 teams from different SBI circles, including men's and women's teams, are participating in the tournament, showcasing the Bank's strong commitment to promoting sportsmanship, teamwork, and physical fitness among its workforce. The tournament will be conducted over four days, from December 16 to December 19, 2025, featuring league and knockout matches that promise high energy and competitive spirit.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the importance of sports in fostering discipline, unity, and a healthy work-life balance among employees, while also encouraging participants to uphold the true spirit of the game. The Inter Circle Kho-Kho Tournament 2025 is another step by SBI towards nurturing talent and strengthening inter-circle bonding through sports.

Naya Gaon MC officials remove encroachers from main market, goods illegally occupying road seized



CHANDIGARH (J.K.BATTA): On December 16, 2025, acting on the orders of Executive Officer Manpreet Singh, Naya Gaon Municipal Council, action was taken in the main market where shopkeepers were causing traffic congestion by displaying their goods outside their shops and encroaching on the road. This was causing inconvenience to pedestrians. The goods kept outside the shops were seized, and strict action was taken against those found operating as street vendors. Street vendors have been advised not to set up their stalls in the main market from now on. This action was taken by the Superintendent of Sanitation, Mr. Jang Bahadur Singh, of the Naya Gaon Municipal Council, and shopkeepers have been strictly warned that if they repeat the offence, strict action will be taken against them. Mr. Jang Bahadur Singh, Superintendent of Sanitation, Naya Gaon Municipal Council, and his team, explained that removing encroachers from the market means legally removing illegal encroachments on public or private land. This involves a process of notices, investigations, and evictions by government departments (such as the Revenue Department), ensuring the protection of public property and preventing traffic congestion.



services such as Panchkarma for the general public. The Chief Secretary further stressed the importance of improving the appearance and visibility of AYUSH services by installing additional boards and banners, ensuring clear signage, proper lighting, and good-quality paintings, with the objective of increasing public awareness and accessibility of AYUSH facilities.

He also visited the Direc-

torate Office located on the first floor of the Ayushman Arogya Mandir, Sector 24, where he interacted with the staff.

He encouraged the team to continue working with dedication to strengthen healthcare services under the AYUSH framework.

He also directed that office work be carried out through digital/e-office mode and that the practice of maintaining physical files be discontinued.

BGN School Shergarh organises inspiring career counselling session in collaboration with Chitkara University



TALWANDI SABO (ISHWER GARG): BGN School, Shergarh organised an inspiring and highly informative Career Counselling Session aimed at guiding students towards well-informed academic and career decisions. The session provided students with valuable exposure to emerging opportunities and helped them understand the essential skills needed to succeed in today's rapidly changing world.

The programme featured the esteemed Dr. Narinder Garha, Dean, Chitkara University, as the main speaker. Through his insightful presentation, He highlighted future career trends, the importance of skill enhancement, and the value of aligning one's goals with evolving professional pathways. His motivational interaction left a strong and positive impact on the students. Supporting the session were: Amandeep Singh Senior Manager Office of Student Outreach, Chitkara University, Chandigarh Shubham Sood Manager Office of Student Outreach, Chitkara University, Chandigarh Their guidance, coordination, and interaction ensured smooth execution and enhanced the learning experience for students. BGN School conveys heartfelt gratitude to the entire Chitkara University team

Vishwakarma Sabha Morinda holds meeting to finalise arrangements for Dec 25 religious procession



RADHE SHYAM SHARMA
MORINDA, DEC 16

A meeting of members of Shri Vishwakarma Sabha, Morinda, was held at Shri Vishwakarma Bhawan under the leadership of president Pawan Kumar Dhiman. The proceedings began with an aarti performed by the priest, followed by the offering of bhog to Baba ji, in the presence of the Sabha members.

Patron Sardar Harmmeet Singh Salh informed the gathering that a religious procession being organised on December 25 in the memory of

Baba Zorawar Singh. Baba Fateh Singh and Mata Gujri ji will start from the nearby village Saheri and conclude at the martyrdom site of Gurdwara Shri Jyoti Saroop, Fatehgarh Sahib. With the consent of all members, it was decided that a langar of hot milk and biscuits would be organised for the sangat in front of Shri Vishwakarma Bhawan.

All members extended their support for the arrangements. Later, patron Sardar Gurinder Singh Gogi thanked the members present and appealed to the community to participate in large numbers.

Aikyam 2025: When SLIET's past, present and future meet under one roof



BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA DEHATI, DEC 16

In an atmosphere charged with nostalgia, pride, and purpose, the SLIET Alumni Association (SAA), NCR Chapter organised its 5th Alumni Meet – "Aikyam 2025" at The Surya, New Friends Colony, New Delhi. True to its name, Aikyam (unity) became a powerful reminder that while time and geography may change, the bond between SLIET and its alumni remains unshaken. The evening was elevated by the gracious presence of Honorary Director Prof. Manikant Paswan, Dean AIR Prof. RK Mishra, Head of

Training & Placement Prof. Major Singh, other prominent faculty members Prof. Manoj Goyal, and Prof. Gulshan Jawa, whose interaction with alumni reflected a rare and refreshing institutional openness.

Their participation symbolised continuity—where leadership listens and alumni contribute. Alumni from the 1991 to 2004 batches marked their presence in large numbers, transforming the venue into a living archive of SLIET's legacy. Senior alumni took centre stage as they narrated inspiring corporate journeys—stories of boardrooms, startups, global projects.

Mansa achieves second-highest turnout in state panchayat polls; counting begins today

KULWINDER KARWAL
MANSA, DEC 16

Mansa district has secured the second position across the state in terms of voter turnout during the elections to the Mansa Zila Parishad and the four Panchayat Samitis of Mansa, Sardulgarh, Budhlada and Jhunjir. The counting of votes will be held on December 17, for which all necessary arrangements have been completed.

Disclosing this, District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Mansa, Mrs. Navjot Kaur, IAS, said that after Malerkotla district, Mansa recorded the highest voter turnout in the state at 56.2 per cent. A total of 2,45,311 votes were polled, including 1,31,293 male voters and 1,14,018 female voters.

DC informed that to ensure the smooth conduct of the counting process scheduled for December 17, a second ran-



domisation of counting staff has already been carried out and duties have been assigned to around 404 counting personnel. The District Election Officer further stated that the counting for Mansa Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti will be conducted at the Auditorium Hall, Nehru Memorial College, Mansa. Similarly, counting for Panchayat Samiti Jhunjir will take place at Government Senior Secondary School, Jhunjir; for Sardulgarh at Sardar Balraj Singh Bhundar Memorial Uni College, Sardulgarh; and for Budhlada at Krishna College of Higher Education, Ralli.

Jalandhar Admin sets up 11 counting centres for ZP and Panchayat Samiti elections



PARAMJIT SINGH
JALANDHAR, DEC 16

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal and Commissioner of Police Dhanpreet Kaur on Tuesday visited various counting centres set up for the counting of votes of the recently held Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections, and reviewed the preparedness to ensure a smooth and transparent counting process. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officials to strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by the State Election Commission. He minutely reviewed all arrangements at the counting centres and issued necessary directions to the concerned Returning Officers to en-

sure that the entire procedure is conducted in an orderly and time-bound manner. Dr. Aggarwal emphasized that a proper mechanism has been evolved for the regulated entry and exit of counting staff, candidates, their authorised representatives and officials. He urged all officers and employees deployed on duty to perform their responsibilities with utmost dedication, impartiality and sincerity. Providing details, the Deputy Commissioner informed that a total of 11 counting centres have been set up for the all 11 blocks. The counting centre for Adampur Block has been established at School of Eminence, Adampur; for Bhogpur Block at Government Senior Secondary School (Girls).

12 bottles of Illicit liquor being transported on milkman motorcycle from Chandigarh seized : Satinder Malhi



J.K.BATTA
NEW CHANDIGARH, DEC 16

Under the able guidance of Deputy Commissioner (Excise) Patiala, Mr. Tarsem Chand, and Assistant Commissioner (Excise) Mr. Ashok Chalotra, and under the direct supervision of Excise Officer Mohali, Mr. Diwan Chand, a checkpoint was set up near Boothgarh Red Light. Excise Inspector Mr. Satinder Malhi led this checkpoint, along with the Excise Police. During the operation, a black Hero Honda motorcycle with registration number PB 65-Y-3300 was stopped at the checkpoint. Upon checking,

the following illicit liquor was recovered: • 12 bottles of Royal General Whisky, Batch No. July 21/24, manufactured by Rich & Storm Private Limited, Plot No. 214, Industrial Area, Phase 1, Chandigarh, which was meant for sale only in Chandigarh, without a hologram and QR code.

The accused has been identified as Milkman Ajay Kumar, son of Mr. Ratan Singh, resident of Police Station Gobindgarh Majri. An FIR No. 129, dated 16/12/2025, has been registered against the accused Ajay Kumar under Section 61 of the Punjab Excise Act, 1914, at Police Station Majri, New Chandigarh.

IIT Ropar hosts global conference on Physics education; experts discuss AI, quantum learning



RUPNAGAR (BAHADURJEET SINGH): The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar on Monday inaugurated the International Conference on Physics Education (ICPE) 2025, a five-day global meet aimed at rethinking and strengthening physics education in the context of rapidly evolving scientific and technological landscapes.

The conference is being held from December 16 to 20, 2025, in collaboration with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). Bringing together physicists, educators, researchers and policymakers from India and abroad, ICPE 2025 seeks to address contemporary challenges in physics education and explore innovative teaching and learning practices aligned with emerging fields such as artificial intelligence and quantum technologies. The inaugural session was graced by Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, National Science Chair, and Professor of Physics at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, as the Chief Guest. Prof. Anil Kumar Tripathi, Director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali, attended the event as Guest of Honour.

Adopting conscious lifestyle and regular treatment essential for diabetes control: Dr. Shalu Jain

AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: Senior Medicine Consultant and diabetes specialist Dr. Shalu Jain emphasized that diabetes is a long-term disease, but it can be effectively controlled with a healthy lifestyle,



regular medication, and a balanced diet. She urged diabetes patients to remain vigilant about their health and follow medical advice strictly. Dr. Jain advised patients to regularly monitor their blood sugar levels, take medicines as prescribed by their doctor, and never discontinue medication without proper medical consultation. She stressed the importance of avoiding sweets and fried foods, while including green vegetables, pulses, and fiber-rich foods in the daily diet. Highlighting the role of physical activity, Dr. Jain said that walking for at least Thirty minutes daily or engaging in light exercise is highly beneficial in keeping blood sugar levels under control. She also emphasized the need for regular check-ups of the eyes, kidneys, and feet to prevent serious diabetes-related complications. In her concluding remarks, Dr. Shalu Jain appealed to the general public to adopt a healthy lifestyle, undergo timely health check-ups.

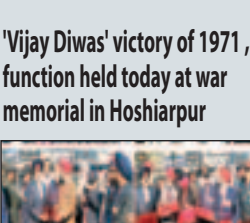
HMEI-AIIMS Bathinda join hands to bring doorstep healthcare to 59 villages across Punjab & Haryana

ISHWAR GARG TALWANDI SABO: Bathinda: In a landmark step toward transforming rural healthcare access, HMEI Guru Gobind Singh Refinery has partnered with AIIMS Bathinda to launch a comprehensive Integrated Mobile Medical Unit and Telemedicine Project that will deliver quality medical services directly to the doorsteps of villagers. Under this initiative, an MoU was signed on 15 December 2025 between AIIMS Bathinda and HMEI, through which 59 adopted villages across Punjab and Haryana will now receive free medical consultation, diagnostics, medicines, specialist teleconsultation and health awareness interventions. This initiative is expected to benefit nearly 25,000 families, covering over 1.5 lakh rural residents living in the vicinity of the Refinery.

Hoshiarpur invites applications for Urdu teacher training course: Language department office

DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIAHPUR: Following directives from the Director of the Punjab Language Department, Urdu teacher (Urdu Aamoz) classes will commence at the District Language Office, Hoshiarpur, from January 1, 2026. In-charge Officer Dr. Jaswant Rai provided detailed information, emphasizing that Urdu is an extremely beloved language. Learning Urdu is essential for gaining comprehensive knowledge of Punjabi language and literature. Even though all Punjabi literature in western Punjab is composed in the Shahmukhi script, students there are also taught the Gurmukhi script alongside it. Knowledge of both scripts is crucial for the exchange of literature. Highly qualified PhD Urdu instructors are available at the Language Department office in Hoshiarpur for Urdu language education. The six-month full course fee is just 7500. Upon completion, the Punjab Language Department conducts an exam, and successful students receive certificates from the department. Students of any age group can enroll in this course.

'Vijay Diwas' victory of 1971, function held today at war memorial in Hoshiarpur



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIAHPUR: To commemorate the 'Vijay Diwas' the victory of 1971, a function was held today at the War Memorial in Hoshiarpur by the Alliance Club International, District-119, and the Directorate of Defence Services Welfare Punjab. On this occasion, Ally Ashok Puri, Director Alliance Club International, Ally, Ally Vivek Sahni District Governor, Colonel Raghuvir Singh, Colonel Malook Singh, Major Ritika Sharma, Brigadier Surjit Singh, and Captain Jatinder Singh Rana, President Defence Veterans Organisation, were specially present. At the beginning of the program, Colonel Raghuvir Singh remembered the soldiers martyred in the 1971 war and the Kargil War, as well as those who were martyred in the wars fought for the unity and integrity of the country. On this occasion, Brigadier Surjit Singh remembered the 108 Army personnel from Hoshiarpur district who were martyred in the 1971 war and apprised the attendees about the glorious history of Indian Army. On this occasion, Ally, Ashok Puri along with District Governor of Alliance Club Ally, Vivek Sahni, District Guide Ally, Ramesh Kumar, Ally, Ashwani Kumar Dutta, Dr. Harjinder Singh Oberoi, and President of Hoshiarpur Greater Ally, Ajay Sharda, honoured Brigadier Surjit Singh, Captain Gurbaksh Singh, Subedar Bachan Singh, Subedar Santokh Singh, and Sheetal Singh from Mehmoval, with a token of love for their significant contributions in the 1971 war. On this occasion, Colonel Raghuvir Singh thanked the Alliance Club International, District-110, and Ally,

FM Cheema approves filling of 1,568 vacant posts in state

GAURAV GOEL CHANDIGARH, DEC 16

In a significant move aimed at strengthening the state's healthcare infrastructure, Punjab Finance Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday announced that the Finance Department has granted approval to the Health and Family Welfare Department's proposal to fill 1,568 vacant positions of ANMs and Staff Nurses under the National Health Mission (NHM).

Giving further details on the recruitment drive, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema revealed that the approval covers the filling of 729 vacant positions of ANMs against a total of 2,000 sanctioned posts, and 839 vacant positions of Staff Nurses against 1,896 sanctioned posts.

He emphasized that the state government is committed to ensuring that healthcare services are not hampered due to staff shortages and has therefore prioritized filling these contract-based vacancies. Highlighting the financial commitment of the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann led government toward this initiative, the Finance Minister disclosed that the total annual financial implication for these recruitments is estimated to be Rs 48.88 crore. Break-ups of the expenditure



indicate an annual cost of Rs 18.98 crore for the ANM positions and Rs 29.90 crore for the Staff Nurse positions. He specified that under the approved pay structure, the monthly remuneration has been fixed at Rs 21,700 for ANMs and Rs 29,700 for Staff Nurses. Finance Minister Cheema further informed that to ensure merit and transparency, the recruitment process is proposed to be conducted through a written examination administered by Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. He added that the Finance Department has accorded this ap

Highlighting the financial commitment of the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann led government toward this initiative, the Finance Minister disclosed that the total annual financial implication for these recruitments is estimated to be Rs 48.88 crore.

proval with the stipulation that the Administrative Department ensures necessary concurrence from the Personnel Department regarding these appointments. Underscoring the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab government's unwavering commitment to prioritizing healthcare and education, the Finance Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema said that with this decision, the state government is poised to strengthen its healthcare workforce, ultimately leading to improved healthcare services for the people of Punjab.

Election Observer issues instructions to micro observers regarding counting of Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti votes



PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR, DEC 16

Election Observer Mrs. Nayan, deployed by the Punjab State Election Commission, held a meeting with the micro observers at the District Administrative Complex and gave guidelines regarding the responsibilities to be performed during the counting of Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti votes. Election Observer Mrs. Nayan, emphasizing the importance of the count

ing process, said that it is the duty of the micro observers to keep a close eye on every stage of counting and ensure that the instructions issued by the Election Commission are strictly followed.

She said that 11 counting centers have been set up in the district and 2 micro observers have been deployed in each counting center. He said that if any irregularity or suspicious activity is noticed, it should be immediately reported to the Returning Offi

cer or his/her office. He said that it should also be ensured that complete transparency is maintained in the counting process. The Election Observer instructed the Micro Observers to perform their duties with complete honesty and impartiality. He said that these elections are the foundation of democracy and their success depends on the duty performed with honesty and dedication by the entire staff involved in the election process.

DC Pathankot holds review meeting regarding preparations for vote counting

SHARANJEET PATHANKOT, DEC 16

As per the instructions of the Honorable Election Commission, the elections to the Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti in Pathankot district were held on December 14 and now the counting of these elections is to be done on December 17, for which all the preparations have been completed.

This was revealed by Dr. Pallavi, Deputy Commissioner of Pathankot. On this occasion, Sanjeev Sharma Additional Deputy Commissioner (G), Jaswant Singh Additional Deputy Commissioner (D), Rakesh Meena SDM Pathankot, Major Dr. Sumit Mudh SDM Dhar Kala, Rajinder Sharma SP Headquarters Gurpreet Singh, Soil Conservation Officer, Jaswinder Kumar, XEN Powercom and var

Representation of all states imperative upon Central Government on allocation of funds: Meet Hayer



raising the issue of the terrible floods in Punjab, roared that when the floods ravaged Bihar two years ago, a special package of Rs. 12000 Crore was given, but now Punjab has been discriminated against in this regard. Natural disasters do not occur anywhere by looking at whether there is a BJP government or a non-BJP government in that state, added Meet Hayer further articulating that there should be no bias while releasing funds.

Meet Hayer said that the Central Government recently didn't took the State of

Punjab into confidence for effecting any changes in the Senate of Punjab University Chandigarh. The Central Government had to eventually withdraw the decision due to strong opposition from the state.

According to the Punjab Reorganization Act, no decision regarding Panjab University can be taken without the consent of the State Government, thundered Meet Hayer. Meet Hayer made a strong case for the inclusion of the representatives from all states in the committee that decides on the allocation of funds.

PCB continues awareness camps across district on waste management



GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA LEHRAGAGA, DEC 16

As part of the ongoing series of awareness camps being organized across the district by the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) to educate people and institutions about the prohibition on open burning and dumping of waste, a camp was held at Lehra.

The camp was led by Junior Engineer Rupinder Singh. In his address, Rupinder Singh explained that to prevent environmental pollution, there is a complete ban on burning or dumping any kind of waste in the open, especially bio-medical waste. He clarified that in the district, only the authorized agency "Medicare" has been approved for collecting bio-medical waste. He appealed to sanitation workers

not to collect bio-medical waste from any hospital, clinic, diagnostic centre, or laboratory. He stated that all health institutions are responsible for handing over their bio-medical waste only to the authorized agency.

The Junior Engineer said that if any hospital or institution is found dumping or burning bio-medical waste in the open, the Punjab Pollution Control Board should be informed immediately so that action can be taken as per the rules. He emphasized that, besides stubble burning, open burning of hospital waste is also a major cause of air pollution, which is highly harmful to human health. Therefore, every institution should understand its moral and legal responsibility and comply with pollution control regulations.

Jathedar Gargajj meets Sikhs of Punjabi lane in Shillong



CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA AMRITSAR, DEC 16

The Acting Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Singh Sahib Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargajj, today met members of the Sikh community residing in Punjabi Lane in the city of Shillong, Meghalaya, and enquired about their well-being. On this occasion, Jathedar Gargajj also paid obeisance at Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar located there

and visited the Guru Nanak School being run by the Gurdwara Management Committee.

During his interaction with the Sikhs of Punjabi Lane, Jathedar Gargajj listened to their concerns and reviewed the prevailing situation and conditions in the area. He said that the Sikhs living in Punjabi Lane are in high spirits and remain deeply connected with Sikh values and the Guru's house.

Judiciary also joins campaign "Youth against drugs" launched by govt to save youth from drug abuse: Romesh Mahajan



VERMA GURDASPUR, DEC 16

Ms Bhawna Sharma, Advocate along with PLV Ms. Kiran Bala in compliance with the directions of Honourable Sessions Judge Sh Dilbag Singh Johal and Judge Harpreet Singh, Secretary DLSA Gurdaspur participated in today's awareness seminar organised under campaign of "Youth against drugs" at Red Cross Integrated and Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts where total 50 participants including staff members join this seminar.

Both the speakers delivered fruitful lectures on drug abuse. While addressing the audience Project Director Romesh Mahajan National Awarded firstly thanked the judiciary for their initiative to control the menace of drugs and also said that to counter the problem of drug abuse in Punjab we all should unite and fight jointly against this menace as was done previously to counter with terrorism. Besides this Mrs Komalpreet kaur and Ragbir Singh both counselors delivered their valuable speeches amongst the audience.

3-day handicraft workshop at Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur successfully concludes

BALWINDER AZAD BHADOUR, DEC 16

A three-day handicraft workshop was organized at Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur, which is run under the management of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Shri Amritsar Sahib.

During this workshop, students were taught the art of making cultural items prepared by hand.

On this occasion, the Head of the Punjabi Department, Dr. Mandeep Kaur, informed that the institution makes every possible effort to make the students fit for the times and make them employable. S. Iqbal Singh Bhotna motivated the students to learn handicrafts and recognize their skills and shared his personal experiences with



the students. He said that in today's time, everyone needs to learn some art or skill. For this purpose, a three-day workshop was organized by the College's Art and Culture Committee and the NSS Department in collaboration with Indian Handicraft. On this occasion, Mr. Harsh Vivek (N. G. O. S. S. Memorial Society), Mr. Keshav Kaushak (Promotion Officer), Trainers-Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur (Phulkari Training), Mrs. Virpal Kaur, (Nallah and Paranda

Training) Mrs. Pritpal Kaur (Croatia Training) Mrs. Kuljit Kaur (Clay Art Training) etc. Trainers from the Handicraft Seva Kendra Hoshiarpur (Under-Ministry of Textiles) specially reached the College.

They taught the students of the College the skill of making handmade daily use items and other decorative items like Chikku, Phulkari, Nallah etc. The students benefited greatly from this three-day workshop.

Important to value time and follow discipline: Dr. Manjit Singh Dhillon

KOTKAPURA (SURINDER DAMDAMI): Points like following discipline, respecting time, respecting elders, constructive thinking, positive outlook are the source of progress for every student. Dr. Manjit Singh Dhillon, who was the chief guest at the felicitation ceremony organized by 'Ram Mohammad Singh Azad Welfare Society' Kotkapura for the brilliant children at Government Senior Secondary Smart School Sur Singh Wala, expressed the above words and said that it is his heartfelt wish that the young boys and girls of Punjab should get good marks in competitive examinations like IAS, PCS, IPS and become senior officers and sit on high-ranking chairs in different states across the country. He said that regular coaching arrangements have been made for boys and girls to become senior officers at Baba Farid Gurukul Group of Colleges near Village Dhilwan, Bathinda Road, Kotkapura.



Golden lioness PKL premier club (President Nisha Sachdeva) distributed uniforms in GMHS Pkt 8 Sec 13, Chd.

NEWS BRIEF

“Administration to the Village” programme to be held from Dec 19 to 25 under Good Governance Week

SUBHASH MAHAJAN CHAMBA: Under Good Governance Week, the “Administration to the Village” programme will be organised across the district from December 19 to December 25. Assistant Commissioner Aparajita Chandel informed that the main objective of celebrating Good Governance Week

is to ensure speedy, simple, and effective resolution of public grievances. She said that during this period, citizens will also be provided detailed information about various welfare schemes being implemented by different government departments. She further stated that special camps will be organised at the sub-divisional and tehsil levels under this programme to address public issues and grievances. Continuing the series of activities, a district-level workshop on various topics related to good governance will also be organised on December 23.

CM leads anti-Chitta awareness walkathon organised in Hamirpur

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR, DEC 16

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today led an Anti-Chitta Awareness Walkathon in Hamirpur, energizing a statewide public movement against the deadly synthetic drug that is devastating the youth.

Commencing from Government Senior Secondary School (Boys) Hamirpur, the walkathon concluded at the Police Lines Dosadka Ground. The event drew an overwhelming response from all sections of the society, including students, public representatives, government officials and distinguished guests. Before the start of the walkathon, the Chief Minister administered a solemn oath at the school ground, where participants pledged their collective resolve to eliminate chitta and other narcotic substances from Himachal Pradesh. Addressing the enthusiastic gathering at the concluding point, the Chief



Minister declared that Himachal Pradesh was engaged in a decisive battle against chitta. He emphasized that the state government has launched a comprehensive and uncompromising offensive against this lethal drug, which poses a grave threat to the future of our youth. “Strict and decisive action is underway to uproot the ‘chitta termite’ from its very roots through

the unyielding force of the law,” the Chief Minister stated. He added that drug traffickers, suppliers, and those providing protection to these illicit networks were being systematically targeted, using advanced technology besides a strengthened intelligence framework and stringent legal provisions to dismantle organized narcotics cartels. Reiterating his government’s firm resolve, the



Chief Minister said that the administration was committed to completely wipe out the networks of chitta traffickers. He underscored that this campaign was not merely a law enforcement initiative but a people’s mass movement to protect the core identity and social fabric of Himachal Pradesh. Highlighting key achievements since the launch of the campaign, the Chief

Minister noted that on 22nd November the police carried out historic, simultaneous raids at 121 locations across the state, delivering a major blow to the networks of top traffickers. Three days later intensive checking drives were conducted in 51 educational institutions and around 598 shops, markets and areas surrounding colleges, resulting in the registration of 12 NDPS cases

and issuance of 385 challans. Further breakthroughs include the simultaneous arrest of 16 notorious traffickers on 7th December under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs (PIT) and NDPS Acts, a total of 63 traffickers have been arrested so far. In addition, 1,214 traffickers and suspects have been identified and 950 illegal properties have been earmarked for stringent action. Assets worth over Rs. 50 crore have been seized under the NDPS Act, a sharp jump compared to Rs. 13 crore seized over the previous government’s three-year tenure. The Chief Minister also outlined a holistic strategy to combat the chitta mafia with a special focus on rehabilitation and support for victims of drug abuse. New de-addiction centres were being established across the state, complemented by the formation of a dedicated Drug De-addiction, Prevention and Rehabilitation Board to coordinate efforts in treatment, prevention and community outreach.

IRG and Nestlé R&D organise awareness programme



SHANTI GAUTAM

BADDI: An extensive awareness programme on ayush diet and traditional grains was organised for women and men in Kishanpura, Gullarwala and Labour Chowk areas under Project ‘Pratyusha’, being implemented by IRG NGO in collaboration with Nestlé R&D. The programme aimed to familiarise the community with the importance of ancient and nutritious grains and encourage their reintroduction into daily diets. The core objective and message of the programme was, “Our resolve — let us collectively adopt ayurvedic food, ancient and traditional grains and ayush diet, promote a healthy lifestyle and take it to every section of society.” During the programme, participants were given detailed information about traditional grains such as jowar, bajra and ragi, the concept of ayush diet, and the health benefits of traditional food practices. It was explained that these grains help improve digestion, boost immunity and play a significant role in preventing diabetes, obesity and lifestyle-related diseases.

Bear menace, road collapse disrupt life in remote Bat Panchayat of Chamba

SUBHASH MAHAJAN

CHAMBA: Bat Panchayat in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh is grappling with multiple challenges as the peak winter season coincides with a growing threat from wild animals, particularly bears. The situation has worsened to the extent that bears are now frequently sighted near residential areas, creating fear among villagers. Adding to the hardship is a major transportation crisis caused by a road collapse during a past disaster. Bus services have been disrupted on both the main routes connecting Bat village — the Luddu route and the Panela route. On the Luddu side, buses turn back nearly three kilometres before the village, while on the Panela route, buses return about one kilometre short of Bat. This road is the only vital link connecting Bat Panchayat from both sides, but it has not been restored despite the landslide occurring months ago. The suspension of bus services has hit schoolchildren the hardest. Students are forced to walk two to three kilometres daily to reach their schools, passing through dense forest areas where the fear of wild animals constantly looms. With winter setting in, darkness falls early, making the return journey even more dangerous. Battling fatigue, cold and fear, children continue their education under risky conditions.



CM flags off Nadaun-Hamirpur-Ghumarwin-Delhi Volvo bus

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, DEC 16

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today flagged off the Nadaun-Hamirpur-Ghumarwin-Delhi Volvo bus service of the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) after participating in the Anti-Chitta Mega Walkathon organised at Hamirpur. The newly launched Volvo bus will depart daily from Nadaun at 7:00 in morning and will reach Hamirpur at 8:00 & Ghumarwin at 9:00 am. It will leave Chandigarh at 11:40 and will reach Delhi at 4:40 in evening. On the return journey, the bus will leave Delhi at 8:30 in morning and will reach



Nadaun at 6:30 in evening.

Addressing on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the State Government has taken several significant steps to modernize the public transport system and make it more commuter-centric and environmentally friendly. To enhance passenger convenience, fare can now

be paid through UPI, debit cards and credit cards, as well. He said that HRTC has become the first State Transport undertaking in the country to introduce the ‘National Common Mobility Card’ facility.

With this card, passengers can travel across the country, including in the Delhi Metro, Delhi Transport

Corporation (DTC) buses, in Haryana Roadways and buses in western Mumbai. Facilities such as Him Bus Card, Him Bus Plus Card and Green Card are also being provided to offer concessional and free travel to eligible passengers. The Chief Minister further informed that 297 new electric buses were being added to the HRTC fleet. With the induction of 25 state-of-the-art Volvo buses the total number of Volvo buses in the Corporation has increased to 98. In addition, 50 tempo travelers and 24 super luxury buses have also been purchased. The procurement process for 250 diesel buses, 100 mini buses and four cranes is currently underway.

NIT Hamirpur finishes runner-up at all-India inter-NIT faculty and staff cricket tournament



RAJNEESH SHARMA

HAMIRPUR: The cricket team of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Hamirpur put up an impressive performance to clinch the runner-up trophy at the All India Inter-NIT Faculty and Staff Cricket Tournament held at NIT Bhopal from December 11 to 14, 2025. A total of 24 NIT teams from across the country participated in the prestigious tournament. NIT Hamirpur director Prof H.M. Suryavanshi and registrar Dr Archana Nanoti congratulated the team on its achievement. Team captain Dr Surender Soni, coach-cum-manager Dr Anup Kumar and Rakesh Jamalta lauded the disciplined, united and consistent performance of the players throughout the tournament. Dr Surender Soni said the NIT Hamirpur cricket team has been participating regularly in the inter-NIT faculty and staff cricket tournament since 2022. The team emerged champions in 2023 and finished runners-up in both 2024 and 2025, reflecting sustained excellence, commitment and strong sportsmanship. In the league matches, NIT Hamirpur registered emphatic victories over NIT Durgapur and NIT Patna by margins of over 100 runs. Dr Surender Soni and Dr Vivek Tiwari scored half-centuries in these matches, while bowlers Dr Manish, Dr Vivek Tiwari, Dr Aman, Dr Surender Soni and engineer Anil delivered impactful spells to restrict the opposition to low totals. In the quarterfinal,

55th Vijay Diwas marks with patriotic fervour at Changar; sacred soil from historic battlefields installed at Martyrs’ Memorial

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, DEC 16

Fifty-five (55th) Vijay Diwas, commemorating India’s historic victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, was observed with deep reverence and national pride at the Veer Balidani Memorial Complex, Changar. The solemn and emotionally charged programme was organised by the Ex-Servicemen Welfare Committee, Himachal Pradesh, paying heartfelt tributes to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation. District and Sessions Judge Bilaspur, Jyotsna Sumant Dadwal, attended the ceremony as the chief guest, while SDM Bilaspur Sadar Dr Rajdeep Singh Khera was present as the guest of honour. Both dignitaries paid floral tributes at the martyrs’ memorial, saluting the supreme sacrifice, courage and patriotism of the fallen heroes. The occasion was further dignified by the



presence of distinguished veterans including Brigadier Jagdish Singh Verma, Colonel Jitendra Chandel, Colonel Upendra Chandel and Captain Ram Nath Sharma, all recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal. A large number of ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, members of armed forces families and local citizens participated, creating an atmosphere charged with patriotism and gratitude.

A major highlight of the programme was the formal installation of sacred soil collected from various battlefields of India at the Changar Veer Balidani

Memorial. The soil, symbolising the sacrifices made during the wars of 1962, 1965, 1971 and 1999, was brought to Bilaspur in a grand procession led by the Ex-Servicemen Welfare Committee. The procession began from Badgaon Chowk and passed through key locations of the district before concluding at the memorial complex. State President Captain Amar Nath Dhiman and Chairman Captain Sanjay Kumar stated that this historic initiative aims to preserve the legacy of India’s military victories and instil a spirit of patriotism among future generations.

Veterans India confers pride of Nation Award on Nauni varsity

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, DEC 16

In a significant achievement furthering the spirit of the national slogan ‘Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan,’ Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, has been honoured with the Veterans India Pride of Nation Award 2025. The university was selected for the honour by a five-member jury headed by a former Chief Justice of a High Court, along with eminent members from diverse fields. Sanjay Seth, Minister of State (MoS) for Defence, was the Chief Guest at the event. The award recognises impactful initiatives that promote patriotism, leadership, community service, youth empowerment and value-based education. Dr Inder Dev, Director of Extension Education, received the award



on behalf of the university at the awards function in New Delhi. University Vice Chancellor Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel expressed gratitude to the jury and Veterans India for acknowledging the university’s efforts in honouring the nation’s veterans and fostering a strong connection with the defence community. He highlighted that the university regularly organises motivational talks and events to honour defence personnel and inspire students. The university is also engaging its alumni who have served in the armed forces to

motivate students to consider careers in the defence services. The event was attended by national functionaries of Veterans India and several eminent dignitaries, including Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC); Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE; Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, President, Association of Indian Universities (AIU); Dr MR Jayaram, Chairman, EPSI; P. N. Raveendran, former Chief Justice of Kerala High Court and Lt Gen G. D. Bakshi, SM, VSM (Retd.), among others.

Himachal Pradesh state trials for dragon boat race on December 21st

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, DEC 16

To ensure Himachal Pradesh’s participation in the national-level Dragon Boat Race competition, state-level trials are being organized on December 21, 2015. These trials will be conducted by the Himachal Pradesh Kayaking and Canoeing Association at Govind Sagar Lake. The trials will include Dragon Boat events for senior and junior men’s and women’s categories. The association has clarified that only participants from Himachal Pradesh will be allowed to participate. The state’s Dragon Boat team will be selected through these trials. Association coach Shyam Lal and General



Secretary Dr. Padam Singh Guleria informed that the players selected in the state trials will participate in the 14th National Senior and Junior Men’s and Women’s Dragon Boat Race

competition, organized by the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association from January 6 to 9, 2016. This competition will be held at Chhota Talab in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh. They further stated that all players participating in the state trials must report to the Water Sports Centre, Bilaspur, at 10:00 AM on December 21st and must be proficient swimmers. They also added that the association is continuously striving to keep young people away from drugs and encourage them to participate in sports, especially water sports. They appealed to the youth to stay away from drugs, actively participate in sports, and bring glory to the state.

Congress government's schemes limited to paper: Vishav Chakshu

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, DEC 16

Himachal Pradesh BJP State Media Co-in-charge, Advocate Vishav Chakshu, has cited the case of 94-year-old Bhagwan Das Sharma from the Thana Bargran ‘Sunhi’ area of Kangra district, who has not received his old-age pension for the past five months, as a living example of the Congress government’s inhumane and insensitive working style. Advocate Vishav Chakshu said that the same elderly people whose respect and security the Sukhu government talks so much about from public platforms are now forced to depend on others for medicines, rations, and daily necessities. This is not just the plight of Bhagwan Das Sharma, but a horrific picture of the injustice being

done to pensioners across the state. He said that continuous complaints are coming from several districts.

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

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table :-

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Mortgagee/Guarantor/Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(Loan A/C No.) L9001960829204468 & L9001960726109552, Dilsamrit Enterprises through its prop. Harjeet Singh (Borrower), Harjeet Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt. Asha Rani (Co-Borrower)	11-Oct-24 Rs. 4,97,246/- Rs. Four Lac Ninety-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Six Only & Rs. 12,84,486/- Rs. Thirteen Lac Eighty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Eight Only as on 10-Oct-24	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Khewari Khatori No. 72 Min/95 Khazra No. 933/395 Land measuring 00-01-12 Bigha (Along with House/Structure) Out of total land measuring 00-07-00 Bigha situated at Mohal Renu Jhivwala Hadbast No. 74 Tehsil Nalagarh & District Solan Addressing 00-01-12 Bigha East: Approach Gali 211", West: Bir Singh House 211", North: N/A, South: N/A	11-Dec-25

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said [Act 2002] read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. "The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 (6), in respect of time available, i.e. 30 days from this intimation, to redeem the secured assets."

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.

Date : 16/12/2025

Place : Solan, HP

Authorized Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

NEWS BRIEF

Man seriously injured after car hits truck, wife and daughter die

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: A wife and one and a half year old daughter died after a car and truck collided last night near a dirty drain near the Barnala-Bathinda main road. The husband, who was in the car, was seriously injured. According to information, Naresh Kumar son of Pyara Lal Badrewale, was returning from his friend's birthday party in a car with his wife Vishali and his daughter Myra Vasian Tapa. When they reached the dirty drain, the car collided violently with the truck in front and the truck went under. Immediately, the passers-by informed the Road Safety Force personnel and a security vehicle led by Assistant Police Station Officer Gurbaksh Singh, with the help of the people, pulled the car out from under the truck and immediately admitted the injured to BMC Hospital Barnala. But the girl succumbed to her injuries and died. Considering the serious condition of the couple, they were referred to DMC Ludhiana, but at DMC Ludhiana, wife Vishali also died during treatment and Naresh Kumar is undergoing treatment in a serious condition. The truck driver fled from the spot. Tapa police have registered a case and started further action.

Joint introduction meeting of BJP Yuva Morcha organised in Gagret



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: A joint introductory meeting of the Gagret and Daulatpur divisions of the BJP Yuva Morcha was held in Gagret. This meeting was the first held since the formation of the newly appointed Yuva Morcha executive committee. The meeting, held on Tuesday, was chaired by District Yuva Morcha President Rajat Rana. The meeting included detailed discussions on strengthening the organization, engaging youth, and future strategies.

Gurukul Kurukshetra honoured at ET TECH X School Excellence Awards 2025–26

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, DEC 16

Gurukul Kurukshetra has added another proud chapter to its journey of academic excellence as its Director, Dr. Brig. Parveen Kumar Sharma, was conferred with prestigious honours at the ET TECH X School Excellence Awards 2025–26. The awards were presented during the 6th Edition of ET TECH X, held at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, from 11 to 13 December 2025.

The ET TECH X School Excellence Awards are among the most reputed recognitions in the education sector, celebrating institutions and leaders who demonstrate innovation, quality, and impact in school education. Gurukul Kurukshetra was recognised for its outstanding



contribution to holistic education, academic results, value-based learning, and progressive teaching practices during the academic year 2025–26.

Dr. Brig. Parveen Kumar Sharma, while receiving the honour, dedicated the award to the teachers, students, and parents of Gurukul Kurukshetra. He emphasized that the achievement reflects the institution's collective commitment to discipline, innovation, and nation-

building through education. He further stated that such recognition motivates the school to raise its standards and continue nurturing responsible, skilled, and value-driven citizens.

The grand award ceremony witnessed participation from leading educators, policymakers, and education technology experts from across the country. Gurukul Kurukshetra's recognition at this national platform has brought immense pride to the Kurukshetra region and reinforced the school's reputation as a centre of excellence in education. This achievement marks a significant milestone for Gurukul Kurukshetra and reaffirms its vision of blending tradition with modern educational practices for the all-round development of students.

Partap World School, Pathankot provides international match experience to 50 students of PWS Cricket Academy

VERMA
GURDASPUR, DEC 16

In a commendable initiative to promote cricket, professional outlook, and real-time learning, Partap World School, Pathankot took 50 students of its PWS Cricket Academy to witness the India vs South Africa T20 International match at the HPCA Stadium, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. This visit was part of the school's continuous efforts to provide holistic exposure to budding cricketers. Accompanied by their coaches, the young players observed international-level cricket up close and gained valuable insights into match temperament, discipline, fitness, teamwork, and on-field strategies. The experience proved highly motivating and encouraged students to pursue excellence with greater focus and a professional mindset. On



this occasion, Partap World School Director Mr. Sunny Mahajan said, "Experiencing international cricket firsthand plays a vital role in shaping the personality of young players. Watching world-class players perform live helps our students understand the importance of discipline, dedication, and professional thinking, which are essential for success both on and off the field." Partap World School Principal Ms. Subhra Rani added, "Such experiential learning

opportunities go beyond classrooms and practice sessions. They ignite passion, boost confidence, and inspire students to dream big. We remain committed to nurturing talent through meaningful opportunities and enriching experiences." Partap World School continues to strengthen its commitment to sports education by providing platforms that support skill development, motivation, and a deep respect for sportsmanship.

PGIMER & Thalassaemic Charitable Trust organise 323rd blood donation camp

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, DEC 16

Department of Transfusion Medicine PGIMER and Thalassaemic Charitable Trust (TCT) organized its 323rd Blood Donation Camp in coordination with Rehmat Foundation, to commemorate the Shaheedi Jodmel at Gurudwara Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib, Sector 34, Chandigarh. The Camp was dedicated to thalassaemia patients and other serious patients requiring blood support. TCT made elaborate arrangements for the blood donors and set up a desk dedicated to thalassaemia awareness. Smt. Harpreet Kaur Babla, Mayor, Municipal Corporation and many other reputed dignitaries of Chandigarh visited this camp and blessed



the blood donors. They distributed gifts and badges to the blood donors. 82 voluntary blood donors donated blood in this camp. The camp successfully ended under the guidance of Prof (Dr.) Ratti Ram Sharma-HOD and under the supervision of Dr. Puneet Kaur; Deptt. of Transfusion Medicine PGI and their respective team. Prof (Dr.) Ratti Ram Sharma-HOD, Deptt. of Transfusion

Medicine PGI and Sh. Rajinder Kalra, Member Secretary of the Trust emphasised the need for voluntary blood donation to save thalassaemic patients who need regular blood transfusions after 15-20 days and precious lives needing blood support. They thanked all blood donors, the team of Department of Transfusion Medicine and team of TCT PGIMER Chandigarh for this camp.

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, DEC 16

The annual function of St. Lawrence International School, Shahpur Road, Vyaspur, titled "Utkarsh 2025 – A New Journey Towards Excellence" was celebrated with great grandeur and enthusiasm under the guidance of the Chairperson Dr. Rajni Sehgal. The presence of distinguished guests from the fields of education, administration and social service enhanced the dignity and prestige of the event. The ceremony was graced by Dr. Sanjay Arora (Registrar, Gurugram University), Mr. Ramesh Thaska (Chairman, Zila Parishad) and Ms. Aastha Garg (BDPO, Vyaspur) as the Chief Guest and Special Guests. The programme



commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp and floral tributes offered before Lord Ganesha and Goddess Saraswati. On this occasion Ms. Rachna Sharma, Ms. Meenu Gera and Ms. Lakhwinder Kaur presented impressive introductions highlighting the personality and achievements of the esteemed guests. Thereafter, the Chairperson Dr. Rajni Sehgal, Dr. M. K. Sehgal and the school officials felicitated all the guests by presenting them with traditional shawls, bouquets, coconuts and

mementoes. In his inspiring address, Dr. Sanjay Arora conveyed to the students that limited resources can never be an obstacle to success. With determination, hard work and a positive mindset any goal can be achieved. He urged parents to focus less on fulfilling unnecessary demands of children and inculcate in them values, discipline and a strong work ethic. He also emphasized the pivotal role of teachers in continually motivating students and guiding them on the right path. Mr. Ramesh Thaska appreciated the academic and

Punjab State Legal Services Authority disburses Rs. 15.80 lakh compensation to 10 flood-affected families in Gurdaspur



VERMA
GURDASPUR: As per the directions of Member Secretary Punjab State Legal Services Authority, S.A.S. Nagar, Dilbagh Singh Johal, Ld. District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Gurdaspur and Harpreet Singh, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Gurdaspur has identified 10 worst flood-affected families, whose houses were badly damaged during flood in district Gurdaspur. Punjab State Legal Services Authority, SAS Nagar has disbursed amount of Rs.15,80,000/- to the office of DLSA, Gurdaspur to issue the cheques to the 10 flood affected families as compensation, whose house were badly damaged during floods in district Gurdaspur. Ld. District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Gurdaspur distributed the amount to the all 10 families by transferring amount in their account through RTGS. During this programme all the Judicial Officers of District Head Quarter were also present there and ask the families to use the amount for reconstructing the houses.

Sonia Gandhi urges govt to improve pay, staffing for ASHA and Anganwadi workers

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, DEC 16

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday drew the attention of the Rajya Sabha to the ongoing distress faced by women workers implementing critical government programs, including ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and helpers, and community resource persons under the National Rural Livelihood Mission. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Gandhi said, "I rise to draw the urgent attention of this House to the continued distress of women workers implementing critical government programs--ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and helpers, and community resource persons under the National Rural Livelihood Mission." "These initiatives are intended as pathways to women's empowerment. However, despite



their vital contribution to public service delivery, these women workers are overburdened and underpaid," Gandhi added. Highlighting the workload of ASHA workers, Gandhi added, "Across the country, ASHA workers undertake immunisation, mobilisation, maternal health, and family welfare, yet they remain

volunteers with low honorarium and limited social security. Anganwadi workers, similarly, are paid a meagre honorarium of Rs. 4,500 and Rs. 2,250 per month by the Union Government." Gandhi also pointed out the staffing shortages affecting service delivery, saying, "Beyond low pay, there are currently nearly three

lakh vacancies in the ICDS at various levels. These gaps leave lakhs and lakhs of children and mothers without essential services. Even when filled, these posts fall short of population norms due to the lack of updated census figures since 2011." The Congress leader urged the Government to prioritise measures in collaboration with the States, including, filling all existing vacancies, ensuring timely remuneration to all workers, doubling the Union Government's contribution to the pay of these frontline workers, appointing an additional ASHA worker in villages with a population greater than 2,500 and doubling the number of Anganwadi workers to enable early childhood education in addition to existing nutrition and health initiatives. "Strengthening, expanding, and supporting this workforce is an investment in India's future," Gandhi emphasised.

Quality training is foundation of Gram Swaraj success: Sanjeev Kaushal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NILOKHERI/KARNAL, DEC 16

The success of Gram Swaraj depends on continuous, practical, and quality training of panchayat representatives and officials. This was stated by Sanjeev Kaushal, Chairman of the Seventh State Finance Commission and former Chief Secretary of Haryana. He was addressing officers and employees at a dialogue organized on the initiative of the State Finance Commission at the Haryana Institute of Rural Development. The program was chaired by Dr. Virendra Singh Chauhan, Director of the Haryana Institute of Rural Development. Dr. Anshaj Singh, IAS, Member Secretary of the Commission, was

also present on the occasion. At the beginning of the program, Director Dr. Virendra Singh Chauhan welcomed Commission Chairman Sanjeev Kaushal, Member Secretary Dr. Anshaj Singh, IAS, and the delegation accompanying them with bouquets. He said that the Haryana Institute of Rural Development is continuously working to strengthen the roots of democracy in villages through training of panchayat representatives and officials. The purpose of this Finance Commission dialogue was to comprehensively assess the capacity building and training system of Panchayati Raj institutions in the state and to gather concrete suggestions for future recommendations.

NEWS BRIEFS

Awareness programme held at govt Industrial Training Institute on World AIDS Day

KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI: A programme was organised at the Government Industrial Training Institute, Taraori, on the occasion of World AIDS Day, with the objective of increasing awareness about HIV/AIDS. Students of the institute enthusiastically participated in the programme, conveying messages to society through various awareness-related activities. Creative competitions such as Rangoli and Mehndi were organised on this occasion, in which students artistically presented messages related to HIV prevention, safe lifestyle, and social awareness. The students who secured first, second, and third positions in the competitions will be felicitated soon. The programme was presided over by the institute's class instructor in-charge, Rajesh Kumar. He provided detailed information to the students about HIV infection, its causes, misconceptions, and effective preventive measures. He said that prevention of serious diseases like HIV is possible through correct information, vigilance, and awareness, and that young people have a crucial role to play in this. Anoop Bhardwaj, Devendra Sharma, Ranjit Singh, Anshul, Vikram Singh, and other staff members, along with a large number of students, were present at the programme.

Plantation drive outside MC office spreads message of environmental protection

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, DEC 16

Under Swachh Survekshan 2025 initiative, a plantation was organized today at Municipal Corporation office premises in Ward No. 15 of Yamunanagar. It aimed to enhance beauty of corporation office premises, expand green cover and raise awareness among citizens about cleanliness and environmental protection. During campaign conducted under directions of Municipal Commissioner Mahabir Prasad, flowering plants were planted outside corporation office and people passing by on Railway Road were encouraged to plant more trees by holding plants at a designated selfie point. After plantation drive, MC team and participants conveyed messages to citizens through placards and banners, urging them to avoid using single-use plastic, conserve water, and adopt a clean

Haryana

Govt to register 1.38 crore farmers under agristack

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, DEC 16

Haryana is set to register 1.38 crore farmers under the Farmer Registry (AgriStack) through an OTP-based Aadhaar authentication process. This was disclosed by the Financial Commissioner, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Dr. Sumita Misra, while reviewing the progress of the Farmer Registry (AgriStack) and Digital Crop Survey (DCS) in a video conference with Deputy Commissioners, District Revenue Officers and Tehsildars.

During the review, Dr. Misra directed the Deputy Commissioners to launch special campaigns by organizing village-level camps in close coordination with the Revenue and Agriculture Departments to accelerate implementation. She instructed that both the Farmer Registry and the Digital Crop Survey be completed by February 2026, stressing that maximum farmer participation and focused outreach in rural areas are crucial for comprehensive coverage.

Calling the initiative transformational for farmers, Dr. Misra said Aadhaar OTP-based authentication will be used to create 1.38 crore Farm IDs, ensuring accuracy, transparency and targeted delivery of benefits. She underlined that accurate and timely data collection would strengthen digital land and crop records, improve



targeting of agricultural schemes and enable efficient and transparent benefit delivery. She added that Additional Deputy Commissioners have been designated as nodal officers in each district to monitor field-level progress and address operational issues, while Deputy Commissioners will conduct weekly reviews to ensure inter-departmental coordination.

She further informed that the registration process will begin from tomorrow in three districts—Ambala, Panchkula and Faridabad. Emphasizing timely completion, Dr. Misra said the Farmer Registry will be directly linked with the PM-KISAN scheme and other beneficiary schemes, making it essential that registration targets are met within the stipulated time frame. Highlighting the need for discipline in file processing,

Dr. Misra stated that Paperless Registration cases should not be reverted more than twice under any circumstances. To expedite decision-making, the revert window has been reduced from five days to 48 hours. Deputy Commissioners and District Revenue Officers were directed to personally monitor approvals and strictly follow the FIPO (First-In, First-Out) system to eliminate delays and procedural bottlenecks. Senior officers from the Government of India, Chief Knowledge Officer and Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Sh. Rajeev Chawla, participated in the review through video conference. Dr. Misra said the Revenue and Agriculture Departments will jointly conduct special registration camps to enable seamless linkage of land records with agriculture-related welfare schemes.

To ensure close supervision, Deputy Commissioners, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and senior district officers will oversee implementation in Ambala, Panchkula and Faridabad. Joint teams of Revenue and Agriculture officials will begin AgriStack registration camps from tomorrow. Dr. Misra noted that nearly 46,000 paperless registrations have already been completed, reflecting steady on-ground progress, and emphasized that continuous monitoring, clear accountability and strong inter-departmental coordination are key to the success of digital governance reforms.

District-level national children's science exhibition showcases 125 models in Karnal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, DEC 16

A district-level National Children's Science Exhibition was organised at Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Sector 13, Karnal, under the aegis of SCERT Gurugram and the District Education Department, Karnal. The exhibition was held under the guidance of District Education Officer Rohtash Verma and led by the district science expert.

Nodal officer Deepak Verma said that 125 students from Classes VI to XII, who had secured first, second and third positions at the block level, participated in the district exhibition. The young innovators presented 125 working models on themes including rainwater harvesting, natural farming, health and hygiene, sustainable agriculture, emerging technologies, mathematical formulas, waste management and related subjects.

District Education Officer Rohtash Verma and District Elementary Education Officer Jyotsna Mishra inspected the exhibition. Appreciating the students' efforts, Verma said that the primary objective of such exhibitions is to generate interest in science and promote a scientific temperament among children. Mishra, while

addressing students and teachers, said these competitions aim to nurture creativity and analytical thinking in the field of science.

All participating students were honoured with certificates of appreciation.

In the results, Armaan of Sheikhpura Suhana secured first position in the sustainable agriculture category, Gagan of Model School Nissing topped the emerging technologies segment, Tamanna of Rambha won in entertaining mathematics models, Khwaish of Model School Nissing stood first in green energy, Gunjan of Dabkoli secured top position in health and hygiene, Karnal of Model School Sheikhpura Sohna won in waste management and plastic category, while Aryan of Model School Taraori bagged first place in water management.

Among those present on the occasion were DEO Rohtash Verma, DEEO Jyotsna Mishra, Deepak Verma, APC Pawan, Vipin Kumar, media coordinator Dalip Singh, Harish Grover, Shahid, Pawan, Renu Sangwan, Swati, Parveen Kumari, Sandeep Mehra, Vikram Handa, Jitender Sharma, Mini Sharma, Sunita Kankad, Ritika, Neelam, Richa Bajaj, Pooja, Dr Renu Verma, Ravi Kiran, Ravi Rai, Sapna, Anil Saini and others.

Jail Lok Adalat held, 6 cases settled, 14 Muslims released on necessary conditions

SHIV KUJMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, DECEMBER 16

A Jail Lok Adalat was organised on Tuesday under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, Ajay Kumar Sharda. Eight cases were presented before the Chief Judicial Magistrate and Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Dr. Iram Hasan, in the Jail Lok Adalat. Of these, 6 cases were settled, and 14 Muslims were released on necessary conditions. During this time, they were also administered an oath to refrain from drug use and theft. The CJM also inspected the facilities being provided to the inmates in the jail. The CJM also visited the Shradhanand Bal Ashram and in-

teracted with the children residing there, taking stock of the facilities being provided to them. She then inspected



the Nari Niketan and reviewed the facilities being provided to the women residing there.

CJM Iram Hasan informed that the District Legal Services Authority is organising awareness camps at various locations in Karnal district under the Drug-Free Haryana Mission and the Child Marriage Free India campaign. In this connection, Inspector Rajesh Lata organized an awareness camp today at Government Secondary School, Pakhana, and Government Senior Secondary School, Shangarh, motivating the children to stay away from drugs and participate in the Child Marriage Free India campaign. Para Legal Volunteer Agya Pal organized an awareness camp in village Bibipur Jatan, informing the people about the harmful effects of drugs and administering an oath to refrain from drug use and child marriage.

Globe Heritage School wins Cricket Championship, securing first place

RINKU SAINI

LADWA: Students of Globe Heritage International School have excelled in cricket championship. Giving details, school's sports department teacher, Sanjay Kumar, informed that a cricket championship was organized by Surendra Cricket Academy at Sanjay Gandhi School, Harnol, in which Under-14 boys' cricket

team of Globe Heritage International School secured first place, bringing glory to school and region. Winning team included Naithik, Hiten, Arshit Rana, Daivish, Divam, Hitesh, Harshit, Shaurya, Kunal, Yojit, Guruvansh, Yuvraj, Harsh, Sarthak, Anmol, Daksh, Manik, Bhagat Ram, Kanishk, Rehan, Garvit and Rudra. Arshit Rana was awarded Best Batsman award and Daivish Best Bowler award of championship. Winners were welcomed upon their return to school. After welcoming winners, Principal Ritu Singla congratulated players and said that all students who participated in this championship deserve congratulations and team's coach deserves appreciation for his hard work with children. Calling this victory a victory for entire Globe Heritage family, she said that along with academic studies, school will continue to encourage children's participation in sports for their physical development, and in art and craft and cultural programs for their mental development.



The 'Pradhanmantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' will be expanded as a campaign in Haryana: Vij

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
AMBALA, DEC 16

Haryana's Energy Minister, Sh. Anil Vij said that the Pradhanmantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana will be expanded across the state in the form of a campaign so that Haryana emerges as the leading state in the country in implementing this scheme and rooftop solar systems are installed in the maximum number of households. In this regard, Sh. Vij said that monitoring committees will be constituted by the Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam and the Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam to ensure rapid expansion of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Vij was chairing a review meeting today in Chandigarh with senior officers of the Energy Department regarding the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The Energy Minister directed officers that monitoring committees should be formed by both power distribution corporations to speed up the expansion of the scheme, so that complete information related to the installation of rooftop solar

systems under the scheme is readily available. He further instructed that an online system be developed to ensure real-time availability of information regarding solar systems installed at each household, so



that it can be clearly tracked how many rooftop solar systems have been installed so far in different divisions, circles, and other units.

During the meeting, the Energy Minister also directed officers to explore the possibility of appointing a dedicated agen-

cy to install the maximum number of solar systems in Haryana. He said such an agency could be engaged to cover as many eligible households as possible for the installation of rooftop solar systems, thereby promoting green energy and connecting a larger number of people with the scheme. He added that such an agency could install rooftop solar systems at the homes of eligible beneficiaries and help expand the reach of the scheme extensively.

Sh. Vij said that a revolving fund could be created for this purpose. Officers informed the Energy Minister that Rs.100 crore each would be allocated to the Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam and the Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam, and that government approval for this allocation has already been obtained. With the availability of this fund, the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana will be expanded at a much faster pace.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary of the Energy Department, Sh. Shyamal Misra, assured the Energy Minister that the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana would be rapidly expanded and closely monitored.

Senior BJP leader Rampratap Gupta strongly criticises Congress and opposition for spreading lies of vote theft and SIR

SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: Senior BJP leader Rampratap Gupta has strongly criticised the Congress and other opposition parties for spreading misinformation regarding "vote theft" and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. He said that the opposition has been completely exposed by the facts, and its conspiracy to mislead the public will not succeed. He said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has clearly stated, based on facts, that the SIR process conducted by the Election Commission is completely constitutional, transparent, and fair. Despite this, the Congress is continuously creating a false narrative and questioning the credibility of democratic institutions, which is extremely unfortunate. He said that the SIR process is being used to remove the names of deceased persons, fake voters, duplicate votes, and illegally added names from the electoral rolls. This process is meant to strengthen democracy, not to harm any political party. But the Congress is afraid of free and fair elections, which is why it opposes every reform. Rampratap Gupta said that the Election Commission's figures themselves prove that the allegations of "vote theft" made by the opposition are completely baseless. If vote theft were happening, why would the public repeatedly give the BJP a massive majority in 2014, 2019, and 2024? He said that the Congress is still living in the same mindset where power was considered its birthright. When the public rejected them, they are now playing the game of defaming institutions. But the people of the country are aware and understand the opposition's false propaganda. Finally, Rampratap Gupta said that the BJP is committed to protecting democracy, the Constitution, and the dignity of the Election Commission. Processes like SIR will further strengthen democracy, and the opposition's lies will continue to be exposed by the facts.



Sugarcane Dept organises farmers' meeting in Bhadson

MAINPAL KASHYAP

INDRI: A one-day village-level farmers' meeting was organised in Bhadson village by the Assistant Sugarcane Development Officer, Bhadso at Indri office. The program was presided over by Assistant Sugarcane Development Officer Dr. Praveen Kumar. Under the Sugarcane Technology Project Mission, it was announced that farmers would be given a subsidy of Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 per acre for setting up demonstration plots to promote the cultivation of notified and recommended varieties of sugarcane in the year 2025-26. Farmers can avail of this scheme for a maximum of 5 acres. Along with this, under the National Food Security Mission, farmers will be provided a subsidy of Rs. 3,200 per acre for the cultivation of other crops, up to a maximum of 2 acres. Officials informed that interested farmers should first register their sugarcane fields on the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" portal and then apply on the website of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Haryana, www.agriharyana.gov.in, by December 31st. In the meeting, retired subject matter specialist Dr. Chandra Prakash elaborated on modern methods of controlling diseases.



Jerseys, shoes distributed by Bharat Vikas Parishad and Smt Krishna Goyal Foundation

RINKU SAINI
LADWA, DEC 16

Project head Rumit Garg informed that approximately 1500 needy children from 16 schools in and around Ladwa were given jerseys and shoes. It was inaugurated by social workers Shri Vijender Goyal, Amit Goyal and Krishna Goyal by lighting ceremonial lamp. In first phase of program, needy children from Government Senior Secondary School Ladwa, Government Primary School Budha, Government Primary School Gharola, Government High School Ban, Government Primary School Jainpur Jattan, Government Primary School Barghat, Government Primary School Vint, Government Primary School Bapdi, and Government Senior Secondary School Ladwa received shoes and jerseys. Council President Aman Goyal welcomed the chief guest by presenting him with traditional shawl. Amit Goyal, founder of Shrimati Krishna Goyal Foundation, said that they are committed to education and health. He added that they are ready to help anyone who is in need. Council President Aman Goyal said that this program



was organized with objective of ensuring that children do not face any difficulties in their studies during winter season. Aman Goyal further stated that Bharat Vikas Parishad Ladwa organizes many programs for children in schools to instill good values in them. In second phase of program, jerseys and shoes were distributed to children at Government Primary

School and Government Girls Secondary School Ladwa. In final phase of the program, jerseys and shoes were distributed to students of Government Primary School Dera and Government Primary School Ladwa Mandi. Sunil Garg, Bittu Kansal, Raj Kumar Agarwal, Vikas Singhal, Anju Agarwal and all members of Bharat Vikas Parishad were present.

Quality training foundation of gram Swaraj's success: Sanjeev Kaushal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NILOKHERI/KARNAL, DEC 16

The success of Gram Swaraj (village self-governance) depends on continuous, practical, and high-quality training of panchayat representatives and personnel, said Sanjeev Kaushal, Chairman of the

Seventh State Finance Commission and former Chief Secretary of Haryana. He was addressing officers and employees at a symposium organized by the State Finance Commission at the Haryana Rural Development Institute. The program was presided over by Dr. Virender Singh Chauhan, Director of the Haryana Rural Development Institute. Dr. Anshaj Singh, Member Secretary of the Commission, was also present on the occasion. At the beginning of the programme, Director Dr. Virender Singh Chauhan welcomed the Commission Chairman Sanjeev Kaushal, Member Secretary Dr. Anshaj Singh, and their delegation with bouquets. He said that the Haryana Rural Development Institute is continuously working to strengthen the roots of democracy at the village level through the training of panchayat representatives and personnel. The objective of this symposium by

the Finance Commission was to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the capacity building and training system of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the state and to gather concrete suggestions for future recommendations. The training programs conducted by the Haryana Rural Development Insti-



tute, Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Community Development Institute, Regional Panchayati Raj Institute Bhiwani, and State Panchayat Resource Center Nilokheri over the past five years were reviewed in detail during the meeting. Chief Guest Sanjeev Kaushal said that as the state's premier training institution, the detailed documentation of the training work done by the Haryana Rural Development Institute over the past five years will

prove extremely useful for the Commission's future report. Based on this, practical and effective recommendations related to the training of Panchayati Raj Institutions can be included.

During the discussion, special emphasis was placed on the problems encountered in training, the availability and optimal utilization of human and physical resources, post-training follow-up, and the need to prioritize the repair of buildings and infrastructure that have been pending for years. It emerged during the discussion that the institute needs to be equipped with more financial resources for the effective discharge of its responsibilities. The programme was attended by Dr. Mahipal, Advisor to the Haryana State Finance Commission, representative Kulwant Khullar, faculty members of the institute Dr. Sushil Mehta, Sandeep Kumar, Neelam Chhikara, planning expert from the State Panchayat Resource Center, Nilokheri, Dr. Sonika Bhatti, Principal of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Community Development Institute, lecturer Virender Grewal, lecturers Pradeep Malhan, Saurabh Arora, Rajneesh Kumar etc.

EDITORIAL

Uphold the right to die with dignity

The right to death with dignity is equally important as the right to live. In a culturally sensitive and complex society like India, the debate surrounding euthanasia raises several ethical and legal questions. Not surprisingly, making laws on euthanasia or assisted dying is fraught with several dilemmas. For any government, the issue presents a minefield of ethical dilemmas. However, the harsh reality is that thousands of patients are stuck in vegetative states with absolutely no hope of recovery, burdening their families emotionally and financially. The absence of a law on euthanasia complicates the situation for terminally ill patients and their families. Moved by the heart-wrenching condition of a 31-year-old man who has remained in a vegetative state for the last 13 years, the Supreme Court recently directed the constitution of a secondary medical board at New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to examine whether life support and treatment may be withdrawn from the patient who suffers from 100% disability quadriplegia. This may well become India's first judicially sanctioned case of passive euthanasia. Once the AIIMS secondary board submits its opinion, the court will decide whether life support, including feeding tubes and clinically assisted hydration, may legally be withdrawn. The court's approval could set a precedent, clarifying safeguards against abuse while honouring end-of-life choices. "We can't allow him to live like this. That's for sure," said the two-member bench of the apex court, taking note of the heart-wrenching condition of Harish Rana, who had slipped into a coma after falling from a building. The patient's parents have approached the court twice in the last two years, seeking passive euthanasia for him. The case brings back bitter memories of a haunting tragedy involving Aruna Shanbaug, a nurse who spent 42 years in a vegetative state after a horrific sexual assault at Mumbai's KEM Hospital in 1973. The case triggered widespread outrage and compelled the nation to confront the question of passive euthanasia. Her case became a moral trigger that led to a landmark judgement in 2018 when a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court legalised passive euthanasia, recognising the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right in the spirit of Article 21. The recognition of an individual's right to exercise bodily autonomy is a sign of maturity in any evolved society. This verdict reflected sensitivity and maturity. Later, in 2023, the SC further simplified these guidelines, requiring assessments by primary and secondary medical boards. The court had pulled up the Centre for failing to enact a law on passive euthanasia in accordance with its 2018 judgement upholding the right to death with dignity. By remaining silent on such a crucial issue concerning the terminally ill patients, the union government is trying to abdicate its legislative responsibility and pass the buck to the judiciary.

India marks Vijay Divas, the anniversary of the 1971 victory of joint Indian and Bangladeshi forces over Pakistan, celebrated every year on December 16, the interim government in Dhaka summoned India's High Commissioner to convey what it described as "serious concern" over public remarks made by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina from exile.

The timing was striking. Vijay Divas commemorates not only the military triumph of the Maitreyi (Allied) armies, but also Bangladesh's liberation after nine months of war, genocide, and occupation. That Dhaka chose this moment to escalate diplomatic signalling toward New Delhi underlined the profound reorientation underway in Bangladesh's politics, historical memory, and external alignments.

For the second consecutive year, Bangladesh will mark December 16 without military parades which are usually held to celebrate its independence from what was colonial rule by the Urdu-speaking western wing of the Pakistan. The absence of official commemoration by this Bengali nation is not an administrative detail but a political statement.

Since assuming power in August 2024, the interim authorities have sought to recalibrate the narrative of Bangladesh's founding, softening references to Pakistan's war crimes in 1971, which saw 3 million dead, hundreds of thousands raped and many more maimed for life, while redefining the country's domestic and foreign priorities.

The war that led to Bangladesh's independence was among the bloodiest episodes of the Cold War era. Not only were 4 per cent of the people of that nation wiped out in an unprecedented



genocide, but much of the country's intellectual elite was systematically targeted in the final days before Pakistan's Eastern Command, led by Lieutenant General A. A. K. Niazi, surrendered to Indian forces and the Mukti Bahini.

For decades, remembrance of that trauma, and of Pakistan's role in it, served as a moral foundation of the Bangladeshi state. That foundation now appears increasingly shaky.

While civil society groups and sections of the intelligentsia continue to demand an unconditional apology from Pakistan before relations are normalised, the new unelected leadership has moved toward a cautious rapprochement with Islamabad.

Over the past year, multiple Pakistani military, naval, and intelligence delegations have visited Dhaka and Chittagong. Talks have reportedly explored defence cooperation and even joint production of armaments. Engagements with China and Turkey, two countries which vehemently opposed Bangladesh's independence in 1971, have expanded in tandem.

This external realignment is mirrored by changes at home. Islamist and pro-Pakistan political forces that were discredited after 1971 are now emerging as mainstream dominant parties, albeit without any electoral tests.

The shift has triggered resistance, particularly among students and urban civil society. Earlier last week, students at

Dhaka University erected what they called a "Razakar Hate Pillar," denouncing the militias that collaborated with Pakistani forces during the war. The act reflected a broader unease among women's groups, academics, and professionals who see the rehabilitation of Islamist politics as a direct challenge to Bangladesh's secular and nationalist foundations.

At the same time, signs of Islamisation in public life have multiplied. Religious leaders now exercise growing influence over policy debates and calls for stricter social norms have become increasingly common.

These developments are inseparable from Bangladesh's recent political upheaval. After independence in 1971, the country

embarked on an ambitious nation-building project under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, only to descend into cycles of coups and military rule following his assassination in 1975. A return to electoral democracy in the 1990s eventually produced a duopoly between Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia.

Following elections in 2008-9, Hasina presided over Bangladesh's longest period of political continuity which saw economic growth accelerating, poverty declining sharply, and the country widely portrayed as a development success story.

That narrative collapsed in 2024 amid economic strain, currency depreciation, falling garment exports, and rising unemployment. Student protests over job quotas expanded into a broader movement demanding Hasina's resignation. On August 5, 2024, she was finally forced to leave the country with the army's assistance.

An interim government that took office had promised a short transition but that has now stretched to beyond 15 months. Its rule has been marked by persistent violence, vigilante justice, and the re-emergence of Islamist groups previously contained through arrests and proscriptions. Several leaders once jailed on terrorism-related charges have been released, and intelligence sources warn that they are now regrouping for another possible bout of violence and bomb attacks of the kind South Asia once experienced.

Elections are slated for February 2026, but their credibility may be doubtful. The Awami League, the country's largest political force, has been barred from contesting. Many of its leaders are imprisoned or in exile, largely in India.

India unveils its first indigenous 64-bit dual-core microprocessor DHRUV64



India today marks a major step in its semiconductor journey with the launch of DHRUV64, the country's first 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor, according to an official government release. The processor is fully designed in India by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the Microprocessor Development Programme.

DHRUV64 sits at the centre of India's plan to reduce dependence on imported processors. The release states that the chip supports both strategic and commercial uses and provides the country with a reliable, homegrown technology base. The processor features modern architectural enhancements that improve efficiency, multitasking capabilities, and reliability. Its design also enables seamless integration with a wide range of external hardware

systems, making it suitable for applications including 5G networks, automotive systems, consumer electronics, industrial automation, and the Internet of Things.

The release notes that India accounts for nearly 20 per cent of global microprocessor production, underscoring the importance of indigenous development for long-term security. Before DHRUV64, India had already begun building its ecosystem with processors such as SHAKTI, AJIT, VIKRAM, and THEJAS64. These efforts laid the foundation for a stronger domestic chip design environment. DHRUV64 provides startups, researchers, and industry with a platform to build and test products without relying on foreign processors. It also supports prototype development at a lower cost. India already has a large talent base in chip design, and the processor is expected

to help train more professionals who will support future semiconductor projects. The success of DHRUV64 also speeds up work on the upcoming Dhanush and Dhanush+ processors. The rollout of DHRUV64 is a part of the Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Programme, which aims to make India a global hub for electronics system design and manufacturing. The release says DHRUV64 is the third chip fabricated under DIR-V, following THEJAS32 and THEJAS64. Work on DHANUSH64 and DHANUSH64+ System on Chip variants is now in progress. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) guides national programmes such as the Microprocessor Development Programme, DIR-V, Chips to Startup (C2S), the India Semiconductor Mission, the Design Linked Incentive Scheme and INUP-i2i. These initiatives strengthen the design ecosystem and support research and training across academia, startups and industry. C-DAC continues to lead processor design work and is now developing the next processors in the RISC-V roadmap. "The progress from THEJAS32 to DHRUV64, and the ongoing development of Dhanush and Dhanush+, illustrates a confident national pathway toward indigenous processor innovation and technological self-reliance," the release said.

Labour force participation rate rises to 55.8%

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased to 55.8 per cent in November 2025, the highest level recorded since April 2025, showing a steady improvement in the labour market, according to the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. The rise in participation came mainly from rural areas. The overall LFPR for persons aged 15 years and above reached a seven-month high in November. Rural LFPR



moved up to 58.6 per cent, compared to 58.0 per cent in April and 57.8 per cent in October. Urban LFPR showed a marginal dip to 50.4 per cent from 50.5 per cent in the previous month, indicating stable but slower movement in cities. Female participation continued its upward path during the period. Overall, female LFPR rose from 32.0 per cent in June 2025 to 35.1 per cent in November. The increase also came mainly from rural areas, where female LFPR climbed steadily from 35.2 per cent in June to 39.7 per cent in November. Urban female LFPR remained broadly stable at around 25.5 per cent,

showing limited change over the months. Employment levels also showed improvement. The Worker Population Ratio for persons aged 15 years and above increased to 53.2 per cent in November, up from 52.5 per cent in October. Rural areas drove this rise, with WPR improving from 55.4 per cent in April to 56.3 per cent in November. Urban WPR remains largely unchanged during the same period. Women's

employment showed clear gains in rural India. Rural female WPR rose from 36.9 per cent in October to 38.4 per cent in November. This increase pushed the overall female WPR from 32.4 per cent to 33.4 per cent within a month, reflecting stronger work participation among women outside cities. Unemployment showed a clear decline in November. The overall Unemployment Rate for persons aged 15 years and above fell to 4.7 per cent from 5.2 per cent in October, marking the lowest level since April 2025. Rural unemployment dropped further to 3.9 per cent, while urban unemployment stood at 6.5 per cent, matching its earlier low recorded in April. Both men and women saw lower unemployment. Female unemployment declined to 4.8 per cent in November from 5.4 per cent in October. Rural female unemployment fell to 3.4 per cent, while urban female unemployment eased to 9.3 per cent. Male unemployment also reduced to 4.6 per cent from 5.1 per cent in the previous month, with declines seen in both rural and urban areas.

POEMS

I Believe

Poetry, I tell my students, is idiosyncratic. Poetry

is where we are ourselves (though Sterling Brown said

"Every 'I' is a dramatic 'I'"), digging in the clam flats

for the shell that snaps, emptying the proverbial pocketbook.

Poetry is what you find in the dirt in the corner,

overhear on the bus, God in the details, the only way

to get from here to there. Poetry (and now my voice is rising)

is not all love, love, love, and I'm sorry the dog died.

Poetry (here I hear myself loudest) is the human voice,

and are we not of interest to each other?

By Elizabeth Alexander

GST rationalisation, festive demand lift retail credit growth in Q3 Fy25

The retail credit demand in India strengthened during the July-September 2025 quarter, supported by Goods and Services Tax (GST) rationalisation and improved consumer sentiment ahead of the festive season, according to TransUnion CIBIL's latest Credit Market Report.

The Credit Market Indicator (CMI), a composite measure of credit market health, rose to 99 in the September 2025 quarter from 98 in the preceding quarter, reflecting improved demand, supply conditions and stable asset quality. The uptick followed the GST rationalisation introduced in September 2025, commonly referred to as GST 2.0, which enhanced affordability across key consumer segments.

Vehicle finance, particularly two-wheeler and

auto loans, along with consumer durable loans, recorded strong year-on-year growth in the pre-festive period. The CMI for credit demand increased to 95 in the quarter ended September 2025, up from 93 a year earlier. TransUnion CIBIL's analysis showed a sharper festive season impact compared with the previous year. Daily average demand for consumer durable loans surged to an indexed level of 189 in 2025 from 128 in 2024.

Two-wheeler loan demand rose to 272 from 249, while auto loan demand increased to 133 from 115 over the same period.

Credit supply also improved, with the CMI for supply rising to 97 in the September 2025 quarter from 91 a year earlier. Growth was led by secured lending products such as home loans, auto loans, consumer durable



loans and gold loans. Semi-urban and rural regions continued to outperform metro and urban areas, accounting for 61% of total credit supply during the quarter. New-to-credit borrowers and younger consumers played a growing role in credit expansion.

The year-on-year growth rate of new-to-credit consumers rose by 5% during the quarter, reversing a decline seen last year. Borrowers under the age of 35 recorded a 12% year-on-year growth, with participation particularly strong in semi-urban and rural markets. "GST 2.0 was a much-needed step to stimulate economic growth, and its positive impact is evident in the improvement of consumer sentiment and the upward trend in credit demand," said Bhavesh Jain, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of

TransUnion CIBIL.

He added that lenders must balance growth with responsible lending practices to ensure long-term sustainability.

Overall asset quality remained stable, with the CMI for performance rising to 105 in the September 2025 quarter from 100 a year earlier. However, early signs of stress emerged in select segments. Delinquencies increased in micro-loans against property and small-ticket housing loans, indicating the need for closer monitoring of these portfolios. "While overall asset quality remains stable, recent trends indicate emerging stress in specific loan segments," Jain said, noting that proactive risk assessment and borrower engagement would be critical to maintaining portfolio health.

NEWS BRIEF

Stepping Stones School hosts felicitation ceremony for mothers



AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: With the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle among children, Stepping Stones School successfully organised a "Nutritious Food" competition. As part of the event, mothers who prepared healthy and well-balanced tiffins for their children were honoured with appreciation awards. The mothers thoroughly enjoyed the programme and expressed their gratitude to the school management for acknowledging their efforts and recognising their important role in the upbringing of children. During the ceremony, the mothers also participated in joyful dance performances, creating an atmosphere filled with happiness, warmth and togetherness. On the occasion, Managing Director Samdisha and Principal Jyoti Sharma stated that mothers play a vital role in shaping children's health, eating habits and overall development. They added that such activities help strengthen cooperation and understanding between parents and the school.

RS Member Rajinder Gupta meets Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman



KARANPREET KARAN BARNLA: Rajya Sabha Member and founder of the Trident Group, Padma Shri Rajinder Gupta, paid a courtesy call on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. During this important meeting, detailed discussions were held on various policy-related issues, including the country's current economic situation, challenges faced by the textile industry, and future prospects. During the meeting, Rajinder Gupta briefed the Finance Minister on the country's industrial landscape, particularly the business environment in Punjab and North India. He appreciated the economic reforms undertaken by the central government over the past few years and the steps taken towards "Ease of Doing Business." Rajinder Gupta stated that under the Finance Minister's able leadership, the Indian economy is moving forward strongly despite global challenges. As an experienced industrialist, Rajinder Gupta also shared several important suggestions to make the textile industry more competitive at the global level. He emphasized the need to strengthen the availability of raw materials, export incentive schemes, and financial support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Electricity workers protest against online transfer policy, submit memorandum



JAIBEER RANA THAMBER BARARA: On Tuesday, a two-hour protest was held by the Barara sub-unit, under the Ambala Cantt unit, at the call of the Central Council of the HSEB Workers Union Bhiwani, against the online transfer policy. The protest was presided over by Unit Press Secretary Pradeep Sehla. The proceedings were formally conducted by Subunit Joint Secretary Aman Balti. Along with this, a memorandum outlining their demands was submitted to the SDO Barara by the Barara sub-unit, as per the call of the Central Council. They also protested against the online transfer policy. In his address, Pradeep Sehla informed the employees about the flaws in the online transfer policy. The secretary also encouraged all employees to participate in the protest to be held at the unit level tomorrow.

Tiny tots add colour to sports and cultural meet at Kaithal school



SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: Students from nursery to Class II stole the show at the sports and cultural meet organised at Indira Gandhi Senior Secondary Public School, where enthusiastic participation by young children provided wholesome entertainment to the audience. Superintendent of Police Upasana Singh attended the event as the chief guest, while Deputy Superintendent of Police Sushil Pratap was present as the special guest. School chairman J.B. Khurania and principal Ranjoo Gupta, along with the entire staff, accorded a warm welcome to the guests. Several other guests, including Ram Bahadur Khurania, Shyam Bahadur Khurania, Nishant Khurania, Subhash Sharma, Narendra Miglani, Naresh Gupta, Suresh Gupta, Narsimal and Satish Chawla, were present. Women members of the Khurania family, including Amita Khurania, Anita Khurania, Poonam Khurania and Monika Khurania, also attended the function and encouraged the students and teachers. The programme began with a welcome song presented by the tiny tots.

Northern Railway, Chandigarh XI and LPU Jalandhar shine on Day 2 of 48th GS Liberals All India Hockey Tournament

RAKESH JINDAL NABHA: On the second day of the 48th G. S. Liberals All India Hockey Tournament, three matches were played at the hockey ground of the local Punjab Public School on Tuesday. The first match of the tournament was played between Northern Railway New Delhi and Himachal XI, the second match was played between Punjabi University

Patiala and Chandigarh XI and the third match was played between LPU Jalandhar and MS K Hockey Academy Jarkhar. In today's first match, Northern Railway New Delhi defeated Himachal XI 3-1. In the fourth minute of the match, Manish Sahni of Northern Railway scored the first goal, Sanjay scored the second goal and Manish Sahni scored the third goal again. Neeraj



scored the first goal for his team in the 33rd minute of the match from Himachal XI, but still Northern Railway managed to win the match in its favor in the end.

CM Nayab Singh Saini gives major gifts of health, road and irrigation facilities to Hansi



Sultanpur area. The Kumbha-Thurana waterworks will be connected to the Bhakra Branch to ensure there is no shortage of drinking water. In addition, a request will be made to NHAI for the Hansi-Bhiwani service line in Dhana Kalan and Dhana Khurd. He said that a police line with bus stand to address the problem of rainwater drainage. He said that an STP and WTP would be built in Sector 5 of Hansi. A new canal will be constructed from the OP Jindal Minor for irrigating agricultural land in the

Yamunanagar police urge residents to install CCTV cameras to curb crime

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal has appealed to the general public to install CCTV cameras to help monitor suspects and prevent crime in the district. The appeal was shared by the police spokesperson, who said the move aims to strengthen surveillance over anti-social elements and improve crime detection. The SP has directed all station house officers to maintain updated records of CCTV cameras installed in their respective jurisdictions. The spokesperson said that whenever a crime occurs, police give top priority to collecting CCTV footage to identify and trace offenders at the earliest, enabling swift legal action. The use of modern technology, particularly CCTV surveillance, has proven to be highly effective in both crime prevention and investigation, he added. According to the police, the presence of CCTV cameras also acts as a deterrent for anti-social elements. The SP urged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with the police by installing cameras, stating that public support is crucial for effective crime control. He said strong coordination between the police and the public ensures that no criminal can escape police scrutiny. The SP pointed out that in some cases, criminals damage CCTV cameras after committing offences, which creates difficulties in investigation. He appealed to shopkeepers to install at least two cameras outside their shops so that road activities and suspicious movements can be monitored. He also advised installing good-quality cameras, noting that poor image quality often makes it difficult to identify suspects even when they are captured on camera.



Congress to move no-confidence motion against BJP govt in winter session



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA PANCHKULA: The Congress has decided to bring a no-confidence motion against the BJP government during the ongoing winter session of the Haryana Assembly. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party held on Tuesday, which was attended by former chief minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state Congress president Rao Narendra Singh. The party will also raise questions in the Assembly on issues such as rising unemployment in the state and allegations that the Haryana Public Service Commission is giving preference to candidates from outside Haryana in state government jobs. Addressing the meeting, Bhupinder Singh Hooda alleged that the BJP had formed the government by "stealing votes" in Haryana.

DC holds meeting of compliance of SC order regarding menace of stray dogs



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh said that it was the priority of the administration to curb the menace of stray dogs in the district and ensure the safety of innocent children and citizens. Authorities should take seriously the increasing incidents of stray dog attacks. Concrete steps should be taken to prevent these incidents. Any kind of negligence will not be tolerated in this work. He was speaking in the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat on Tuesday in a meeting related to the compliance of the orders issued by the Supreme Court on the terror cases of stray dogs in the district. Earlier, Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi held a meeting of all the District Deputy Commissioners through VC from Chandigarh and gave necessary directions. In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner informed the Chief Secretary that a Joint Task Force and District Monitoring Committee have been formed in the district. Along with this, 10 dog shelters have been built in the district in which arrangements for living of dogs have been made. Dog feeding zones have also been created. He said that tender for catching dogs has been issued by four city councils and this work will be completed soon in two city councils.

Cheque of Rs 5 lakhs handed over to Rajrani of Khanpur Kolian under Antyodaya policy: Suman Saini

RINKU SAINI LADWA, DEC 16

Suman Saini, Vice President of the Haryana State Child Welfare Council, said that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was formulating and implementing welfare schemes for every section of the state. Under the Antyodaya policy, the BJP government was ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reached the last person first. She added that development projects worth crores of rupees are being carried out in every village and urban area of the Ladwa Assembly constituency. After completion, the region will gain a distinct identity across the state. She was speaking as the chief guest at an event held in Khairi village on Tuesday. During the event, she presented a cheque of Rs 5 lakh to Rajrani, wife of Dinanath, a resident of Khanpur Kolian village in the Ladwa assembly constituency. Her



son, Sukhwinder Singh, died after being bitten by a poisonous creature. This assistance was provided under the Chief Minister's Farmer and Agricultural Labourer Life Security Scheme. Ms Suman Saini stated that the state government, keeping in mind the interests of farmers and agricultural laborers has been providing financial assistance through this scheme in case of accidents during farming. She added that the government has amended this scheme, raising the age limit from 65 to 75 so that more farmers and laborers can benefit from it. Furthermore, provision has been made for assistance in the event of death or limb loss due to toxic gas. On this occasion, many dignitaries including Media Coordinator Tushar Saini, Mahila Morcha District President Vandana Gori, Chairman Dr. Satish Kumar Mathana, Secretary Gurmeet Singh Saini, Mandal President Narendra Dabkheada and Amarendra Singh, Sarpanch Neetu Saini, Suresh Saini, Paramjeet Kashyap, Poonam Saini, Monica Gupta, Sunny Kalra were present.

Hry govt organises sand art show and essay writing competition on Veer Bal Diwas



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: With the aim of spreading the message of the unique sacrifice of the four Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh Ji to the common people, the Haryana Government organized a sand art show and a district level essay writing competition in Dr. Mangalsen Auditorium on Tuesday on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas. In this 40-minute sand art show, the atrocities of the Mughals and the heroic story of four Sahibzadas were presented to the young generation. In this sand art show organized on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas, 382 boys and girls from 132 schools of the district registered their presence by participating in the essay writing competition. Children from different schools participated in the essay writing competition in four languages - Hindi, English, Punjabi and Sanskrit. Apart from this, more than 700 students saw this sand art show. In the program, artist Sarvam Patel, who came from NSB Production, Mumbai, through sand art, beautifully depicted the life, protection of religion and bravery of Guru Gobind Singh's brave Sahibzads Ajit Singh, Jujhar Singh, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh. Artist Sarvam Patel in Sand Art Show 10th Patshahi Birth of four Sahibzadas of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Mughal rulers after the establishment of Khalsa Panth, leaving of Sri Anandpur Sahib Fort along with Guru Gobind Singh Ji's family to fight the Mughal army on December 20-21, 1704 after invasion by Subedar Wazir Khan of Sirhind, Guru Gobind Singh Ji's family on Sarsa River Brought alive the history of separation.

CM Sukhu to unveil Rs 69 crore development push in Ghumarwin

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu will undertake a one-day visit to Bilaspur district on December 17, during which he will dedicate and lay foundation stones for multiple development projects worth approximately Rs 69 crore in the Ghumarwin Assembly constituency. The visit is expected to significantly strengthen infrastructure and civic facilities in the region, while also addressing long-pending concerns of pensioners across the state. According to an official spokesperson, the Chief Minister will arrive at the Tikri helipad, Ghumarwin, at 10:00 a.m. He will lay the foundation stone of a multi-purpose sports complex to be constructed at a cost of Rs 6.08 crore. At 10:35 a.m., he will inaugurate the newly constructed Ghumarwin Police Station, built at a cost of Rs 4.82 crore, and lay the foundation stone for police family quarters costing Rs 6 crore. At 10:55 a.m., the Chief Minister will reach the Ghumarwin bus stand to lay the foundation stone for the upgradation of the 7-kilometre Amarpur-Hadsar-Dahad-Jaman-Ghumarwin road at a cost of Rs. 6.13 crore. At 11:15 a.m., he will lay the foundation stone for the upgradation of the 31-kilometre Ghumarwin-Barthi-Shahtalai road at a cost of Rs 34.95 crore and inaugurate a rainwater harvesting check dam at Seer Khad built at Rs 3.67 crore.



CM Nayab Singh Saini expresses grief over demise of ex MLA Sahib Singh Saini



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has expressed deep sorrow over demise of former MLA Sahib Singh Saini. He expressed his condolences to bereaved family and prayed for peace for departed soul. He visited residence of late Sahib Singh Saini in Sector 13 today. Expressing his condolences, Chief Minister said that may God grant peace to departed soul and give strength to family to bear this loss. He wished bereaved family patience and strength during this difficult time. He shared his condolences with late Sahib Singh Saini's son, Advocate Vinod Saini and other family members including Advocate Tushar Saini, Dr. S.R. Saini, Rajesh Saini, Veena Saini, Poonam Saini, Ankita Saini, Kanika Saini, Narendra Saini, Sushil Saini, Brij Mohan Saini, former Sarpanch Sher Singh Saini and Master Suresh Saini.

MP Naveen Jindal striving to deliver healthcare to every doorstep: Ravindra Dhiman



SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: Under the Swasth Kurukshetra Parliamentary Constituency campaign launched by MP Naveen Jindal, three mobile medical units are being operated by the Naveen Jindal Foundation with the aim of taking healthcare services to villages and urban wards. These units visit different villages and city wards every day, conduct health check-ups and provide necessary treatment. The initiative has been proving effective in making healthcare services more accessible and impactful across the region. Each mobile medical unit is staffed with MBBS doctors who examine patients, offer free medical consultation and distribute medicines at no cost. Blood and urine tests are also conducted for villagers visiting the units, enabling timely detection and treatment of various ailments.

TB Eradication camp organised in Kaithal on initiative of MP Naveen Jindal



RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL: An effective health initiative was implemented in Kaithal with aim of strengthening Prime Minister's TB-Free India campaign. Under guidance of MP Naveen Jindal, successful TB screening and awareness camp was organized at Leprosy Service Ashram in Ward No. 31 of Kaithal, in collaboration with Naveen Jindal Foundation, Red Cross and District Health Department. Objective of camp was to make general public aware of serious diseases like tuberculosis, provide timely testing and guide them towards treatment. Team of expert doctors provided consultation and necessary testing facilities to 193 people. Health department team conducted health check-ups and distributed medicines through general OPD. 65 people were tested for HIV, while 70 people were screened for TB through X-rays.

earec **Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited**
5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector- 44 I Gurgaon- 122002 Ph: 0124 - 4527200

Rule 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The Authorised Officer of Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFESI Act, 2002) and in the exercise of powers conferred upon him under Section 13(12) of SARFESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a demand Notice dated 10-05-2025 calling upon the Borrower, Co-borrowers, Guarantors & Mortgagees Gurneet Singh, Manpreet Kaur to repay the amount mentioned in the notice for the amount of Rs. 12,43,291.71/- (Rupees Twelve Lac Forty Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety One And Seventy One Paise Only) as on 09-05-2025 along with interest at contractual rates till actual repayment/realization, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

And, the total outstanding dues as on 30-11-2025 amounts to Rs. 13,26,876.17/- (Thirteen Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Six And Seventeen Paise Only) and further interest at contractual rates on the aforesaid amount, including incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred and accruing thereafter till the date of payment and/or realization.

And whereas, the Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC) as acquired all rights, titles and interests of IDFC First Bank Limited in the financial assets of Borrower, originated by IDFC First Bank Limited under section 5 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFESI Act, 2002) vide Assignment Agreement dated 24-09-2023.

And the Borrower, Co-borrowers, Guarantors & Mortgagees having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given by the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC, to the borrowers and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on me under sub-section (4) of section 13 of SARFESI Act, 2002 read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 16-12-2025.

And the Borrower, Co-borrowers, Guarantors & Mortgagees in particulars, and the public, in general, is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Encore ARC for an amount of Rs. 13,26,876.17/- (Thirteen Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Six And Seventeen Paise Only) as on 30-11-2025 along with interest at contractual rates from 01-12-2025 till actual repayment/realization after adjustment of repayment/realization, if any.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

That Place And Parcel Of Property Measuring 50 Square Yards Comprised In Khata No. 411/18/22/41/23 Khatta No. 404/456-405 457, Khatta No. 440/491, 441/492 Situated At Village Jamalpur Awana H.b. No. 177 Abadi Known As Iqbal Nagar, Street No. 1, Tehsil And District Ludhiana, And Bounded As:

East: Neighbourhood North: Neighbourhood
West: Street South: Neighbourhood

Signed By Gurneet Singh

Sd/- Sachin Kumar (Authorised Officer)
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited

Shahid Kapoor says 'delayed flights are lovely'

Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor, who was last seen in 'Deva', is on a delayed flight, and is getting sarcastic about his ordeal. On Tuesday, the actor took to the Stories section of his Instagram, and shared a monochromatic picture of himself inside the flight cabin. He wrote on the picture, "Delayed flights are so lovely". This comes amidst the slowly returning normalcy in the Indian aviation sector after one of the airlines unleashed chaos across the airports in India following the implementation of a new policy by the government where it increased the resting time for pilots. IndiGo airlines were the slowest to adapt to the policy changes, and to hire more staff to make up for the rest time. The other set of delays and cancellations are still in force owing to the weather conditions and fog in north India. Earlier, Shahid had shared a video of him teasing and poking fun at his wife Mira Rajput while she was gearing up for an ad shoot with Shahid. The actor in the video was seen teasing Mira, who was seen visibly annoyed at a prank played by her husband. Throughout the video, the 'Kaminey' star was seen at his goofy best. Shahid, as part of his prank, secretly placed a sticker on Mira's luxury phone that created the illusion of a cracked screen. Naturally, when Mira noticed it, she panicked and was visibly upset. But before things could escalate, Shahid quickly confessed that it was just a prank, playfully admitting he was the culprit behind the mischief. He was also seen telling the crew on set how beautiful his wife Mira is. The actor captioned the video as, "MADAM and me. #shootlife @mira.kapoor".

Filmfare OTT Awards 2025: Black Warrant wins Best Series, Jaideep Ahlawat, Ananya Panday win Best Actor



Series Black Warrant secured the top honour of Best OTT series at the sixth edition of the Filmfare OTT Awards, followed by actress Ananya Panday, who scored a big win in her career after bagging the Best Actress award in the comedy OTT series for her performance in 'Call Me Bae'. Actor Jaideep Ahlawat bagged the Best Actor for series (Drama) for his performance in 'Paatal Lok' Season 2. Barun Sobti and Sparsh Shrivastava shared the Filmfare OTT Award for Best Actor in a comedy series for their performances in Raat Jawaan and Dupahiya, respectively. Director Vikramaditya Motwane bagged the Best Director Award (Series) for Black Warrant. While Ananya Panday secured the Filmfare OTT Award for the Best Actress in the comedy series 'Call Me Bae', actress Monika Panwar bagged the same award in the drama category for her performance in the series 'Khauf'. Veteran actor Vinay Pathak secured the Filmfare OTT award in the category of Best Supporting Actor for his performance in the comedy series 'Gram Chikitsalay'. Actor Rahul Bhatt won the Best Supporting Actor in Drama Series Black Warrant. 'Girls Will Be Girls' and 'Mehta Boys' shared the best Web Original Film at the event, while Sanya Malhotra and Abhishek Banerjee won the Best Actress and Actor award for their performance in OTT original films Mrs and Stolen, respectively. Key Winners of Filmfare OTT Awards 2025: Best Series: Black Warrant - Vikramaditya Motwane, Satyans-



hu Singh, Arkesh Ajay, Ambiecka Pandit, Rohin Raveendran: Best Director, Series: Black Warrant; Jaideep Ahlawat: Best Actor, Series (Male); Drama: Paatal Lok Season 2; Barun Sobti: Best Actor, Series (Male); Comedy: Raat Jawaan; HaiSparsh Shrivastava: Best Actor, Series (Male); Comedy: Dupahiya; Ananya Panday: Best Actress, Series (Female); Comedy: Call Me Bae; Monika Panwar: Best Actress, Series (Female); Drama: Khauf; Vinay Pathak: Best Supporting Actor, Series (Male); Comedy: Gram Chikitsalay; Rahul Bhatt: Best Supporting Actor, Series (Male); Drama: Black Warrant; Renuka Shahane: Best Supporting Actor, Series (Female); Comedy: Dupahiya; Tilottama Shome: Best Supporting Actor, Series (Female); Drama: Paatal Lok

Season 2; Sudip Sharma: Best Original Story, Series: Paatal Lok Season 2; Smita Singh: Best Original Story, Series: Khauf; Best Comedy (Series/Specials): Raat Jawaan; HaiDeepak Dobriyal: Best Supporting Actor, Web Original Film (Male); Sector 36; Kani Kusruti: Best Supporting Actor, Web Original Film (Female); Girls Will Be Girls; Paatal Lok Season 2; Best Series, Critics: Paatal Lok Season 2; Zahan Kapoor: Best Actor, Series (Male), Critics: Drama: Black Warrant.

play, Series: Black Warrant; Best Film, Web Original: The Mehta Boys; Best Film, Web Original: Girls Will Be Girls; Sanya Malhotra: Best Actress, Web Original Film (Female); Mrs Abhishek Banerjee: Best Actor, Web Original Film (Male); Stolen: Best (Non-Fiction) Original (Series/Special) Angry Young Men: Best Comedy (Series/Specials); Raat Jawaan; HaiPankaj Kumar: Best Cinematographer, Series: Khauf; Priya Suhaas & Surabhi Verma: Best Production Design, Series: Freedom At Midnight; Tanya Chhabria: Best Editing, Series: Khauf; Akashdeep Sengupta: Best Music Album, Series: Bandish Bandits Season 2; Vijay Maurya: Best Dialogue (Web Original Film); Agni Avinash Sampath, Vikramaditya Motwane: Best Original Screenplay (Web Original Film); CTRI; Karan Tejpal, Gaurav Dhingra & Swapnil Salkar: Best Story (Web Original Film); Stolen; Justin Prabhakaran & Rochak Kohli: BEST MUSIC ALBUM (WEB ORIGINAL FILM); Aap Jaisa Koii; Arrchita Agarwal: BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE BY NEWCOMER (FEMALE); WEB ORIGINAL FILM; Despatch; Anurag Thakur: BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE BY A NEWCOMER (MALE); SERIES: Black Warrant; Preeti Panigrahi: Best Actor (Female), Critics: Web Original Film; Girls Will Be Girls; Vikrant Massey: Best Actor (Male), Critics: Web Original Film; Sector 36: The Filmfare OTT Awards featured stars including Alia Bhatt, Ananya Panday, Vicky Kaushal, and others.

Mannat returns stronger, Vikrant Returns Changed. 7-Year Leap Shakes Up COLORS' 'Mannat Har Khushi Paane Ki'



CHANDIGARH : COLORS' emotional drama 'Mannat Har Khushi Paane Ki' is taking a powerful 7-year leap, starring Ayesha Singh and Adnan Khan as Mannat and Vikrant in a chapter where the past refuses to stay buried. Split apart by Aishwarya's manipulation and Vikrant's real mother Vishakha's lie that Mannat betrayed him, the two now live in separate worlds ruled by grief and deception. The leap promises an explosive reunion filled with unresolved pain, hidden truths, and a dangerous quest for justice. Seven years later Mannat lives in Indore with Dhairya, raising Vikrant and her daughter Dua while she pursues the truth about her mother Shruti's killer. Meanwhile, Vikrant remains trapped in a web of lies spun by his ex-wife Malla and Vishakha, believing he's found happiness with Yashika, his obsessive partner and little Yuvi, whom Malla introduces as her illegitimate son. When a high-stakes cooking competition forces Mannat and Vikrant to face off, long-buried secrets threaten to explode. Vikrant's new business partner Arzoo enters as the story's ultimate wildcard, who harbours dangerous knowledge about Malla and Vishakha's darkest sins. The upcoming chapter explores the fragile line between love and vengeance. As Mannat and Vikrant's fractured worlds collide in the heat of competition, long-buried secrets threaten to surface. But when the truth finally emerges, will it cleanse the bad blood between them and give their lost love a second chance? Ayesha Singh, reprising her role as Mannat, shared, "This leap in Mannat Har Khushi Paane Ki shows Mannat stepping into a new phase of life—confident, evolved, and fiercely independent. Being a mother has added a new layer to her strength and clarity, giving her a purpose that drives every choice she makes. She's no longer the girl who let circumstances define her; she's ready to take control of her own story. The leap becomes truly intense when Mannat comes face to face with Vikrant after 7 years.

Sohail Khan apologises for riding bike without helmet



Actor Sohail Khan has issued an apology for riding a bike without a helmet, shortly after criticism over traffic rules violations. Recently, a video of Sohail Khan surfaced online showing the actor riding his bike in Mumbai without a helmet. This quickly escalated as many called out Sohail for being careless and irresponsible toward road safety norms and traffic rules. In the wake of the growing backlash, Sohail took to his Instagram and explained that he avoids helmets because of claustrophobia. "I would like to request all the bike riders please wear helmets. I avoid wearing them at times as I feel claustrophobic but that's no excuse to not wear one. Riding has always been my passion since childhood. It began with BMX cycles and now I ride bikes. I mostly ride late nights when there is not much traffic to cut risks that too at a slow pace and with my car following me. I assure fellow riders that I will make a genuine effort to overcome my claustrophobia and wear a helmet so please bear with me. My sincere apologies to the traffic authorities and I assure them that I will follow all the rules henceforth," he wrote in a post shared on his Instagram handle. <https://www.instagram.com/p/DSQNSvHEjCc/> Sohail also hailed all the other riders who continue to wear helmets for safety, despite the discomfort. "It is better to be safe than sorry. Once again I am really sorry," he concluded. Along with the post, Sohail Khan also shared a video of himself riding the bike without a helmet. On the work front, Khan started his career as a film producer and director, making his directorial debut with the 1997 action thriller 'Auzaar', starring his brother Salman and Sanjay Kapoor. He then directed both of his brothers, Salman and Arbaaz, in the film 'Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya' (1998) and the less successful 'Hello Brother' (1999). In 2002, he wrote, produced, directed and made his acting debut in 'Maine Dil Tujhko Diya'. His other successful project was the film 'Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya?' (2005) in which he costarred with his brother Salman Khan. He was also seen in 'Dabangg 3'.

Priyanka Chopra to arrive as first guest at 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' Season 4

Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra is set to arrive as the first guest in the upcoming fourth season of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' on December 20 on Netflix. From playful banter to hilarious fun activities, Kapil Sharma and Priyanka's on-set chemistry has often turned into a full-blown laughter ride for audiences, as seen in previous episodes of Kapil Sharma's comedy shows. On Monday, Netflix India shared the new look poster of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' featuring Kapil Sharma and Priyanka Chopra on their Instagram handle. They wrote, "When the desi girl arrives, things get Pri-etty humorous. Watch Priyanka Chopra in the premiere episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show's new season, streaming from 20th December, at 8 PM, only on Netflix." Meanwhile, the new season is expected to elevate a notch higher as Kapil steps into multiple fresh avatars from GenZ Baba and Tauji to Raja and Mantri Ji, comprising a range of characters designed for every age group. The new season of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' brings an exciting, truly unexpected guest lineup to the stage, featuring World Cup champions and global superstars, Gen Z icons, Bhojpuri stars, and more. Joining him in this comedy extravaganza is his beloved parivaar that audiences return to season after season. It includes Sunil Grover, Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda and others. Cricketer Navjot Singh Siddhu and actress Archana Puran Singh are set to join Kapil Sharma's "mastiverse" on the show. Talking about the new season and his many avatars, Kapil Sharma shares, "Har baar lagta hai ki ab toh sab



kar liya, naye season me kya karunga, lekin phir aapka pyaar aur aapki ummed mujhe kuch naya karne ka rasta dikha deti hai, iss baar bhi aap hi ki ummed ne mujhe bahut se naye kirdar aur sath hi wo kirdaar jo aapko humesha se pasand aaye hain, unhe nibhaane ka rasta dikhaiya hai ... toh aapke liye comedy ke wo saare avatar lekar aa raha hoon Netflix par, season 4 me ... jo hoga comedy ke universe ka multiverse yani mastiverse (Every time I feel like I've done everything, and wonder what I'll

do in the new season, but then your love and your expectations show me the way to do something new. This time too, your expectations have guided me towards playing many new characters, as well as those characters that you've always loved... So, I'm bringing all those avatars of comedy for you on Netflix, in Season 4... which will be the multiverse of the comedy universe, or rather, the mastiverse!," as quoted in the press note. The show will stream on Netflix.

Randeep Hooda honours John Cena's WWE legacy



Joining in the line of tributes, honouring WWE icon John Cena, actor Randeep Hooda has penned a heartwarming note for the legend. Taking to his social media handles, Randeep shared a post to honour Cena as he wrote, "Working with @JohnCena showed me the man behind the icon, disciplined, grounded, and generous at heart. From the @WWE ring to the big screen, he's inspired millions through sheer hard work and humility." Describing Cena's WWE journey as a "celebration of an incredible legacy", the actor added, "From 8 to 80, across all genders and walks of life, his fanbase speaks volumes about the kind of impact he's had. As he steps away from WWE, this is not an end but a celebration of an incredible legacy. Salute to a true legend." A record-breaking 17-time world champion, John Cena concluded his illustrious professional wrestling career of over two decades after the 'Saturday Night's Main Event' in Washington, DC. Incidentally, Randeep Hooda is reportedly set to share the screen with the wrestling legend in Sam Hargrave's upcoming film, 'Matchbox'. In January this year, Hooda teamed up with Hargrave for the second time for the upcoming Apple Original Films' action thriller, Variety reported. The live-action film, which is inspired by Mattel's popular Matchbox toy vehicle line, will also feature Hollywood stars Teyonah Parris, Jessica Biel, and Sam Richardson. Production is currently underway in Budapest, according to Variety. The film is directed by the 'Avengers: Endgame' and 'Extraction 2' fame director Hargrave and is written by David Coggeshall and Jonathan Tropper.

Ranveer Singh shares cryptic note about fate amid 'Dhurandhar' success



Ranveer Singh shared a cryptic note about destiny and patience amid the blockbuster success of his latest release 'Dhurandhar'. Taking to his Instagram handle, Ranveer shared a quote about the beauty of fate, while hinting that, for now, he is choosing to live with "nazar" (fate) and "sabr" (patience). He wrote, when loosely translated in English, "Kismat ki ek bohot khoobsurat aadat hai, ki woh waqt aane par badalti hai. Lekin filhal... Nazar aur sabr. (Fate has a wonderful habit of changing in due course. But for now, faith and patience.) 'Dhurandhar' starring Ranveer Singh has been receiving exceptional response from audiences nationwide. Its second Saturday collection now surpasses several other major blockbusters, including Pushpa 2 (Hindi) at Rs 46.50 crore, Chhaava at Rs 44.10 crore, Stree 2 at Rs 33.80 crore, and Animal at Rs 32.47 crore. Other notable films in the top 10 for second Saturday collections include Gadar 2 (Rs 31.07 crore), Jawan (Rs 30.10 crore), Saiyaara (Rs 27 crore), Baahubali 2 (Hindi) (Rs 26.50 crore) and The Kashmir Files (Rs 24.80 crore). Dhurandhar's phenomenal performance is also reflected in its overall two-week figures. Directed by Aditya Dhar, 'Dhurandhar' follows the story of an Indian spy named Hamza who deeply infiltrates Pakistan to join Rehman Dakaik's gang. The film is inspired by real-life events, ranging from the 2001 Parliament attack and the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, offering audiences an insight into the India-Pakistan conflict. In addition to Ranveer Singh, the film features Akshaye Khanna, Arjun Rampal, R Madhavan, Sanjay Dutt.

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