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◆ CHANDIGARH ◆ PUNJAB ◆ HARYANA ◆ HIMACHAL PRADESH ◆ DELHI ◆ JAMMU & KASHMIR ◆ UTTARAKHAND



GOVT TO INVEST RS. 15,000 CRORE IN TOURISM SECTOR OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS: CM SUKHU

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JOBS READY FOR SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME: CM SAINI

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BHAGWAN VALMIKI: FROM ADI KAVI TO JAGAT GURU — AN IMMORTAL LEGACY OF PENANCE, SACRIFICE AND SOCIAL REFORM

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NEWS BRIEFS

BSF apprehends four Pakistani fishermen

NEW DELHI: The Border Security Force (BSF) has apprehended four Pakistani fishermen and seized a boat from the Sir Creek area in Gujarat's Kutch district, officials said on Sunday. The fishermen were apprehended on Saturday evening while entering Indian waters illegally, they said. The operation was carried out in the sensitive Sir Creek region, which lies along the India-Pakistan maritime boundary in the Kutch district. "The fishermen were apprehended during patrolling by the BSF team in the Sir Creek area," the officials said. The BSF, however, has not yet disclosed further details regarding the identity of the apprehended fishermen or the boat seized during the operation. The BSF maintains a close vigil along the border to prevent unauthorised crossings, infiltration and other illegal activities. The Sir Creek area, characterised by marshy terrain and tidal creeks, poses operational challenges for security forces due to its difficult geography. Pakistani fishermen occasionally stray into Indian waters while fishing, leading to their apprehension by Indian security personnel.

Centre extends financial statement filing deadline for companies to Dec 31

UNI NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has granted companies additional time to complete their annual statutory filings for the financial year 2025-26, extending the deadline for financial statements to December 31, 2026, and that for annual returns to January 31, 2027. The relief allows companies to submit the required documents without paying additional fees, following complaints from stakeholders about technical difficulties on the ministry's MCA 21 online filing portal. The extension is intended to help businesses complete their compliance requirements amid the portal-related challenges. In a circular issued on October 24, the ministry said the revised timelines would apply to specified electronic forms used for filing financial statements and annual returns. The earlier deadlines were October 31, 2026, for financial statements and November 30, 2026, for annual returns.

Season's first snowfall at Yamunotri thrills pilgrims

UTTARKASHI/CHAMOLI: The season's first snowfall at the Yamunotri shrine in Uttarakhand on Sunday brought cheer to pilgrims visiting the temple, while Kedarnath also witnessed snowfall amid a drop in temperatures as the Char Dham Yatra entered its final phase. Rain and snowfall at Yamunotri and snowfall at Kedarnath prompted a temple committee member to advise pilgrims to carry essential medicines and take precautions while travelling to the shrines. Vinit Posti, a specially invited member of the Shri Kedarnath-Badrinath Temple Committee, appealed to pilgrims to carry all essential medicines and exercise caution during their journey.

Harmanpreet, Deepti smash tons as India pile up 328

VADODARA: Former skipper Harmanpreet Kaur smashed a scintillating 126, while veteran all-rounder Deepti Sharma struck an unbeaten 106 as India posted an imposing 328 for 6 against Zimbabwe in the second ODI here on Sunday. After opener Pratikha Rawal followed up her first match century with a polished 61 off 67 balls, Harmanpreet struck her eighth WODI hundred in a 121-ball knock that was studded with 15 fours.

Europe rocked by protests

People march in France, Albania, Italy, Spain, Portugal

AGENCY
PARIS, OCT 25

Europe is reeling under a fresh wave of protests as people march over the rising cost of living, pensions, housing, education, corruption and opposition to war. Groups across France, Albania, Italy, Spain and Portugal have held demonstrations in multiple cities, leading to clashes between protesters and police. According to Euronews, authorities across several European capitals stepped up security measures following violence during earlier demonstrations, deploying large numbers of police personnel and, in some areas, soldiers. In France, nearly 1,000 people were arrested during Saturday's protests, with Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez saying the figure was likely to increase. The French government said 410,000 protesters had taken to the streets across the country, while organisers put the figure at nearly 800,000.

According to France 24, authorities announced that the demonstration in Paris had been completely dispersed along the Cours de Vincennes following



clashes between protesters and law enforcement personnel. "A Gendarmerie helicopter has been deployed to support ground units and locate any remaining groups of rioters," the prefectural police said, adding that "more than 500

rioters" had been present towards the end of the demonstration. Police used water cannons and tear gas grenades after projectiles were thrown at them. "As I speak to you, we are at nearly 1,000 arrests," Nunez said during a press

briefing, adding, "I believe this figure will increase significantly."

He noted that 385 arrests had been made by the same time the previous Saturday, which had witnessed violence and looting. Meanwhile, French left-wing leader and presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon criticised the police response to the demonstrations in Paris. In a post on X, Melenchon said, "In Paris, to ruin the day and unwind, the so-called forces of law and order gas and fire into the crowd at the back of the procession, all in a bid to get footage for the domestic news channels that spent the whole week airing the images that spurred the Trappes killer. Nonstop shame." In another post, he alleged that the media coverage and policing were being used to portray the protest movement negatively. "It continues with the policing of minds through the televisions of power. Tonight, staging of the « tails of the procession » to spew hatred against the popular movement. Without a single image of the masses in peaceful action," he said.

We're developing Punjab as best destination for education: CM Mann



SUMER GARG
DHURI, OCT 25

Punjab is being developed as a leading education destination, with no shortage of funds allowed to hamper government school upgradation and new career pathways being opened for youth, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said on Sunday, asserting that his government has provided more than 70,000 government jobs purely on merit, on the principle of 'No Cash No Farmaish' (without bribes or recommendations). Addressing youngsters at a regional youth festival at Desh Bhagat College in village Bararwal, Dhuri, the Chief Minister urged them to focus on education and hard work,

while stressing that Punjab needs elected representatives who understand people's pain and problems.

Sharing a few snippets from the occasion, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated on X: "Today, I had the opportunity to interact with young people during the Regional Youth Festival at Desh Bhagat College in village Bararwal, Dhuri constituency. Seeing their enthusiasm and artistic talent brought back memories of my own early days, as my journey to began on stages like these. My advice to young people is that participating in these competitions is itself the biggest victory. Those who win should remain humble, while those who lose should work harder."

Fighter jets roar across sky as PM Modi watches 'Wings Over Ganga' air show from Namo Ghat

UNI
VARANASI, OCT 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday witnessed the spectacular 'Wings Over Ganga' air show at Varanasi's Namo Ghat, organised to mark the 94th foundation day of the Indian Air Force.

The sky reverberated with the roar of fighter jets. The thrilling aerial stunts of nearly a hundred aircraft mesmerized the audience.

During the aircraft display over the Ganga, the residents of Kashi welcomed the Prime Minister with thunderous chants of "Har Har Mahadev" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and other dignitaries were present with the



Prime Minister. The air show featured around 100

fighter jets, helicopters, and other aircraft of the Indian Air Force, showcasing

Rahul Gandhi calls for mass mobilisation at Ramlila Maidan on Nov 1

UNI
NEW DELHI, OCT 25

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday called upon students, farmers, workers, women, young people, traders and all those concerned about the future of democracy to join the INDIA bloc's 'Chalo Dilli' march and mega rally at Ramlila Maidan on November 1, seeking to turn the Opposition's 'vote chori' campaign into a wider public movement against alleged electoral irregularities.

In a post on social media platform X, Rahul Gandhi alleged that voters' names were being deleted from electoral rolls, rules and laws were being violated, and those raising questions about the alleged irregularities were facing police action. "Our votes are



being stolen, and we will not tolerate this silently under any circumstances," he declared, urging citizens across social and occupational groups to join the proposed mobilisation.

"Now the country will give the answer," Rahul Gandhi said, announcing

Jammu gets facelift ahead of Darbar move

UNI
JAMMU, OCT 25

Jammu city is getting a facelift ahead of the annual Darbar Move, with government offices scheduled to reopen here on November 2. Streets in the winter capital are undergoing their customary makeover, while the Traffic Department has begun installing new road dividers and regulating vehicular movement ahead of the reopening of the Darbar Move offices. The Jammu and Kashmir government, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has officially ordered the annual Darbar Move for 2026-27, shifting the government's base of operations from Srinagar to Jammu. Notably, the Lieutenant Governor-led administration discontinued the 150-year-old practice in June 2021, citing the transition

to a digital e-office system and estimated annual savings of Rs 200 crore. Reviving the tradition is a key promise in the National Conference's 2024 election manifesto. "The offices will close in Srinagar on October 31 and reopen in Jammu on November 2," officials here said. Apart from roads and streets, official bungalows, government buildings and employees' quarters are also being renovated ahead of the biannual event. Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, Tejinder Singh, chaired a security review meeting at the Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ) in Jammu to assess security arrangements ahead of the annual Darbar Move to the winter capital. The meeting was convened to evaluate preparedness and ensure coordinated security arrangements ahead of the seasonal shifting of government offices to Jammu.

Hry rolls out digital payments, online OPD registration at 610 health centres



UNI
PANCHKULA, OCT 25

Haryana has taken a decisive leap towards digitising public healthcare as UPI-based payments go live at 610 government health institutions and online OPD registration is expanded to let patients book appointments from home, cutting waiting times and reducing congestion at hospital counters.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Sumita Misra, said the state-wide initiative marks a major step in making healthcare more accessible, transparent, and patient-centric by replacing cumbersome manual processes with secure digital alternatives.

Under the new system, patients can use UPI to pay charges for outpatient department (OPD) registration, inpatient department (IPD)

services, medico-legal cases, and other healthcare needs across all 23 district civil hospitals, 52 civil and sub-civil hospitals, 121 community health centres, and 414 primary health centres. The facility has also been extended to Civil Surgeon offices in every district.

Alongside cashless payments, the Health Department has scaled up its OPD pre-registration facility, allowing patients to complete registration from home before arriving at the hospital.

The service is now available at 23 district civil hospitals, 31 civil and sub-civil hospitals, and other centres linked to the e-Upchar Hospital Management Information System.

Patients who book online must visit the hospital on their scheduled date and time, where dedicated pre-registration counters will facilitate their entry.

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Hindu Cooperative Bank celebrates 100 years; Harpal Singh Cheema attends centenary celebration

VERMA
SUJANPUR, OCT 25

The Hindu Cooperative Bank, Pathankot, celebrated the completion of 100 years since its establishment with a grand centenary celebration at Suvidha Royal Farms, Pathankot. The event was presided over by Bank Chairman Satish Mahendru. Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and Cabinet Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak attended the Celebration as chief guests. Both ministers inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The celebration highlighted the bank's century-long journey, achievements, and future plans.

Bank Overcomes Financial Challenges and Returns to Profit: Lal Chand Kataruchak

Cabinet Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak congratulated the bank's management, employees, shareholders, and customers on completing 100 years. He said the bank, established in 1926 with a far-sighted vision, had played an important role in



strengthening the financial well-being of people. He praised Chairman Satish Mahendru and his team for their dedicated efforts in bringing the bank out of financial difficulties and restoring it to profitability. He described this achievement as an example of teamwork, integrity, and efficient management. He added that the Punjab Government, under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, was committed to pro-

moting institutional growth and development.

Bank Recovers from Rs 55 Crore Loss: Harpal Singh Cheema

Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said the bank had faced several difficult periods in its history. At one point, it had suffered losses of approximately Rs 55 crore, and several branches were on the verge of closure. To revive the institution, a new management team was formed

under the leadership of Satish Mahendru. Through dedicated efforts, honest practices, and effective planning, the team successfully improved the bank's operations and restored profitability. Cheema appreciated the bank's decision to share its profits with customers and shareholders.

He noted that approximately Rs 1.30 crore was to be distributed among consumers.

'Mann Ki Baat' powerful medium for connecting with nation-building: Kabirpanthi

KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI, OCT 25

In the main market of Taraori, MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi listened to the live broadcast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat' today, alongside BJP party workers. During the broadcast, the MLA listened to the Prime Minister's thoughts and engaged in discussions with the party workers. The programme covered topics such as nation-building, public participation, and social responsibility.

MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi remarked that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' is an effective medium for connecting directly with the nation's citizens. Through this programme, the Prime Minister interacts with children, the youth, and every segment of society, inspiring them to engage in positive endeavors, fulfill their social responsibilities, and contribute to the national interest. The program also highlights the efforts of individuals who have performed exemplary work in

Oasis group's Aaghaaz roars into Chandigarh after successful Gurugram debut, taking the city beautiful by storm

MOHALI (TILAK RAJ): After Gurugram Oasis Group brings Aaghaaz to Chandigarh, celebrating Indian craftsmanship, contemporary experiences and the spirit of togetherness. Building on its success in Gurugram, Oasis Group brought Aaghaaz to Chandigarh with a launch evening drawing over 500 prominent personalities from the city.

The event marks the brand's continued expansion into key markets, with a focus on Indian artistry, craftsmanship and contemporary celebrations. The evening featured a heartwarming performance by Shantanu and Friends, creating an engaging atmosphere of music and camaraderie.



various fields across the country, serving as an inspiration for others to contribute meaningfully to society and the nation. He noted that this initiative by the Prime Minister strengthens the spirit of unity, service, cleanliness, self-reliance, and dedication toward the nation among its citizens.

When an individual takes a positive initiative at

their own level, it creates an impact on society as a whole. Programs like 'Mann Ki Baat' play a crucial role in recognizing the efforts of ordinary citizens and guiding them in a positive direction. Kabirpanthi also urged the party workers to disseminate information about the government's public welfare schemes and the Prime Minister's positive messages to the general pub-

lic, while also playing an active role in initiatives that benefit society. He emphasized that it is through public service and active public participation that one can contribute to realising the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). BJP party workers were present on the occasion and listened attentively to the Prime Minister's address.

Under-16 Cricket selection trials to be held on today



SHARANJEET,
PATHANKOT, OCT 25

The Cricket Association Pathankot (Regd.), affiliated with the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA), Mohali, will conduct selection trials for Under-16 boys on October 26 at the cricket ground in village Kuthar, Defence Road. The trials will begin at 10 am.

Association Secretary Sunny Mahajan and President Balbir Manhas said that players born between September 1, 2011, and August 31, 2013, will be eligible to participate in the trials.

They said that all players

must report to the ground by 9.30 am. Participants must wear white cricket attire and bring their cricket kits, digital birth certificates, Aadhaar card history, educational certificates, food and a water bottle. Registration and entry will close at 11 am.

The association officials said the main objective of the trials is to identify young cricketing talent and provide aspiring players with opportunities to progress in the sport. They added that the association remains committed to promoting cricket in the region and nurturing emerging sporting talent.

Protecting youth from drug abuse is essential to realizing dream of developed India: Governor

CHANDIGARH: Protecting the youth from drug abuse and engaging them in nation-building are essential to realizing Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India by 2047. Drug abuse poses a serious threat to society, and combating this menace requires collective efforts by teachers, students and all sections of society. The creation of a drug-free India must become a mass movement. This was stated by Haryana Governor and Chancellor of Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU), Rothak Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh, while flagging off an anti-drug awareness rally organized by the NSS Cell at MDU, Rohtak, on Sunday.

Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh said that the goal of a developed India could be achieved only when the country's youth are healthy, aware and free from drug abuse. The energy, talent and potential of young people must be channelled towards nation-building and the overall development of the country. He emphasized the need to create awareness about the harmful



effects of drug abuse and encourage young people to actively engage with social issues. Haryana's First Lady, Smt. Mitra Ghosh, also graced the occasion.

A total of 172 outstanding NSS volunteers from nine states - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana - participated in the rally. The volunteers are attending the National Integration Camp at MDU and, dressed in their traditional attire, conveyed a strong message against drug abuse while promoting awareness and social responsibility. MDU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Milap Poonia underscored the im-

portance of collective efforts to create a drug-free environment for a healthy society. NSS Programme Coordinator Prof. Savita Rathi, in her welcome address, briefed the gathering about the National Integration Camp. The proceedings were conducted by Prof. Divya Malhan.

Among those present on the occasion were Prof. Randeep Rana, Dean, Academic Affairs; Prof. Sandeep Bansal, Registrar; Mrs. Rakhi Bansal, Dean, College Development Council; Prof. Rajesh Poonia, Dean, Students' Welfare; Prof. Sapna Garg, Director, Sports; Kulraj Singh, Director, Campus Forestry; Prof. Surendra Yadav, Director, Youth Welfare; Dr. Pratap Rathi etc.

Joginder Pal extends financial assistance to fire-affected poor family

VERMA
GURDASPUR, OCT 25

A poor family in Nakki village, located in the Bhooa Assembly constituency along the Pathankot-Amritsar National Highway, suffered a major loss after a fire broke out at their house a few days ago. The fire, reportedly caused by a leaking gas cylinder, destroyed household belongings and caused considerable damage to the house.

Ashwini Kumar, son of Dilip Chand, also suffered injuries in the incident. Upon learning about the tragedy, former MLA and Congress leader Joginder Pal, accompanied by his associates, visited Nakki village to meet the affected family and express his solidarity with them. During the visit, Joginder Pal interacted with Ashwini Kumar and his family members, gathered information about the incident, and assessed the damage caused by the fire. He expressed sympathy for the family and encouraged them to remain strong during this



difficult period. He also provided financial assistance from his own resources to help the family meet some of its immediate needs.

Appeals to Punjab Government for Financial Relief Joginder Pal said that a house and its belongings are a family's most important assets, particularly for those who depend on daily wages to make ends meet. When a sudden accident destroys household possessions and damages a house, rebuilding life becomes extremely difficult. He urged the Punjab Government and the concerned Cabinet Minister to provide appropriate financial assistance

to the affected family at the earliest. He also called upon the administration to assess the losses and take the necessary steps to ensure that the family receives relief under the applicable government provisions.

He emphasized that expressing sympathy alone would not be enough and that concrete assistance was necessary to help the family recover from the tragedy and rebuild its life.

Gas Cylinder Leak Led to the Fire

Ashwini Kumar stated that a gas cylinder leak caused the fire to break out suddenly.

Classified

I Arshpreet Singh S/o Harkanwaljit Singh R/o Vpo Chuni Kalan, Distt Fatehgarh Sahib Have Changed My Name To Arshpreet (Singh) As A Surname 666554

I, Amrender Singh S/o Jaspal Singh R/o Ferozepur Road, Kanya School Ke Pass , Siwan Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Amrender Singh To Amrender Singh Khara. Concerned Please Note. 84451

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Jastinder Kumar S/o Jagdish Chand R/o H.No.291 Landran Road W.No. 6 Sector-9 Kharar Teh-Kharar Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali declare that my son Kunal Sagoo (DOB 07-09-1996) is out of my control. So I disown with him from my moveable/immovable property. If anybody dealing with him at his/her own risk. 63372

ਮੇਰਾ ਨਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਬਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ, ਮੇਰਾ ਨਾਮ ਖਸਰਾ ਨੇਤਰ 351 ਚਿੱਚ ਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਬਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਰਨ ਹੈ। ਬਾਕੀ ਹੋਰ ਸਭਾ ਤੇ ਮੇਰਾ ਨਾਮ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਬਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਰਨ ਹੈ। ਮੇਰਾ ਨਾਮ ਖਸਰਾ ਨੇਤਰ 351 ਚਿੱਚ ਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਬਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਰਨ ਹੀਰਾ ਸਾਧੀ। 63372

I Sukhwinder Singh S/o Dilbag Singh Vill Dhanauri Teh-Chamkur Sahib Distt Ropar in my Passport my father's name is mentioned as Dilbag Singh which is incorrect. My Father's correct name is Dilbag Singh. 63372

I, Varinderjeet Singh s/o Sukhdev Singh r/o Village Bal Kohna tehsil Nakodar district Jalandhar Punjab India have changed my name from Varinderjeet Singh to Singh Varinderjeet. All concerned note please. 100066

I, Hitherto Known As Disho W/o Resham Lal Resident Street No-6, Dosanjh Kalan, distt Jalandhar , Punjab - 144502, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Baro Bahmania 900014

I, Hitherto Known As Nisha W/o Amarjit Resident Near Gurudwara, mai Godri Sahib, Distt Faridkot, Punjab - 151203, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Nisha Rani 900014

I Vanita Chauhan D/o Surinder Paul, R/o 191 Gali no.9, Guru Ramdass Enclave, Sher Singh colony, PO Basti Bawa Khel, Jalandhar, Punjab - 144021 have changed my name from Vanita Chauhan to Vanita Sahdev. All concerned may note. 900026

LOST & FOUND

ਮੇਰਾ ਨਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਬਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ, ਮੇਰਾ ਨਾਮ ਖਸਰਾ ਨੇਤਰ 351 ਚਿੱਚ ਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਬਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਰਨ ਹੈ। ਬਾਕੀ ਹੋਰ ਸਭਾ ਤੇ ਮੇਰਾ ਨਾਮ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਬਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਰਨ ਹੈ। ਮੇਰਾ ਨਾਮ ਖਸਰਾ ਨੇਤਰ 351 ਚਿੱਚ ਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰੇਤਰ ਬਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਰਨ ਹੀਰਾ ਸਾਧੀ। 63372

I, Lakhvir Singh, son of Karnail Singh, resident of Village Bhabat, near Hari Atta Chakki, Tehsil Derabassi, District S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, Aadhaar Card No. 9910 4764 5155, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name is recorded as Lakhvir Singh in my Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, and other documents, whereas my name is recorded as Lakhmir Singh in my school certificates. I hereby declare that Lakhmir Singh and Lakhvir Singh are the names of one and the same person, namely myself. 989666

I, Joginder Pal, Aadhaar Card No. 7345 1283 1468, son of Fakir Chand, resident of House No. 1593, Street No. 06, Kakowal Road, New Shimlapuri, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana, Punjab - 141007, declare That my son, Prince Kumar, and my daughter-in-law, Jigyasa Rani is our out of control, So I disown them from all of my movable and immovable property. I and my family will not be responsible for any good or bad deeds done by them. 989666

PUBLIC NOTICE

ਸਰਬੰਸਪਾਸ਼ਾਧਕਾਂ ਕੋਲ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕਿਤਾਬ ਯਾਤਰੀਕਿਤਾਪ ਪੰਛਾਤ ਕਾਲੀ ਯਾਤਰੀ ਮੈ ਸੋਲਕਥਾ 27 ਅਕਤੂਬਰ 2026 ਕੋ ਸਕੋਪ ਕੋ ਖੋਲੀ ਹੋਇਜ ਚੀਯਾਮ ਮੈ ਸੂਧਾ 10:00 ਘੰਟੇ ਕੋ ਯਾਤਰੀ ਇਕਠ ਕਰੀਕੇ ਥੋਕੇ ਪਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਧਿਕ ਕਰ ਸਿਥਵੇਰਿਟੀ ਯਕ ਕਰਾ ਕਾਥੋਲੀ ਦੇਸਕਰਾਇ। ਸਾਰੰਧ, ਧਾਮ ਪੰਛਾਤ ਕਾਲੀ ਯਾਤਰੀ, ਥੋਲੀਕ ਹੁੰਦੀ, ਕਾਨਾਲ 100046

P.M. Shri Government Senior Secondary School Mehlan (Sangrur)

Phone Number 94630-15097, e-mail: gssss.mehlan.sgr24@gmail.com Letter number PMS-EXP-Spl/26 Date 24/10/2026

TENDER NOTICE

The School Education Department of the Government of Punjab has approved the tour of Fifty students and two teachers of PM Shri G.S.S.S Mehlan (Sangrur) to Delhi, Agra and Fatehpur Sikri places for exposure visit. This includes the cost of transporting the students from school to Delhi, & above mentioned places showing them around various places there, good food and accommodation for five days and the cost of tickets to tourist places there and returning to school, (including G.S.T.) Interested business organizations are invited to reach the school at 10 am on 31/10/2026 along with quotations. Principal P.M. Shri. G.S.S.S.School Mehlan (Sangrur)

I, Sarita Devi W/o Ram Charan Singh Rawat R/o H.No.2880 Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar Kharar Teh-Kharar Distt. SBS Nagar, Mohali have changed my name from Sarita Devi Rawat to Sarita Devi. 63372

I Harman S/o Rakesh Kumar R/o H.No.314, Guru Nanak Nagar, Mandi Mullainpur, Distt Ludhiana have changed my name from Harman to Harman Radhia. 63372

I, Kuldeep Ram S/o Piare Lal R/o Vill. Dharmkot, Teh. Nawanshahr, DISTT. SBS Nagar, PB, declare that my given name is Kuldeep and my surname is Ram. 63372

I, Kiranpreet Kaur Sandhar W/o Simranjeet Singh R/o Vpo. Dhanauri Distt. Rupnagar have changed my name to Kiranpreet Kaur. 63372

I Jarnail Singh Toor S/o Nazar Singh R/o Bhinder Road Near Bus Stand Vpo Jalalabad East Distt Moga 142042 have changed my name to Jarnail Singh. 63372

I Surjit Singh Sivia R/o Gurbachan Singh R/o H.No.132 Vpo Bhinder Khurd Distt Moga have changed my name to Surjit Singh. 63372

I, Priya alias Priya Garg W/o Bhupesh Gupta R/o Ahmedgarh, District Maierkotla, Punjab, declare that after my marriage I have changed my name from Priya alias Priya Garg to Priya Gupta and henceforth I will be known as Priya Gupta for all purposes. 63372

I, Sunita Rani W/o Charanjeet Singh R/o Plot No. 52 Near Surya Cinema Ait Nagar Haibowal Kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sehajpreet Kaur after marriage. 63372

I, Harpreet Kumar S/o Ram Dass R/o Vill: Lodhipur Po. Musapur Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar, Pb, India, have declare that my given name is Harpreet and surname is Kumar. 63372

I Baljit Singh S/o Satnam Singh Vpo. Garcha Teh-Nawanshahr SBS Nagar-144518 declare that my given name is Baljit and my surname is Singh. 63372

I, Kuljit Kaur W/O Avtar Singh R/O Sandhari Majra (Fatehgarh Sahib) Declare That My Name is Kuljit And My Surname is Kaur. 63372

I, Amarveer Singh S/O Swarn Singh R/O Bhagpur (Ludhiana) Changed My Name Amarveer Singh Dhillon. 63372

I, Rajinder Singh Sidhu S/o Balveer Singh R/o Near High School Khiva Khurd Distt. Mansa have changed my name to Rajinder Singh. 63372

I, Neha Bansal D/o Rajveer Bansal R/o Friends colony, cantt Road Nabha, Teh. Nabha, Distt. Patiala-147201, Punjab (India) have changed my name Neha Bansal to Neha. 63372

I Kumar Gaurav S/o Subash Chander Arora R/o Bhadar Kali Mandir, Partap Nagar, Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana, have changed my name form Gaurav kumar to Kumar Gaurav. 63372

I Baljinder kaur W/o Amarjit Singh R/o Village Sangatpura Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed my name from Baljinder kaur Sidhu to Baljinder Kaur. 63372

I Gursewak Singh S/o Amarjit Singh R/o Village Sangatpura Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed my name from Gursewak Singh Sidhu to Gursewak Singh. 63372

I, Kiranpreet Kaur Sandhar D/o Surinder Singh Sandhar and W/o Simranjit Singh R/o Vpo. Dhanauri, Distt Rupnagar, have changed my name to Kiranpreet Kaur, wife of Simranjeet Singh. 63372

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Resham Lal R/o Vill: Tarkhan Mazara Po. Atti Teh-Phillaur Distt. Jalandhar Pb, my given name is Rakesh and surname is Kumar. 63372

I, Amandeep S/o Manjeet Lal R/o Vill: Garha Teh-Phillaur Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Amandeep to Amandeep Kaler. 63372

I Navtej Singh Sidhu S/O Hakam Singh R/O Mehraj Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Navtej Singh. 63372

I Surinderpal Kaur W/O Bhag Singh R/O Bhai Rupa Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Shinderpal Kaur 63372

I Kiran Rani Alias Kirna Rani W/O Gora Lal R/O Rampura Phul Distt Bathinda Have Two Name Of One Person. 63372

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RBU hosts International Radiology CME, 6 students invited to Dubai



LK BANSAL
MOHALI: The University School of Physiotherapy and Radiology (USPR), Rayat Bahra University, organised its 2nd International Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programme-cum-World Radiology Day in collaboration with Leader Healthcare Group, Dubai, UAE. The programme, themed "Empowering Future Healthcare Professionals Through Technology and Innovation," brought together healthcare experts, academicians and students to discuss emerging developments in medical imaging and healthcare technology.

Anti-drug club Doaba organises awareness seminar at GSSS Gidder Pindi



ARVIND PATHAK
SULTANPUR LODHI: Anti-Drug Club Doaba organised an anti-drug awareness seminar at Government Senior Secondary School Gidder Pindi, under the supervision of Principal Gagandeep Kaur. speaker Anita Dhir highlighted the harmful effects of drug abuse on individuals, families and society. She encouraged students to stay away from drugs and focus on education, sports and constructive activities for a brighter future. Principal Gagandeep Kaur appreciated the club's initiative, emphasising the importance of such programmes in shaping students' character. Anita Dhir, Sunam, Manmeet and Navneet were specially present on the occasion.

Gautam Kukreja appointed BJP Vice-President of Jalandhar Central Constituency

JS SODHI
JALANDHAR: Gautam Kukreja, owner of Hotel Marriot and a real estate businessman, has been appointed Vice-President of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) for the Jalandhar Central constituency. He has been associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for around 15 years and will now take on a new organisational responsibility within the BJP Holding B.Tech and MBA degrees, Kukreja has established himself in the business sector despite facing several challenges. Along with the hospitality industry, he is also active in real estate. Expressing gratitude over his appointment, Kukreja thanked state BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon for entrusting him with the responsibility. He said he would work for the party under the guidance of senior leaders. He also expressed hope for the support and cooperation of senior leaders, including Manoranjan Kalia and Ashok Sareen.

Rajshree monthly lottery launched in Morinda



MORINDA (YUGMARG BUREAU): The Rajshree monthly lottery, priced at Rs 100 per ticket, was launched at Shri Shyam Lottery Agency in Morinda. Punjab Lottery Organisation president Ashok Kumar said the Rajshree Lottery, operated by the Goa government, has been running in Punjab since 1980. He said the first prize in the newly launched Rs 100 lottery is Rs 31 lakh and will be awarded through a draw from the tickets sold. Kumar added that the Rajshree Lottery had made several people lakhpatists over the years and that the new monthly lottery had been introduced in response to public demand. Rajshree Lottery manager Rajkumar Verma, Balaji Tiwari, Vikram Pathak, Vinod Tiwari, Santosh Pandey, Shambhu Pathak, Deepak Mishra, Arvind and Sanjay Tiwari were among those present at the launch.

Rotaract Club of SD College organises DAUD – Run for cause’ in Chandigarh, sees participation of over 1,500 people



TILAK RAJ
MOHALI, OCT 25

The Rotaract Club of SD College, Chandigarh, successfully organised "DAUD – Run for a Cause" at Bougainvillea Garden, Sector 3, Chandigarh, on October 23, witnessing the participation of over 1,500 people. The event aimed to promote fitness, raise awareness about substance abuse, and encourage collec-

Massive candle march led by Pargat Singh, Balbir Singh Sidhu in memory of those who fought against drugs

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, OCT 25

A massive candlelight protest march was organised under the leadership of senior Congress leader and former Health Minister S. Balbir Singh Sidhu, from Gurdwara Amb Sahib, Phase 8, Mohali, to Phase 7. The march was held to pay tribute to the late Parvinder Singh Jhota, the late Gulzar Singh and other departed souls who lost their lives due to the drug menace, while raising a strong voice for a drug-free Punjab. As part of the protest, brooms were also scattered to express resentment against the state government.

Punjab Congress President S. Pargat Singh and former Faridkot MLA Kuldeep Singh Kiki Dhillon participated in the protest. On the occasion, participants lit candles and paid tribute to the departed souls, conveying a message of unity and collective struggle to eradicate drugs from Punjab.

S. Pargat Singh criticised the Aam Aadmi Party government, stating that the drug menace continues to de-



stroy families across Punjab, while the government's claims of eliminating drugs are proving hollow in the face of ground realities.

He said that the memories of the late Parvinder Singh Jhota, the late Gulzar Singh and other departed individuals who raised their voices against drugs should not be limited to tributes alone. Instead, their memories should serve as a reminder of the government's responsibility and accountability. He said that the gov-

ernment, which came to power on the promise of eliminating drugs, must explain to the people of Punjab what concrete steps it has taken to stop the supply of drugs and save the lives of young people.

He further stated that the people of Punjab, particularly parents and young people, should not have to bear the consequences of the government's failures. It is time to move beyond statements and publicity and take strict action against drug traffickers, fix accountability and imple-

ment concrete measures to protect Punjab's youth. Addressing the gathering, S. Balbir Singh Sidhu said that the fight against drugs is not the struggle of any one individual, political party or organisation; rather, it is a collective battle for the entire state of Punjab. He emphasised the need for the government, administration, social organisations and the general public to work together. Strict action must be taken against drug traffickers and those involved in the illegal trade.

Maxim Merry School hosts CBSE workshop on stress management

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, OCT 25

Maxim Merry School Hosts CBSE Workshop on Stress Management on October 24, 2026, aimed at empowering teachers with effective coping mechanisms and mental wellness strategies.

The session was conducted by renowned resource person Mr. S.K. Kala And Omesh soni, who shared actionable insights on identifying stress triggers, practicing mindfulness, managing time, and building emotional resilience in classrooms. The event was inaugurated with a warm welcome by Director Mr. Parthasarathi Kaushik and Principal Mrs. Pooja Khosla,



who emphasized the school's dedication to prioritizing educator well-being. Teachers actively engaged in interactive discussions, case studies, and practical exercises. The workshop went really well it was incredible session to attend it was completely stress free all around Principal Mrs.

Pooja Khosla expressed sincere gratitude to CBSE and Mr. S.K. Kala for an enriching session. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks and a token of appreciation presented to the speaker by Director Mr. Parthasarathi Kaushik and Principal Mrs. Pooja Khosla.

Sunil Jakhar pays tribute to Parvinder Jhota, calls for protection of anti-drug activists

KULWINDER KARWAL
MANSA, OCT 25

Jakhar Urges CBI to probe drug inspector posted at headquarters Senior BJP leader and former Punjab unit president Sunil Jakhar on Saturday paid tribute to Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa, praising his campaign against drugs and call-



ing for stronger protection for those fighting the menace.

Jakhar said Jhota had initiated a significant movement against drugs to safeguard Punjab's youth and future.

Expressing concern over drug overdose deaths and threats to anti-drug activists, he said the government must ensure the safety of those raising their voices against drug abuse.

Agroha Dham annual fair on Sharad Purnima draws huge crowds: Garg

HISAR (SUMER GARG): The grand annual fair at Agroha Dham, organised under the leadership of its National Executive President, Bajrang Garg, proved to be a historic success, attracting devotees from across the country. A large number of visitors began arriving at the shrine as early as 6 am. The flag-hoisting ceremony was performed by Dr. Subhash Chandra, Chairman of



Axel Group, along with Bajrang Garg, National Executive President of Agroha Dham. The event was attended by Himachal Pradesh Governor, Kavinder Gupta; Haryana Minister, Vipul

MCM's 'The Glamour Atelier' promotes beauty entrepreneurship

CHANDIGARH: The Department of Home Science at Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women organised 'The Glamour Atelier- Experiential Makeup and Beauty Entrepreneurship', a two-day workshop aimed at fostering practical skills, creativity and entrepreneurial awareness in the beauty



and wellness industry. Ms. Mahika Thapar, makeup expert and entrepreneur, served as the resource person. Designed to blend creative exploration with professional skill development, the workshop familiarised participants with makeu-

Partap World School ranked No. 1 in Pathankot in day-cum-boarding school category by Education World

VERMA
GURDASPUR, OCT 25

Partap World School, Pathankot, has achieved a significant milestone by securing the No. 1 rank in Pathankot in the Day-Cum-Boarding School category in the prestigious Education-World India School Rankings 2026-27. This recognition reflects the school's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, holistic develop-

ment, and providing quality education in a positive and progressive learning environment. Representing Partap World School, Mr. Vinay Kumar and Mr. Varinder Kumar travelled to New Delhi to receive the prestigious award on behalf of the institution.

This achievement highlights the school's dedication to academic growth, discipline, leadership development, and excellence across various fields. With modern infrastructure, experienced faculty, and a strong emphasis on practical learning

methods, Partap World School provides students with ample opportunities to excel academically and develop essential life skills. The school offers state-of-the-art smart classrooms, advanced laboratories, air-conditioned academic blocks and hostel facilities, along with extensive infrastructure for sports and co-curricular activities. By placing equal emphasis on education, sports, innovation, and character building, the institution strives to ensure the all-round development of every student. In collaboration with Motion Education, Kota, Partap World School also provides integrated coaching for competitive examinations such as IIT-

Eye care awareness and support for needy patients discussed in special interview

YUGMARG BUREAU
HOSHIARPUR, OCT 25

Eyes are among the most precious gifts of life, and proper care, regular check-ups and timely treatment are essential to maintaining good vision. Highlighting the importance of eye health and social service, senior correspondent Daljit Ajnoha conducted a special interview with renowned eye specialist Dr. Navneet Gulzar Singh Chaggar.

During the interaction, Dr. Chaggar discussed various eye diseases, their symptoms, preventive measures and the importance of timely diagnosis and treatment. The conversation also focused on the assistance extended to needy and economically weaker patients to help them access eye care services. The discussion highlighted the need to spread awareness



about eye health and encourage people to seek medical advice whenever they experience vision-related problems. Regular eye examinations, appropriate treatment and adherence to medical advice can play a significant role in preventing complications and preserving eyesight. The special interview also brought attention to the importance of extending healthcare support to underprivileged sections of society, ensuring that financial constraints do not become a major obstacle to accessing essential eye care. Through this interaction, senior correspondent Daljit Ajnoha sought to inform the public about eye-related health concerns.

Rampura Phul constituency is not political for me, but my family: Chairman Inderjit Singh Mann

RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA): Markfed Punjab Chairman and Aam Aadmi Party State Secretary Inderjit Singh Mann attended and made a presence in various social and religious programs in villages Bhodipura, Dayalpur Bhaika, Bhagta Bhai Ka, Gumanti Kalan and Mehranj of Rampura Phul constituency. During this, he met the people of the villages and expressed his solidarity and belonging by sharing in their joys and sorrows. Speaking on the occasion, Inderjit Singh Mann said that Rampura Phul constituency is not just a political constituency for him, but a family.



He said that just as it is our duty to participate in the joys and sorrows of every member of the family, similarly he considers it his duty to participate in every sorrow and happiness of the people of the constituency. He said that his relationship with the people is not only political, but is based on love, trust and mutual understanding. The love and respect received from the people has always motivated him to serve the people of the constituency.

On the

PARGAT DIWAS

of

BHAGWAN MAHARISHI VALMIKI JI

Epitome of compassion, creator of the universe and composer of the Ramayana

Punjab Government led by

Chief Minister

S. Bhagwant Singh Mann

extends heartiest greetings to the people of State.

STATE LEVEL FUNCTION

Bhagwan Valmiki Tirath Sthal, Amritsar

October 26, 2026 | 11:00 AM

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

S. Bhagwant Singh Mann

Chief Minister, Punjab

Sandhwan inaugurates park and water tank built in village Kothe Chahal
KOTKAPURA (SURINDER DAMDAMI): The government led by Chief Minister Punjab Bhagwant Singh Mann prioritizes the welfare of the people. Beautification and maintenance of the tourist spots and parks of the villages is very important. These things were expressed by Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kultar Singh Sandhwan while inaugurating the newly built park at village Kothe Chahal under Rangla Punjab Development Scheme 2026-27. He said that the beautification of any village can be seen from the appearance of the village itself. The development works done in the village can be seen. After this, Kultar Singh Sandhwan inaugurated a tank supplying pure and clean water at village Chahal. He said that the present government is taking every step to keep the people healthy. Under this, today a water tank facility has been provided to the villagers to provide pure and clean water, so that the people do not face the problem of clean drinking water.



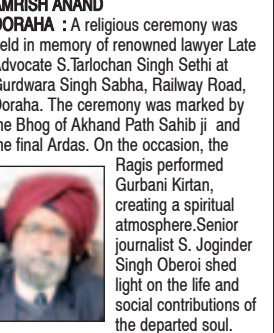
NEWS BRIEF

Warm welcome to DM School girls who win medals at state level games



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA RAMPURA PHUL: The talented girls of DM Group of Institutions, Kararwala, who returned after winning medals at the state level under the 'Khedan Watan Punjab Diyan' being organized by the Sports Department of the Punjab Government, were given a warm and grand welcome by the Nagar Panchayat and the villagers in the village. By displaying excellent sportsmanship in the Football Under-14 category, the girls have brought glory to the name of the institution as well as Bathinda district. Their achievement brought joy and pride to the faces of the villagers. On this occasion, the Chairman of the institution Eng. Avtar Singh Dhillon said that sports are not just a competition of winning and losing, but they also instill discipline, self-confidence, team spirit and the ability to struggle in the lives of students.

Religious ceremony held in memory of late Adv Tarlochan Singh Sethi



AMRISH ANAND DORAH: A religious ceremony was held in memory of renowned lawyer Late Advocate S. Tarlochan Singh Sethi at Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Railway Road, Doraha. The ceremony was marked by the Bhog of Akhand Path Sahib ji and the final Ardas. On the occasion, the Ragis performed Gurbani Kirtan, creating a spiritual atmosphere. Senior journalist S. Joginder Singh Oberoi shed light on the life and social contributions of the departed soul.

World-Class infrastructure & seamless security arrangements made for Asian Hockey Champions Trophy



JS SODHI JALANDHAR: In a resounding declaration of readiness, Jalandhar is all set to host the prestigious Hockey Asian Champions Trophy-2026, supported by a world-class venue transformed in a record four months. Addressing a joint press conference at the Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium, Hockey Punjab President Nitin Kohli, Director Sports Abhijeet Kaplish, Deputy Commissioner Varjeet Walla, and Police Commissioner Satinder Singh assured fans that all arrangements, security protocols, and logistical setups stand 100 percent complete.

SVEEP awareness seminar held at Malwa Group of Colleges



KULWINDER KARWAL SARJOLGARH: Malwa Group of Colleges, Sardulwala, organised a seminar under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme to raise awareness about the importance of voting and voter registration. The seminar was attended by faculty members and students. Angrez Singh, a resource person from the Election Commission, interacted with students and encouraged them to understand their electoral rights and register as voters. He said the Election Commission had launched a special drive for new voter registrations, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) facilitating the process at polling booths. Individuals who will attain the age of 18 years on or before January 1, 2027, are eligible to register as voters.

SGPC honours 11 successful sikh candidates in UPSC examination with Rs 1 lakh each



CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA AMRITSAR: The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) today honoured 11 Sikh candidates who cleared the 2025 UPSC examination and were selected for higher administrative services, presenting each of them with a cash award of Rs 1 lakh. The initiative by the SGPC, the representative religious body of the Sikh community, aims to encourage meritorious Sikh youth and inspire them to serve the Sikh community and the country while upholding Sikh principles. The 11 awardees are Simrandeep Kaur, Rasneet Kaur, Sunavardeep Singh, Navneet Kaur, Manpreet Kaur, Sarbaraz Singh, Harmanpreet Singh Sodhi, Japleen Kaur, Jaspreet Kaur, Kanwarpal Singh and Sandeep Singh. Addressing the gathering, SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhani congratulated the successful candidates and said their achievement was the result of their hard work and the support of their parents. He

Farmers to get 50% subsidy on certified wheat seeds: Gurmeet Singh Khudian

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, OCT 25

To ensure access to premium quality seed and reduce financial stress on the state farmers, Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian on Sunday announced a Rs 50-crore assistance scheme under which farmers will get certified, PAU and ICAR recommended wheat seeds for the State of Punjab at half price, capped at Rs 2,000 per hectare. Sharing details of the initiative, S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian said that certified wheat seeds priced at Rs 4,250 per quintal will be available to farmers for Rs 2,250 per quintal after adjusting the Rs 2,000 per quintal subsidy upfront at the time of purchase. The subsidy is capped at 50% of the cost or Rs 2,000 per hectare, whichever is less, aimed at helping farmers prepare quality seeds and build their farm-saved stock.

The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department has projected a district-wise requirement to cover 2,42,218 beneficiaries, with a total proposed financial outlay of Rs 50



crore at a maximum assistance of Rs 2,000 per beneficiary. The scheme is being executed under the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NF-SNM) – Seed Components under the Krishonnati Yojana, he added. To ensure a seamless and transparent application process, S. Khudian said that eligible farmers will have to visit their respective District or Block Agriculture offices with their Aadhaar cards and apply through the designated portal — <http://www.agrimachinerypb.com>—where their identity will be verified via an Aadhaar-linked OTP. As a major

quality-control measure, the Agriculture Minister said that the subsidy will be applicable only to certified wheat varieties recommended by Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana and notified by the ICAR or Punjab Government, that are up to 10 years old. He said nodal agencies responsible for seed multiplication will be held strictly accountable for seed quality and any complaints regarding quality will be addressed by the concerned nodal agency. To prevent misuse of funds and ensure targeted delivery, the department has put in place strict checks

including first-come, first-served assistance as per district and block-wise targets, a two-year cooling-off period for beneficiaries as per Government of India guidelines, mandatory maintenance of complete records by Chief Agriculture Officers and detailed registers by Block Agriculture Officers and random verification of beneficiaries, seed quantity and subsidy amount before final approval by the head office. He advised farmers to strictly follow the prescribed online procedure and rely only on official departmental communications. Highlighting Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann-led state government's commitment to farmer welfare, S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian stated, "Our government is committed to ensuring that farmers get the best agricultural inputs without falling into financial distress. By strictly regulating seed quality and implementing a transparent, tech-driven distribution process, we are not only securing the upcoming wheat harvest but also ensuring that public funds are utilised with absolute accountability."

Rs 729 crore financial assistance released to widows and destitute women: Dr. Baljit Kaur

CHANDIGARH, OCT 25

Strengthening the social security net for women facing hardship, Punjab's Minister for Social Security, Women and Child Development, Dr. Baljit Kaur, today said that the Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Government has released nearly ₹729 crore under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Widows and Destitute Women, providing much-needed financial support to nearly seven lakh eligible women across the State.

Dr. Baljit Kaur said the scheme represents the Government's resolve to help vulnerable women lead lives of dignity, security and confidence. She emphasised that timely financial assistance not only eases economic hardships but also empowers women to rebuild their lives with greater self-reliance and hope.

The Minister informed that around Rs 1,300 crore has been provided for the scheme during the current financial year, reaffirming the Punjab Government's continued focus on strengthening the social security framework for widows, destitute women and other vulnerable



sections of society. Sharing the eligibility criteria, Dr. Baljit Kaur said that widows and destitute women below 58 years of age, as well as unmarried women aged 30 years and above, are eligible for assistance under the scheme. Applicants must be residents of Punjab and their annual family income should not exceed ₹60,000.

The Minister directed the officers of the Social Security Department to proactively identify eligible beneficiaries, ensure transparent and time-bound disposal of applications and intensify awareness at the grassroots, particularly in rural and remote ar-

reas, so that every deserving woman can access the benefits without inconvenience.

Appealing for community participation, Dr. Baljit Kaur urged Panchayats, Anganwadi workers and social organisations to help identify eligible women and encourage them to avail the scheme. She said the success of a welfare programme is measured not merely by funds released but by its ability to transform lives, adding that the Punjab Government remains committed to ensuring that the benefits of social security reach the women who need them the most.

Shiromani Akali Dal honours booth-level committee office-bearers of Sahnewal circle

SARBJIT SUFI
SAHNEWAL, OCT 25

The Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) organised a felicitation ceremony for the office-bearers of booth-level committees of Sahnewal Circle, falling under the Sahnewal Assembly constituency, at the historic Gurdwara Sri Roru Sahib in Nandpur Sahnewal. The event was held under the leadership of former minister Sharanjit Singh Dhillon and Simranjit Singh Dhillon, with the support of the Sahnewal constituency wing.

Sahnewal Circle president Master Ashok Kumar, president Baljit Singh Hara, constituency coordinator Harneet Singh Rana, president Gurdeep Singh Bhola, Sarpanch and Advocate Mandeep Singh Sahni, and Bibi Daljit Kaur Pawa, president of the women's wing, were among those who attended along with a large number of party office-bearers and workers. Addressing the gathering,



former minister Sharanjit Singh Dhillon said that party workers were the backbone of the Shiromani Akali Dal. He said the party's strength rested on the hard work and dedication of its workers. Respecting and honouring them was one of the party's primary responsibilities, he added. He also urged the office-bearers and workers to remain united and work collectively to strengthen the organisation. Party leaders emphasised the need to strengthen the organisation at the booth level and improve engagement with the public. They said party workers played a significant

role in taking the party's policies to every household and urged all office-bearers to discharge their responsibilities with dedication and sincerity. During the ceremony, several party functionaries were honoured, including Gurjinder Singh Jinder Coach, president of the SC Wing of Sahnewal Circle; Amrpal Singh Sandhu, president of the Sahnewal Youth Circle; Jagwant Singh Majra, president of the BC Wing of Sahnewal Circle; Bibi Daljit Kaur Sudhewal, president of the women's wing of Sahnewal Circle; and Amar Pal Singh Majra, senior vice-president of the SC Circle.

BSP's base growing steadily in Punjab: Jagtar Singh Kainth



SARBJIT SUFI
SAHNEWAL, OCT 25

A significant meeting was held at the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) office on Chandigarh Road under the leadership of Jagtar Singh Kainth, BSP in-charge for the Sahnewal Assembly constituency.

Addressing the meeting, Kainth said that people in Punjab were joining the BSP after being inspired by the ideologies of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Sahib Kanshi Ram. As a result, the party's base in Punjab was growing stronger day by day. Kainth said that the people of Punjab had given traditional political parties oppor-

tunities to govern the state, but these parties had failed to live up to public expectations. This, he said, was one of the reasons behind the BSP's steadily expanding support base in Punjab.

He expressed confidence that the party would register an impressive victory in the upcoming Assembly elections under the leadership of Punjab BSP president Dr. Avtar Singh Karimpuri. Senior party leaders Labh Singh Bhamian, Jagpal Singh Jagga, Ramlok Kuliawal, Paramhans Ram Nagar, Milan Singh, Arun Kumar and Azad, along with several other BSP workers, were present at the meeting.

2,000 women celebrate Karwa Chauth at first-ever festival in Ferozepur



TAPINDER SINGH
FEROZEPUR, OCT 25

Ferozepur witnessed a vibrant celebration of Karwa Chauth as more than 2,000 women participated in a special festival organised in the city for the first time. Initiated by Tina Rana Sodhi, wife of senior BJP leader Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi, the event brought together women to celebrate the festival through music, dance, traditional customs and cultural activities. The festival offered a lively blend of Punjabi traditions and entertainment, featuring live singing, Giddha performances, mehndi, comedy and special gifts

for participants. The large turnout reflected the enthusiasm of women who gathered to share the festive spirit and enjoy a day of cultural celebrations. The Rana family has been organising Karwa Chauth celebrations for nearly 18 years, continuing a tradition centred on the festival's customs and community participation.

This year, the tradition was extended through a special festival in Ferozepur, attracting a large number of women. Popular singer Meet Kaur Jammu Wali entertained the gathering with her performances, while Punjabi songs prompted women to sing and dance.

SLIET organises industry-institute interaction 2026 to advance Goal of Viksit Bharat 2047



BALWINDER AZAD
LONGOWAL, OCT 25

Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology (SLIET), Longowal, organised Industry-Institute Interaction 2026 at the ISTE Hall to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry, promote innovation, and prepare students to meet future challenges. The programme was organised by the Office of the Dean (Alumni and Industrial Relations) under the guidance of the institute's Director, Prof. Mani Kant Paswan. Dr. Jagdeep Singh, Vice-Chancellor of

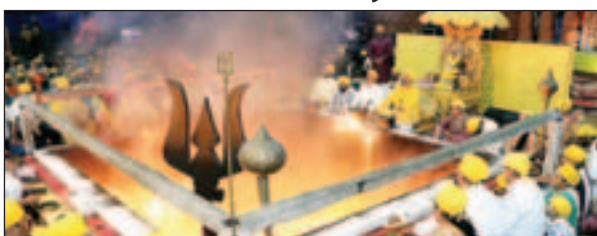
Punjabi University, Patiala, attended the event as the Chief Guest. Engineer Rajesh Sharma, CEO of Quark City; Engineer Harbir Singh, Business Head at ISGEC; and Wing Commander Indraneel, Associate Vice-President, participated as distinguished guests. Prof. Ravi Kant Mishra, Chairman of the Industry-Institute Interaction Cell, welcomed the dignitaries and emphasised the need for stronger coordination between industries and educational institutions to facilitate internships, live projects, joint research, entrepreneurship.

Joint family is true identity of Indian culture: Mahant Praveen Chaudhary

SARBJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA, OCT 25

A Sukh-Samridhi Yajna was organised with devotion and religious fervour under the guidance of Mahant Praveen Chaudhary at Maa Baglamukhi Dham, Singla Enclave, Pakhowal Road, Ludhiana.

The ceremony began with Kanjak Pujan, followed by the divine adornment of Maa Baglamukhi in yellow attire, considered especially dear to the Goddess. Offerings were made into the sacred fire with prayers for happiness, peace and prosperity. Thousands of devotees arrived with their families to seek the blessings of the Goddess. Addressing the devotees during the havan-yajna, Mahant Praveen Chaudhary highlighted the importance of the joint family system,



stating that it is the true identity of Indian culture and a source of happiness and prosperity. Speaking about the significance of the Maa Baglamukhi Yajna, he said that devotees perform the ritual with the belief that it helps overcome enemy-related obstacles, illness, sorrow and difficulties, while bringing peace and prosperity to their homes.

He added that those who worship Maa Baglamukhi with sincere devotion pray for the fulfilment of their wishes. Those present on the occasion includ-

ed Manpreet Chhatwal, Karan Shandilya, Sunil Mahajan, Raman Ghai, Jatinder Sood, Mohit Sood, Rana Ranjit Singh, Sudhir Mahajan, Gaurav Kalia, Jatin Sood, Parmveer Chaudhary, Sandeep Sood, Sunil Handa, Narinder Singla, Iqbal Singh, Baljit Trikha, Gautam Sachdeva, Narinder Mahajan, Tarun Chaudhary, Ankush Singla, Chetan Tandon, Sahil Singla, Raj Solanki, Pankaj Gupta, Deepak Garg, Dinesh Ralli, Varun Jain, Manish Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Raman Sharma, Aditya Gupta etc.

Sarvhitkari under-19 Kabaddi team win third place in Punjab



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, OCT 25

The girls of the Under-19 Kabaddi team of Lala Kasturi Lal Sarvhitkari Senior Secondary Vidya Mandir brought glory to the school by winning third place in the Kabaddi competition held at the Punjab provincial level. There is an atmosphere of joy in the school with this wonderful achievement. In honor of this achievement, the girls of the Kabaddi team Ashu Rani, Class XII, Lovepreet

Kaur and Rashmeen Kaur, Class XI, were honored during the school prayer meeting.

On this occasion, the school's Principal Sanjeev Kumar, the Managing Committee Manager Gurpreet Singh and the social worker Rajpal Garg honored the girls and appreciated their achievement. On this occasion, Principal Sanjeev Kumar congratulated the girls of the Kabaddi team on behalf of the entire management committee.

Guru Ram Das Ji's Parkash Purab to be celebrated in Pathankot

SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, OCT 25

The Parkash Purab of the fourth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Ram Das Ji, will be celebrated with devotion and reverence at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Model Town, Pathankot. Special religious programmes will be organised on the occasion, with Gurbani Kirtan to spiritually enlighten the devotees.

Sharing details of the arrangements, Gurdwara president Manpreet Singh Sahni said that the religious programmes marking the occasion had commenced with the initiation of Sri Akhand Path Sahib. He said the Bhog of Sri Akhand Path Sahib would be held at 7.30 am on Tuesday, October 27. This



would be followed by Gurbani Kirtan, which would continue until 10 am. The programme would conclude at 10.30 am. Sahni said the life and teachings of Sri Guru Ram Das Ji inspire humanity to practise humility, selfless service, meditation and brotherhood. He appealed to devotees to participate in the celebrations in large numbers and seek the blessings of the Guru by listening to Gurbani Kirtan.

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: Tejaswini Sandal, a student of the Government Senior Secondary School, Nehriyan, in the Amb subdivision, excelled in her Scientific Project Report performance at the National Children's Science Congress, securing a place among the top eight. With this achievement, Tejaswini also qualified for the national-level competition. The NCSS competition was held on October 23 and 24

at the Government Boys Senior Secondary School, Una. Tejaswini showcased her talent through her scientific project report and placed among the top eight participants. Tejaswini's achievement has brought joy to the school. Her success is considered a proud achievement for the school. By qualifying for the national level, Tejaswini has demonstrated her hard work and scientific thinking.

Govt to invest Rs. 15,000 crore in tourism sector over next five years: CM Sukhu

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, OCT 25

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the state government was planning to invest between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 crore in the tourism sector over the next five years. He said the government was making concerted efforts to promote high-end tourism in the state, with a special focus on infrastructure development and strengthening air connectivity.

The Chief Minister made the statement today while presiding over the closing ceremony of the Koti Golf Cup-2026 tournament, organised on 24th and 25th October at Golf Course Naldehra in Shimla district in which over 80 players participated. On the



occasion, he presented trophies to the winners and felicitated them for their achievements.

Sh. Sukhu said that Rs. 3,000 crore were being spent on land acquisition for the expansion of Kangra airport. In addition, the

state government was providing Rs. 35 crore under the Viability Gap Funding mechanism to support flight operations in the state. He said the government was working towards connecting all district headquarters through

heliport facilities. Efforts were also underway to introduce connecting flights from Shimla to improve air accessibility and make travel more convenient for tourists. The Chief Minister said that the expansion of Kangra airport would enable the operation of larger aircraft, helping increase tourist arrivals and giving a further boost to tourism activities across Himachal. Highlighting the government's initiatives to promote sustainable tourism, Sukhu said that 60 eco-tourism sites had been leased out, generating revenue of Rs. 22 crore for the state exchequer. Praising the Naldehra Golf Course, the Chief Minister described it as one of the state's most scenic golf destination. He credited Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

Minister Anirudh Singh for his contribution to the development of the golf course.

Sh. Sukhu reiterated that the state government was committed to making Himachal Pradesh self-reliant and was undertaking necessary policy changes to achieve this objective. Recalling his student days, he said he used to visit the area during his college and university years. Speaking on the occasion, Anirudh Singh said efforts were being made to make Naldehra Golf Course financially self-sustainable. He said the golf course had been opened to tourists and was attracting a large number of visitors. He added that the state government had provided Rs 1.82 crore for the development of the golf course.

CM urges union government to raise Himachal Scouts Battalion

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, OCT 25

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has urged the union government to raise a dedicated Himachal Scouts Battalion on the lines of the Ladakh Scouts, Sikkim Scouts and Arunachal Pradesh Scouts. The proposed battalion would provide a special recruitment focus for local youth, particularly those from border areas such as Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti districts, who are familiar with the challenging terrain and harsh climatic conditions of high-altitude regions. He said that such a specialised force would strengthen India's defence preparedness along the Sino-Indian border, particularly the Line of Actual Control, while enhancing operational capabilities in the region's difficult mountainous terrain. Sukhu said that Himachal Pradesh, besides being known as Dev Bhoomi, was also Veer Bhoomi, as more than one lakh youth from the state were serving in the Armed Forces, while a similar number of ex-servicemen had contributed to the



nation's defence and security. Highlighting the state's glorious military tradition, the Chief Minister said that Major Som Nath Sharma, the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra, hailed from Himachal Pradesh. He said that the valour, dedication and spirit of sacrifice displayed by Himachal Pradesh's soldiers were a matter of immense pride for the state. "Our soldiers have never hesitated to make the supreme sacrifice for the Nation. Himachal Pradesh has produced four Param Vir Chakra awardees, which stands as a testament to the state's rich legacy of courage, patriotism and sacrifice," he added.

Sacred Heart School, Dalhousie, celebrates 125th foundation day with alumni reunion



SUBHASH MAHAJAN
DALHOUSIE, OCT 25

Sacred Heart Senior Secondary School, Dalhousie, a historic institution established in 1901 during the British era, celebrated its 125th foundation day with an alumni reunion attended by around 150-200 former students from across India and abroad. Himachal

Pradesh Education Minister Rohit Thakur was the chief guest at the foundation day celebrations held on the previous day. The alumni reunion witnessed enthusiastic participation by former students who travelled from different states as well as countries, including the US, the UK and Dubai. Several alumni attended with their families, while some elderly former



students also returned to their alma mater to relive cherished memories.

The event was organised under the guidance of school principal Sister Molly Cherian, with the leadership and support of Sister Lucy Emmanuel, who travelled from Delhi, alumna Dr Kiran Chadha and teacher Smiksha Mehra. Sisters Maria Jose and Lisy also played an active role in making the

programme a success. Dr Chadha, a Dalhousie resident and former student who studied at the institution from 1959, took a leading role in organising the reunion. Her daughter, Kanika Soni, who is also an alumna, joined the celebrations and contributed to the event. The school administration and visiting alumni appreciated their efforts.

State govt advances digital governance through integrated e-governance initiatives

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, OCT 25

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the state government is advancing digital governance to make administration more transparent, efficient and citizen-centric in the state. By leveraging technology to simplify procedures, improve departmental coordination and enhance public service delivery, the state government is building a more accessible and accountable administrative system, particularly suited to the geographical challenges of a mountainous state.

A key step in this transformation is the digitisation of administrative



processes. The Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) Portal has streamlined the assessment of government officers and officials through online appraisal, review and acceptance, supported by Annual Work Plans and measurable performance goals. Complementing this initiative, the Meeting Management System digitises meeting schedules,

notices, proceedings and follow-up actions. Automated reminders, task assignments and Action Taken Reports help ensure timely implementation of decisions and strengthen accountability across departments. Further advancing the vision of paperless governance, the Document Management System (DMS) enables digital storage, retrieval and management of official

records. Its AI-enabled features, including document summarisation and contextual and keyword-based searches, help official's access essential information from lengthy documents more efficiently. These technology-driven improvements reduce dependence on physical records and support faster, more informed administrative decision-making. The State Government is also strengthening citizen engagement through the Mukhyamantri Seva Sankalp Helpline (1100), which provides a centralised mechanism for registering grievances, assigning complaints to concerned departments and monitoring their resolution.

Rs 1,000 crore spent on healthcare facilities in Medical Colleges: Pathania



SANJAY AGGARWAL

DHARAMSHALA: Shahpur MLA and Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania stated that since the formation of the government in the state on December 11, 2022, under the leadership of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, significant steps have been taken toward transforming the healthcare sector. During a press conference in Dharamshala on Sunday, he announced that state-of-the-art equipment worth Rs 1,000 crore has been installed across six medical colleges in the state. This includes modern medical facilities such as robotic surgery systems and MRI machines. He noted that healthcare infrastructure has been strengthened at medical colleges in IGMC Shimla, Tanda, Nerchowk, Hamirpur, Chamba, and Nahan. Staff availability in healthcare institutions, including medical colleges, has increased from 30 percent to 70 percent. The number of seats for radiographers has also been raised from 20 to 50. At IGMC Shimla, the number of postgraduate seats has been increased from 277 to 497.

Himachal gets 320 new PG medical seats, Akhilesh Kapoor expresses gratitude to JP Nadda

ASHISH SHARMA
KULLU, OCT 25

Himachal Pradesh BJP State Spokesperson Akhilesh Kapoor has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda for approving 320 new postgraduate (PG) medical seats in six government medical colleges of the state and approving a grant of about Rs 415 crore for this important initiative.

In a press release issued here Akhilesh Kapoor said that the Modi government at the center is concerned about the health of the people of the country and the state and is formulating visionary plans keeping future needs in mind. This gift to Himachal Pradesh, thanks to the efforts



of Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, is the result of this visionary thinking. The government's objective is not only to address current health challenges but also to strengthen medical facilities, specialist doctors, and medical education infrastructure to meet future needs. He said that the approval of 320 new PG medical seats in six government

colleges will provide more opportunities for young doctors in the state to pursue specialization. This will significantly help in increasing the availability of specialist doctors in the state, promoting medical education, and providing better healthcare facilities to the general public.

Akhilesh Kapoor said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the central government is continuously working to strengthen the health sector. Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda's experience, vision, and commitment to health services are important for the country and Himachal Pradesh. Such schemes will prove helpful in making the country's health system more efficient and robust in the coming years.

RSS marks 101st foundation year with weapons worship in Baddi

SHANTI GAUTAM
BADDI, OCT 25

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) organised a Shastra Pujan ceremony in Baddi on the occasion of Vijayadashami, marking the organisation's 101st foundation year. More than 151 volunteers from all 10 localities, including Madhav Basti, Keshav Basti and Shri Krishna Basti, participated in the event. The programme began with the worship of weapons at Central Park in Shri Krishna Basti, Housing Board Phase I. Volunteers attended the ceremony in full uniform. After the Shastra Pujan, Nalagarh district RSS chief Mahesh Kaushal and Dr Somdatt Sharma, joint secretary of the Solan division, addressed the volunteers and explained the significance of Vijayadashami. Dr Sharma said Vijayadashami symbolised overcoming personal



weaknesses, inhibitions and negative tendencies to achieve self-mastery. He called for building a harmonious society and urged people to fulfil their responsibilities with honesty, contributing towards the vision of India as a Vishwaguru. He said RSS founder Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar established the organisation in 1925 on Vijayadashami. The organisation, he added, works towards personality development and character-building among volunteers, who have continued to play a role in nation-building over the past 101 years. Dr Sharma said the RSS celebrated its centenary year in 2025 and

had set a target of expanding its reach to every panchayat over the next three years. Among those present were district RSS chief Mahesh Kumar, pracharak Deepak Kumar, Nagar Karyavah Yaskar, Rahul Kumar, Pradeep Kumar, Shanti Swaroop, Chandra Prakash, Kamlesh, Sudhanshu, Swastik Gautam, Pankaj Kumar, Ranesh Rana, Satpal, Ravi Kant, Ashish, Swam Thakur, Ajay Kumar, Sumit Sharma, Raman Kaushal, Parth Golu Mittal, Shreyansh Rai, Sarthak, Arvind Bhardwaj, Sachin, Naveen Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Raj Kumar and Sandeep Kumar, along with other volunteers.

Vashist Public School organises quiz on environment and science

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, OCT 25

Vashist Public School, Una, organised a 'Quiz on Environment and Science' for students from Classes I to X to promote scientific temperament, environmental awareness and logical thinking. Students participated enthusiastically, demonstrating their knowledge and teamwork. In the Strawberry Group, Team Tulip secured first position, followed by Team Jasmine in second place and Team Daisy in third. The winning team comprised Ruhani Rajput, Nivansh Sippy, Nityam Joshi, Riyansh Thakur, Viyan Chaudhary and Mannat Kumawat. The second-placed team included Anubhav Singh, Ivan Sangat, Adhiraj Raizada, Krishav S. Rana, Divyam Chaudhary, Abhidha Rawal and Shanvi Sharma. Babneet



Kaur, Shivay Kaushal, Jasleen Kaur, Siya Rana, Drishti Sharma and Adit Sharma were part of the third-placed team. In the Apple Group, Team Young Scientists won first place, Team The Brain Boxes came second, and Team Future Explorers secured third position. The winning team consisted of Vishnuvash, Geetanshi Sharma, Jayanshu Mehra, Saksham Sharma, Mankeerat Atwal and Aadhav Jaswal. The second-placed

team comprised Nithya Dhiman, Riyansh Dhiman, Navika Chaudhary, Kyaan Kaushal, Nairiti Sharma and Harshit Sharma. Manavik Sharma, Parth Sharma, Shivangi Mehra, Krishna Puri, Subhrajit Sethi and Shaurya Koundal were members of the third-placed team. In the Orange Group, Team Eco Explorers secured first place, Team The Wonder Cells came second, and Team Young Einsteins finished third.

800 Bilaspur Congress workers to join 'Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod' rally in Delhi



AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: As many as 800 Congress workers from Bilaspur district are set to participate in the party's proposed 'Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod' mega rally at Delhi's Ramila Maidan on November 1, with preparations gathering momentum at the booth level. Addressing a press conference in Bilaspur, All India Congress Committee member Kamal Kant and former minister Ram Lal Thakur said 200 workers each from the district's four Assembly constituencies would travel to Delhi. Fourteen buses have been arranged for their transportation. The leaders said representatives of 19 like-minded political parties are also expected to participate in the rally, which will focus on issues concerning electoral transparency, independence of constitutional institutions and protection of voting rights. Kant and Thakur raised questions over the functioning of the Election Commission and the BJP-led Central Government, alleging that the neutrality of constitutional institutions was being undermined and attempts were being made to suppress the Opposition's voice. They further claimed that nearly 13 crore people across the country had been deprived of voting rights, though no independent verification supporting the figure was presented during the press conference.

HP SHIVA project bears fruit as Tehri Pomegranate growers reap rich returns

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, OCT 25

Pomegranate cultivation under the HP SHIVA Project is emerging as a promising source of higher farm income in Bilaspur, with orchardists in the Tehri cluster producing around 22 metric tonnes of fruit and securing market prices ranging between Rs 150 and Rs 200 per kilogram. Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar inspected the pomegranate cluster developed under the HP SHIVA (State Horticulture Development and Value Added Agriculture) Project and interacted with orchardists to assess production, marketing and benefits extended under the initiative. Kumar said the quality pomegranates produced in the cluster were finding demand both within and outside Himachal



Pradesh, enabling growers to secure encouraging returns. He congratulated the beneficiaries and urged farmers to increasingly explore horticulture and crop diversification based on market demand. Spread across 8.8 hectares, the Tehri cluster involves 44 orchardists cultivating the popular Bhagwa variety of pomegranate. Officials informed the Deputy Commissioner that 2,263

saplings were planted in 2021, followed by another 6,602 saplings in 2022. The cluster has so far recorded production of approximately 22 metric tonnes, demonstrating the potential of scientific horticulture to strengthen farm incomes. Kumar said farmers should combine profitable crop selection with modern agricultural practices to obtain better value for their produce and strengthen their economic position.

Yogi Adityanath hails India’s economic growth under PM Modi, says ‘Nation First’ spirit strengthens democracy

AGENCY
LUCKNOW, OCT 25

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the country is setting new benchmarks in self-reliance, innovation and development while strengthening its democratic foundations, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday. He praised India for scripting a new chapter in its economic growth under PM Modi, with the spirit of 'Nation first' guiding this development. In a post on X, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister highlighted India's position among the world's fastest-growing major economies and said the country's development journey was being driven by the principle of "Nation First". "Under the visionary and decisive leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India



has scripted a new chapter of its economic strength on the global stage. Today, India leads among the world's fastest-growing major economies and is establishing new benchmarks in self-reliance, innovation, and development," Adityanath wrote.

He further stated that the spirit of "Nation First" had strengthened the foundations of democracy in what he described as "New India", with the common people at the centre of policymaking and welfare measures. "With the spirit of 'Nation First,' the roots

of democracy have grown even stronger in the 'New India.' The common people are at the centre of policymaking, poor welfare is the priority of governance, Antyodaya forms the foundation of self-reliance, and public participation is transforming development into a people's movement," he said. Highlighting various aspects of India's development, Adityanath said the country was witnessing progress in social justice, women's empowerment, digital innovation and economic prosperity. "In this New India, brimming with faith, identity, and self-confidence, the possibilities of social justice, women's empowerment, digital innovation, and economic prosperity are coming to life," the Chief Minister wrote. He also emphasised the role of public aspirations in driving the

country's development, stating that the ongoing process was creating opportunities while expanding India's overall strength. "This journey of development is continuously expanding the nation's strength by converting public aspirations into opportunities," Adityanath added. Adityanath's comments come ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Varanasi, where members of Generation Z in Kashi are planning to shower rose petals as part of a multi-point reception ahead of his visit to his parliamentary constituency. The Prime Minister's roadshow will begin from Police Lines and pass through the Cultural Complex and Chowkaghat before reaching Namo Ghat, where he will attend the IAF aerial display, 'Wings over Ganges', as the Chief Guest.

Model Town road to be built at Rs. 92.38 lakh; Mayor, MLA lay foundation stone



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, OCT 25

Municipal Corporation has initiated another development project to improve road infrastructure in Model Town area of ? city. Mayor Suman Bahmani and MLA Ghanshyam Das Arora laid foundation stone for a road to be built in Ward No 8 at ?92.38 lakh.Along with Municipal Commissioner Mahabir Prasad and Ward Councillor Vibhor Pahuja, they inaugurated construction by breaking a coconut on a JCB. Mayor Suman Bahmani and Municipal Commissioner Mahabir Prasad announced that the road will be constructed from Sagar Ratna

Hotel on Govindpuri Road to Parasram Chowk via Yamuna Club. Two layers of 50 mm and 30 mm bitumen will be laid during the road construction. This will provide better strength to the road and facilitate transportation for the people of the area. MLA Ghanshyam Das Arora stated that improving roads and other infrastructure in the city is a priority. The completion of the development works will facilitate transportation for the people and strengthen the infrastructure of the area. He stated that the government and the Municipal Corporation are continuously striving for the development of the city.

Jindal Scholarships transform future of thousands of students



HANS RAJ

KURUKSHETRA: Thousands of students are benefiting from the Naveen Jindal Successful Scholarship Scheme, run by the Naveen Jindal Foundation under the guidance of Member of Parliament Naveen Jindal. Under this scheme, financial assistance worth crores of rupees has been provided to students in the Kurukshetra parliamentary constituency. In this connection, scholarships were awarded to meritorious and needy students at Jindal House, Kurukshetra. Speaking on the occasion, Parliamentary Office In charge Dharamveer Singh stated that MP Naveen Jindal launched this scheme in 2024, so that the education of meritorious and needy students would not be affected due to lack of funds. He explained that this scheme is helping students complete their studies. The financial assistance is giving them the opportunity to continue their studies and improve their future. He said that MP Naveen Jindal wanted needy students should not be handicapped before financial difficulties in pursuing their studies. To this end, he is helping students through the scholarship scheme.

Teachings of Maharishi Valmiki are relevant even today: Rishabh Gupta

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, OCT 25

The teachings of Lord Valmiki show society the path of truth, knowledge, good conduct and service to humanity. His ideals inspire the creation of a society based on social harmony, mutual goodwill and equality. Young social worker and the son of Mayor Renu Bala Gupta, Rishabh Gupta, said this while participating in a ceremony organized at ValmikiBasti in Sadar Bazaar on the occasion of Lord Valmiki Jayanti. He bowed to Lord Valmiki with reverence and extended heartfelt greetings to those present on the occasion of the Jayanti. Rishabh Gupta said that the life and teachings of Lord Valmiki remained relevant even today. By drawing



inspiration from his thoughts, the spirit of love, brotherhood, equality, and harmony in society can be strengthened. He said that the true progress of any society was possible only when there was a sense of respect, cooperation, and human sensitivity toward every individual. The ideals of Lord Valmiki inspire us to adopt these values. He said that the personality of Maharishi Valmiki was a

symbol of knowledge, devotion, and positive transformation. Inspired by his life, the youth should play an active role in works that serve society. Social harmony should not remain limited to ideas alone, but should also be reflected in our conduct and daily life. He called upon everyone to assimilate the ideals of Lord Valmiki and contribute to building a harmonious, strong, and cultured society.

Barara MC Chairman Rajat Malik launches construction of key street in Ward No. 1

JAIBEER RANA
BARARA, OCT 25

In a significant step towards strengthening civic infrastructure and improving public convenience, Barara Municipal Council Chairman Rajat Malik inaugurated the construction work of the main street in Ward No. 1 on Sunday. The inauguration was performed by breaking a coconut in the presence of ward councillor Pawan Kumar, marking the beginning of a much-awaited development project for local residents. The street holds considerable importance for daily commuters and residents, as it connects several key locations in Barara. Starting from Khatirdari Restaurant opposite the railway underpass at Maujgarh, the route passes through Kamal Colony and



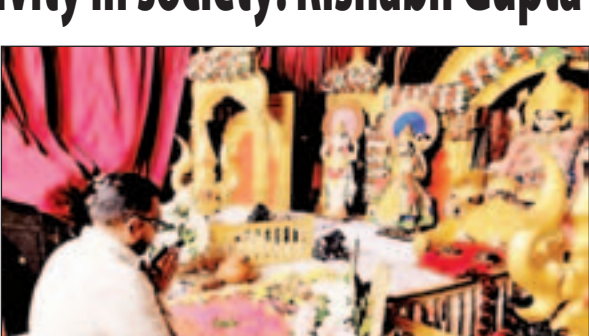
connects with the main market via Petrol Pump Road. The construction is expected to improve connectivity, facilitate smoother movement and provide much-needed relief to residents who have faced difficulties due to the poor condition of the street for years. Local residents expressed happiness over the commencement of the work and thanked Chairman Rajat Malik for taking their concerns seriously. According

to residents, the street had remained neglected for several years, despite repeated demands for proper construction. During the rainy season, waterlogging and muddy conditions made it difficult for pedestrians and commuters to pass through the area. Residents appreciated Malik's proactive approach, stating that he had initiated the construction work well ahead of the timeline committed to them.

Religious events convey message of love, harmony, positivity in society: Rishabh Gupta

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, OCT 25

Religious events are an integral part of Indian culture and social traditions. They strengthen faith and connect people with mutual love, harmony and cooperation. Rishabh Gupta, young social worker and son of Mayor Renu Bala Gupta, expressed these thoughts while reverently participating in Mata Rani Jagran held in Sector 4. Bowing at feet of Mata Rani, Rishabh Gupta prayed for everyone's happiness, peace, prosperity and a happy life. He said that devotion and faith in Mata Rani inspire people to move forward with positive thinking. Such religious events awaken spiritual consciousness in society and also encourage mutual



harmony and brotherhood. He said that religious events hold special significance in Indian culture. These are a means of passing on our traditions and values to next generation. On such occasions, people gather to express their devotion and pray for happiness, peace and harmony in society. They prayed to Mother Goddess to maintain happiness, health,

peace and prosperity in everyone's lives. Young social worker Rishabh Gupta extended his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Suresh Kalra, Sachin Kalra and other dignitaries. He also emphasized importance of carrying forward the tradition of faith and social harmony through religious events.

70 temporary shops to be allotted; applications can be made from October 27 to Nov 1

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, OCT 25

Keeping air quality and public safety in mind during Diwali, district administration will issue licenses for temporary shops at designated locations solely for sale of green crackers. In compliance with orders issued by District Magistrate, Yamunanagar, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Civil) Jagadhri Vishwanath has informed public that interested individuals can submit their applications within stipulated time period.He said that process for issuing licenses for temporary shops will be followed under Rules 84 and 88 of Explosives Rules, 2008,and other applicable provisions. Objective is to limit sale of firecrackers to designated locations during Diwali, control air pollution and ensure public safety. He stated that interested applicants can submit their applications at office of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Jagadhri, from 9 am on October 27 to 5pm on November 1. Applications received after deadline will not be considered. Interested individuals are urged to complete application process promptly. He stated that based on applications, temporary shops will be allotted at designated locations through a draw of lots

on November 2 as per rules. Process of issuing licenses and allotting shops will be completed in accordance with relevant rules and conditions set by competent authority. According to list released by administration, 70 temporary shops will be allotted in designated areas in Yamunanagar and surrounding areas. These include 15 shops at Railway Ground, Railway Workshop, Yamunanagar, 10 shops at stadium located inside the City Center, 30 shops on the north side of the HUDA office in Sector 18 HUDA Ground, 10 shops on vacant lot behind ESI Hospital, Yamunanagar and 5 shops in front of Block Development and Panchayat Office, Sasauli Nagar. He said that licenses will be issued for 70 shops at these five locations. Allotment will be done according to prescribed procedure so that all interested applicants have access to opportunity as per rules. He clarified that fireworks cannot be sold anywhere without a valid license. License holders must adhere to prescribed safety standards, required distance between shops, fire safety provisions and other licensing conditions. He appealed to public to use only green fireworks during Diwali and to take special care of environmental protection as well as their own and others' safety.

Dr Balam Sharma lays foundation stone of Lord Valmiki temple on Valmiki Diwas



CHAMANLAL KARNAL: On Sunday, in village Shahpur, courtesy of Lord ValmikiNirmanSamiti and the entire Valmiki community Shahpur, the program of Adi Kavi Bhagwan Valmiki Pragat Diwas and the foundation stone laying ceremony of BhagwanValmiki temple was celebrated with great devotion and joy. Dr. Balam Sharma, Head of the Department of Political Science, DAV PG College, Kamal, attended the event as the chief guest. The organizers honored him with a turban and a memento. In his address, Dr.Balam Sharma said that Lord Valmiki, by composing the Ramayana, gave them the message of dignity, equality and justice. Lord Valmiki knows past, present and future and a scholar of astrology and astronomy. His life symbolizes social harmony. He said that the magnificent Valmiki temple being built in Shahpur will connect future generations with their culture. Dr. Sharma expressed his gratitude to the entire Valmiki community of Shahpur and the organizing committee for this grand event and extended his best wishes for the temple's construction.

Elite Officials Cricket League organised at NIILM University, Kaithal



SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: The 'Elite Officials Cricket League' was grandly organised at NIILM University, Kaithal, under the theme "Beyond Duty, United by Cricket." The event served as a celebration of sportsmanship, unity, brotherhood, and the true spirit of cricket. Notable attendees included University Chairman Sandeep Chahal, District Police Sub-Inspector Sushil Prakash, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Devender Singh Dhull, Managing Director Dr. Balraj Dhandu, Director of Admissions Rajender Goyat, Chief Administrator Captain Anil, and Public Relations Officer Dr. Manoj Kumar. Darshan Arora, captain of the 'University Legends' team, accepted the winner's trophy from the chief guests, while Sumit, captain of the 'Police XI' team, received the runner-up trophy. Four prominent teams participated in the league: NIILM University, Police XI, Advocate XI and Media XI The final match took place between 'Police XI' and the NIILM University team, with the university side emerging victorious and securing the trophy.

Two students of Aryabhata Group of Institutes selected for All India Boxing championship

BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA, OCT 25

Two talented first-year B.A. Computer Science students of Aryabhata Group of Institutes, Barnala, Armaan Singh and Opkaran Singh, have been selected by Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPТУ) for the All India Boxing Championship. This achievement has brought great pride and happiness to the institution.Both students showcased their talent, hard work, and discipline through impressive performances in the university-level boxing competition. Following their remarkable performances, they have earned the opportunity to represent the university at the All India-level championship. Congratulating the students on



their achievement, the Chairman of the institution, Engineer R.K. Gupta, said that sports play a vital role in the overall development of students. Campus Director Dr. Ajay Kumar Mittal stated that the institution encourages sports activities alongside academic excellence. Dean Academics Dr. Bhavet Garg and Dean of Engineering Rajneesh Narula also appreciated the achievements of both boxers and extended their best wishes for the upcoming championship. Physical Education Teacher Mandeep Singh said that both

players had achieved this milestone through consistent practice, dedication, and determination. He added that their selection would serve as an inspiration for other students. The institution's management committee members, including Vice Chairman Rajiv Mangla, General Secretary Engineer Vicky Singla, Joint Secretary Engineer Inderpal Goyal, Additional Secretary Engineer Mohit Mangla, Treasurer Ashwani Kumar, and Executive Member Harbhajan Singh, also congratulated the two students on their success.

Joint educational excursion by Dyal Singh College and KVA DAV College for Women



CHAMAN LAL
KARNAL, OCT 25

Under the guidance of Dr. Ashima Gakkhar, Principal of Dyal Singh College, and Meenu Sharma, Principal of Kumari Vidyavati Anand (KVA) DAV College for Women, Karnal, a joint educational excursion was organized for students. The initiative aimed to enhance the students' historical, cultural, and academic knowledge by providing them with direct, first-hand experience of historical and

cultural heritage, complementing their classroom learning. A total of 101 students participated in this excursion. During the trip, the students visited several significant sites, including Brahma Sarovar, Gurdwara Chhathi Patshahi, Dharohar Haryana Museum, Kurukshetra Panorama and Science Centre, Pipli Zoo, Jyotisar, and the Tomb of Sheikh Chilli. At these locations, the students gained insights into various facets of Haryana's

historical, religious, cultural, and natural heritage. The excursion offered them an opportunity to explore historical facts closely and bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience. This joint educational excursion was organised under the supervision of Dr. Renu Balian, Head of the Department of History at KVA DAV College for Women, and Dr. Praveen Dhandu, Head of the Department of History at Dyal Singh College, Karnal.

Jobs ready for soldiers returning home: CM Saini

UNI
CHANDIGARH, OCT 25

In a landmark move to rehabilitate soldiers transitioning to civilian life, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today announced that the first batch of Agniveers, having completed their military service, will receive state government jobs and joining letters instantly upon their return to Haryana in November, with officials directed to ensure zero bureaucratic delay.

Chairing a review meeting with senior officials in administration, Saini made it clear that the state would not keep these former defence personnel waiting. "These young men and women have finished their duty on the border. The moment they land back in Haryana, they must have their appointment letters in hand. There will be no procedural delay," he instructed, confirming that all preparatory work has been completed.

The announcement directly addresses the uncertainty surrounding post-service careers under the Agniveer programme, under which recruits serve a four-year term in the armed forces. While the scheme has triggered nationwide debate about employment security after military



service, Haryana has moved decisively to guarantee that its returning soldiers are absorbed into government service the moment they complete their tenure.

"The youth who devoted their prime years to protecting the nation have earned more than our gratitude; they have earned a secure future," Saini said. "Providing them employment the day they return is not merely a policy decision, it is our moral duty."

The Chief Minister's directive places the state's administrative machinery on high alert for November, when the first cohort of Agniveers is scheduled to complete its engagement and return to civilian life. By front-loading the entire appointment process, the government aims to ensure that their shift from military boots to civilian roles is seamless, dignified, and immediate.

Officials have been instructed to keep sanctioned posts vacant and pro-

cess all documentation in advance so that the returning Agniveers do not have to navigate departmental red tape. The move signals that Haryana intends to back its promises with administrative execution rather than vague assurances.

For Agniveers from Haryana, who constitute a significant share of the state's military representation, the assurance resolves lingering anxieties about career stability after their short-term defence engagement ends. Rather than being left to compete in an uncertain job market, they will step directly from service into state employment.

Political observers note that the decision places Haryana in the vanguard of states proactively rehabilitating Agniveers, converting a potentially contentious national issue into a demonstration of governance efficiency and soldier welfare.

As the November return date approaches, the test for the state's machinery will be to deliver on Saini's promise of instant joining letters, a move that could set the benchmark for how India treats its short-service soldiers once they hang up their uniforms.

Strawberry saplings distributed free of cost at Gauri Shankar Sewa Dal Gaushala

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, OCT 25

The Environmental Group organised a free distribution of strawberry saplings at Gauri Shankar Sewa Dal Gaushala in Sector 45, Chandigarh, as part of an initiative to promote environmental conservation alongside cow welfare and community service.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness about plantation and encourage people to contribute towards protecting the environment.

Cow devotees participated enthusiastically in the programme and distributed strawberry saplings among visitors. They were also encouraged to care for the plants and contribute to increasing green cover. The organisers said environ-

mental protection was a collective responsibility and that even small initiatives could make a meaningful contribution.

Sumit Sharma, Vinod



Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Kailash Sharma and Rajneesh Rampal were among those present. They joined other cow devotees in distrib-

uting the saplings and spreading the message of environmental conservation.

Gauri Shankar Sewa Dal Gaushala, Sector 45, reaffirmed its commitment to

'Karn Utsav' will now be an annual festival for Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, OCTOBER 25

'Karn Utsav' will now be an annual festival for Karnal, with the local MLA serving as the ex-officio chairperson of the organising committee. During the announcement, organizations associated with the festival requested Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand to chair the organising committee for Karn Utsav 2026—a proposal he gladly accepted. Upon his arrival to preside over the meeting, MLA Jagmohan Anand was welcomed by representatives of various social organisations with a floral bouquet. A meeting regarding preparations for 'Karn Utsav' was held today at 'Agra Bhawan' in Sector 8, bringing together the organising bodies along with other prominent social and community organisations from Karnal.

The meeting was chaired by MLA Jagmohan Anand. Describing the festival as a hallmark of Karnal's identity, he emphasised that both the ruling party and the opposition should participate in the event, and extended an invitation to the en-



tire opposition to join in 'Karn Utsav'. Jagmohan Anand stated that 'Karn Utsav 2026' is a grand celebration of Karnal's glorious heritage. By bringing the legacy of the legendary philanthropist Karnā—characterized by his immense sacrifices, generosity,

valor, and magnanimity—to the public, this festival serves as a significant effort to elevate Karnal's historical and cultural identity to new heights.

During the meeting, various aspects were discussed to ensure the festival becomes a grand and memorable occasion. It was decided that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Union Minister Manohar Lal, Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, as well as the MLAs from all five assembly constituencies of Karnal, key opposition leaders, and other distinguished figures will be specially invited. MLA Jagmohan Anand remarked that the participation of all social, religious, and cultural organizations from Karnal in this event would serve as a testament to our unity and our deep respect for our glorious heritage.

Capacity Building program on Advanced Life Skills at Shri Mahavir Jain Public School

DALBIR SINGH MALIK

KURUKSHETRA: A one-day training program on 'Advanced Life Skills' was organized at Shri Mahavir Jain Public School, Railway Road as part of CBSE Capacity Building Program. Nisha Sinha and Taranpreet Kaur served as resource persons to guide teachers. Experts shared detailed information on important life skills such as effective communication, positive thinking, decision-making, problem-solving, self-awareness, emotional intelligence, leadership, stress management, time management, teamwork and social skills. They emphasized that in changing educational and social environment, it is not enough to simply provide students with bookish knowledge; it is also essential to empower them with life skills to make appropriate decisions, face challenges, and move forward with confidence. Teachers participated in various activities, group work and practical exercises. Through these activities, teachers learned effective ways to develop communication skills, spirit of cooperation, leadership skills, creative thinking, and problem-solving abilities in students. Principal Pooja Sharma said that life skills are essential for overall development of students in current education system. She added that teachers play a vital role in shaping students' personalities and such training programs help teachers adapt to new and effective teaching methods. She expressed gratitude to organizers and resource persons for successful organization of training program.

PM Vishwakarma Yojana is giving new recognition to skills of artisans and craftsmen: DC

HANS RAJ/DALBIR MALIK

KURUKSHETRA: Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said that artisans and craftsmen contribute invaluable to reconstruction of society. Central Government is implementing PM Vishwakarma Yojana to honor skills of artisans and craftsmen, thereby recognizing their talent. He stated that PM Vishwakarma Yojana is helping to preserve India's traditional arts, crafts and strengthen economic status of country's artisans and craftsmen. Primary objective of Yojana is to promote reach of artisans and craftsmen's products nationally and internationally and improve their quality while ensuring their integration into domestic and global value chains. This scheme provides assistance to artisans and craftsmen across rural and urban areas. Eligible applicants can apply for PM Vishwakarma Yojana by visiting Common Service Centre (CSC) and registering on PM Vishwakarma Yojana portal through mobile verification and Aadhaar e-KYC. He informed that 18 different types of traditional trades have been included under scheme which include boat making, armor, blacksmith, hammer and iron tool making, lock making, goldsmith, potter, sculptor, cobbler, mason, basket maker, carpenter, mat making, doll and toy making, barber, washerman, tailor and fishing net making. He appealed to all artisans eligible for the scheme to immediately register themselves for scheme and avail benefits. DC stated that under PM-Vishwakarma Yojana, a college-aged worker's daughter is given Rs 50,000 for an electric scooter, and a worker is given Rs 5,000 for a bicycle. Female laborers receive Rs 4,500 for purchase of sewing machine and school-going children of laborers in 9th and 10th grades and ITI and diploma students receive 10,000 rupees. He added that 11th and 12th grade students receive Rs 12,000. Students pursuing BA, Polytechnic, Diploma, CA, ANIM, GNM, and Undergraduate Diploma programs receive a benefit of Rs 15,000. Pharmacy and engineering degree students receive Rs 20,000 and MBBS, BAMS and BDS students receive an annual benefit of Rs 21,000. Under this scheme, Vishwakarma brothers and sisters are being made self-reliant and independent by providing them facility of unsecured loan up to Rs. 3 lakh, toolkit assistance up to Rs 15,000.



MLA listens Mann Ki Baat with party workers, pledge to incorporate it into daily life



ARVIND KUMAR

SAMALKHA: Special event was organized on Sunday to listen to 139th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio program, 'Mann Ki Baat.' MLA Manmohan Bhadana, along with his young colleagues and party workers, listened to program live. Everyone was deeply impressed by Prime Minister's inspiring thoughts on national and social development. He said that every address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi energizes citizens to do something new for nation-building. We will all incorporate the lessons and guidance given in today's episode into our daily lives and routines. Youth and party workers present on occasion also adopted Prime Minister's ideas and took a collective pledge to work for welfare of society. A large number of local citizens and youth attended the program.

GNG College wins overall trophy at 49th Youth Festival, DAV Girls College finishes runner-up

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, OCT 25

Guru Nanak Girls (GNG) College won the overall trophy, while DAV Girls College finished as runner-up at the 49th Youth Festival organised at DAV Girls College under the aegis of Kurukshetra University.

BJP district president Rajesh Sapra attended the concluding ceremony as the chief guest, while Kurukshetra University Controller of Examinations Ansheshwar Prakash was the guest of honour. They presented trophies and certificates to the winners. Mohit Arya, treasurer of Arya Pratidin Sabha, Haryana, and Sandeep Bajaj of the Sudarshan Foundation attended as special guests.

Acting Principal Dr Surinder Kaur welcomed the guests. Dr Neeta Dwivedi served as the convener, Gursharan Kaur as the co-conve-

ner, and Dr Rita Singh, Dr Meenakshi and Nishi Grover as coordinators.

Addressing the gathering, Sapra said youth festivals provide students with an opportunity to showcase their talents and connect with Indian culture, art and traditions. Such events, he added, help develop confidence, creativity and a competitive spirit. He emphasised that participation in cultural activities alongside academics was essential for students' all-round development. He congratulated the winning and runner-up teams and wished all participants success in their future endeavours.

Western music and Haryana performances mark final day

The final day of the festival witnessed enthusiastic performances in Western music on the Jhankar stage, includ-



ing Western vocal solo, Western instrumental solo and Western group singing.

The auditorium also hosted Haryana skits highlighting various social issues. Participants from Government College, Chhachhrauli, highlighted the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign and the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana. The team from DAV College, Sadhaura, entertained the audience with its skit, Yamraj Ki Adalat. GNG College emphasised the need to pre-

Suresh Kumar takes charge as Secretary of Cheeka Market Committee

AVNI SHARMA
GUHLA/CHEEKA, OCTOBER 25

Suresh Kumar has taken charge as the new Secretary of the Cheeka Market Committee. With this being the second change in the position of Secretary within a single week, the development has become a subject of discussion regarding the functioning of the mandi. Upon assuming office, Suresh Kumar stated that all operations in the mandi would be conducted with honesty, integrity, and transparency. He emphasised that special attention would be paid to ensuring that farmers and *arhtiyas* (commission agents) do not face any difficulties. According to Secretary Suresh Kumar, approximately 2.2 million quintals (22 lakh quintals) of paddy have been procured so far this season. The inflow of paddy has been higher compared to the previous year. About 60 per-



cent of the procured paddy has already been lifted. The focus remains on ensuring that the procurement and lifting processes are carried out in an organized manner throughout the season.

He added that necessary steps would be taken to maintain essential amenities—such as cleanliness, electricity, and drinking water—to ensure that farmers, labourers, and arhtiyas do not encounter any issues while working. Relevant staff members will also be required to perform their duties responsibly to ensure the smooth functioning of the mandi. Suresh Kumar made it clear that strict action would be taken if any irregularities are detected. He reiterated that maintaining transparency in the procurement process remains a top priority and that all operations will be conducted in strict accordance with the established rules.

Second day of 79th annual Nirankari sant samagam concludes

ARVIND KUMAR

SAMALKHA: "Awareness is not limited to external awareness; it is also essential to be conscious in thoughts, behavior, and emotions." Evoking this spiritual message, Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj addressed the vast human community present on the second day of 79th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam. Millions of devotees and believers from India and abroad gathered for this four-day Sant Samagam. Loving union of this vast human family, representing diverse languages and cultures, presented a unique image of harmony, goodwill and universal brotherhood. Atmosphere of Samagam was filled with spiritual consciousness, devotion and mutual love. Elucidating true meaning of spiritual awakening, Satguru Mata Ji said that awareness is not limited to external awareness; it is also essential to be conscious in thoughts, behavior, and emotions. Illuminating the importance of devotion, Satguru Mata Ji explained that true devotion does not require any external recognition; rather, it is realized by embracing love, humility, tolerance, and truth in life. Even while accepting changes in lifestyle over time, one must maintain truth as one's foundation. Satsang is meaningful only when teachings received there are implemented in one's conduct and the spirit of self-improvement is constantly maintained. Before Satguru Mata Ji's address, Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji, using example of a blind man and a lantern, explained that merely adopting outward form of a Gurmukh is not enough; rather, the light of Brahma Gyan, love and devotion must remain constantly lit in life. True spiritual awakening lies in constantly refining one's thoughts, feelings and conduct through service, meditation and satsang.



Consumers could be defrauded through fake SMS messages regarding outstanding electricity bills

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL, OCTOBER 25

In today's era, technology is advancing rapidly, bringing both benefits and drawbacks. Cybercriminals are exploiting this by employing various tactics to gain people's trust and carry out fraudulent schemes. Through an advisory, the district police have urged citizens to remain cautious and not to share any information in response to fake SMS messages—purportedly regarding outstanding electricity bills—that threaten to disconnect their power supply. SP Manpreet Singh Sudan explained that a new trend in cybercrime has emerged, where fraudsters target individuals by claiming that their electricity bills remain unpaid. These scammers send text messages, posing as legitimate sources, to trick recipients into clicking on links that can steal personal or banking data, or install malware. The police are consistently urging citizens to stay alert and avoid falling into the

traps set by such scammers. Describing the modus operandi, the SP noted that these fraudsters send text messages to targeted phone numbers, claiming that the recipient's electricity supply will be disconnected because their previous month's bill has not been updated; they then instruct the recipient to contact a specific number. Once the victim reaches out to that number, the fraudsters attempt to persuade them to share their bank account details under the pretext of verifying past payments.

They also pressure the victim to install remote-access applications, such as AnyDesk or TeamViewer. As soon as the victim follows these instructions and shares the requested information, the fraudsters gain control over the victim's bank account to carry out the theft. Advising citizens to be extremely cautious of such fraudsters, the SP urged the public not to share personal information or phone numbers unless they are well-acquainted with the individual or organization in question. Avoid downloading software from unofficial sources.



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, OCTOBER 25

Accessible, safe and modern transport systems will play a crucial role in realising the vision of a developed India, Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta said during the 19th Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo 2026 held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

She said urban development should not be limited to expanding infrastructure but must also prioritise citizens' needs, ease of mobility and quality of life.

Gupta said India was steadily progressing towards comprehensive urban development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Minister for Power, Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal. She stressed the need for an integrated approach to modern urban transport, improved civic amenities and sustainable development.

She added that transport systems must be made more convenient, safe and efficient to meet the future needs of growing cities.

EDITORIAL

OMCs back interim LPG distributors' commission hike

Oil marketing companies (OMCs), including Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), have agreed to jointly recommend an interim increase in LPG distributors' commission, even as proposals for a commission revision await approval from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, according to a statement by the All India HP Gas Distributors Association (AIHPGDA).In a communication dated October 22, AIHPGDA President Rajendra B said the assurance came during a bipartite meeting held on October 21 at IOCL's head office in Mumbai, attended by marketing directors, executive directors and senior officials of the three OMCs, along with representatives of LPG distributor associations."Management informed us that revision proposals have already been submitted to MoPNG. The Directors also agreed to jointly recommend an interim increase within a definite timeframe. Ministry approval remains awaited," the association said.During the meeting, distributors highlighted financial distress, rising operational costs and commercial pressures, including declining refill sales in several markets, restrictions on new LPG connections and unsold commercial stock affecting working capital."The Directors expressed concern about deteriorating field relations and assured action on issues within OMC authority relating to forced upliftment of NDNE, FTL and Non-Fuel Products."https://x.com/HPGasIndia/status/2113996118095003750The association also raised concerns over changes to commercial indents without distributors' consent. "They agreed that indents should not be changed without the distributor's consent," it stated, adding that necessary instructions would be issued to field officials.Regarding restrictions on new LPG connections, the association said management had reviewed the matter at the highest level and work was underway to address the issue.Distributors also sought written standard operating procedures (SOPs), digital audit trails and independent grievance redressal mechanisms to improve transparency and accountability.The meeting also discussed LPG-PNG safeguards, commercial business practices, reconciliation of OMC records with invoices and GSTR-1, supply-chain accountability and consumer safety."OMC Management appreciated the dedication of distributors and staff during the recent crisis, while indicating that complete operational normalisation would take time," it added. The association further stated that the distributors had requested meeting minutes and an action matrix specifying responsibilities, deadlines and matters requiring ministry intervention. "AILDF, FLDI and AIHPGDA will continue their work and follow up firmly and constructively. Our unity remains essential for securing a financially viable, respected and operationally secure distributor network," it said.

Iranian Speaker's absence casts geopolitical shadow over BRICS parliamentary forum

India's efforts to strengthen the BRICS partnership through parliamentary diplomacy will unfold against a backdrop of mounting geopolitical uncertainty when the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum opens in New Delhi on October 26, with the absence of Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf adding an unexpected diplomatic dimension to the two-day gathering.

Hosted under India's BRICS presidency, the forum is intended to focus on people-centred development, institutional resilience, technological innovation and international cooperation. However, Tehran's decision to send a parliamentary delegation without its top legislative leader has drawn attention to the wider strategic pressures surrounding the meeting, particularly amid escalating tensions in West Asia and recent friction between India and Iran over the routing of medical supplies to the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian Embassy in New Delhi announced on October 24 that Ghalibaf would be unable to attend because of "certain unforeseen circumstances", without offering any further explanation. Although the announcement did not link his absence to any specific bilateral dispute or regional development, the decision is likely to invite scrutiny given the volatile regional environment and the complex diplomatic calculations confronting both countries. The embassy has reaffirmed Iran's commitment to BRICS engagement and confirmed that a parliamentary delegation would participate in discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral and multilateral parliamentary relations.

The development comes at a sensitive juncture for India's relations with Iran. The two countries share longstanding diplomatic and economic ties, including cooperation on regional connectivity, while New Delhi has simultaneously expanded its strategic partnership with the United States and



maintained important relationships with Israel and the Gulf countries. Balancing these competing interests has become increasingly challenging as regional conflicts, sanctions and security concerns reshape the diplomatic landscape.

The cancellation also coincides with heightened uncertainty in West Asia, where warnings of possible US and Israeli military action involving Iran have added to regional tensions. Tehran has not publicly attributed the Speaker's absence to these developments, and any direct connection would therefore be speculative.

Nevertheless, the decision is likely to be viewed against this broader geopolitical backdrop. For New Delhi, the immediate challenge will be to sustain engagement

with Tehran while protecting its wider strategic interests and ensuring that external pressures do not overshadow the forum's stated objectives.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the gathering and meet the heads of visiting parliamentary delegations, while Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will hold bilateral meetings with parliamentary leaders. Describing the forum as an important milestone in India's parliamentary diplomacy, Birla has said it will provide legislatures from BRICS member and partner countries an opportunity to examine how representative institutions can strengthen democratic governance, promote inclusive development and respond to emerging global challenges.

The meeting will bring together presiding officers and parliamentary leaders, union ministers, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, presiding officers of state legislatures, members of Parliament and other dignitaries. The inaugural session is scheduled for 10.10 am on October 26 in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, while the valedictory session will take place at noon on October 27.

The central theme, "Strengthening Parliaments for People-Centred Development", places legislatures at the heart of discussions on accountable governance, inclusive growth and effective public service delivery. Yet the political significance of the forum extends beyond its

formal agenda. At a time when strategic rivalries and regional conflicts are complicating relations among several countries, the gathering will test the capacity of parliamentary engagement to preserve channels of communication even when governments face difficult diplomatic choices.

The deliberations will revolve around four themes: resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. Discussions on resilience will examine how parliaments can strengthen institutions, improve accountability and prepare governance systems to respond to changing national and international circumstances. The innovation agenda will focus on human-centred applications of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, including the role of legislative frameworks in ensuring that technological progress remains responsible, inclusive and responsive to citizens' needs.

These questions have acquired greater importance as governments and legislatures grapple with the consequences of rapid digital transformation across public administration, economic development and service delivery. Issues of privacy, accessibility, transparency and accountability will remain central to the debate over how emerging technologies can be deployed without undermining public trust or widening existing inequalities.

The session on international cooperation will examine how parliamentary diplomacy can contribute to a more representative system of global governance. BRICS brings together countries with different political systems, economic priorities and strategic partnerships, making consensus difficult on several international questions. The challenge will be to translate shared interests into practical cooperation without overlooking substantive differences over regional conflicts, sanctions, trade and security.

India's basmati rice yield likely to be 5-10% higher this year: Industry leader

India's basmati rice yield is expected to increase by 5 to 10 per cent this year compared to the previous year, supported by favourable rainfall and better crop conditions, according to Rajeev Setia,

"The monsoon was reasonable... and thereafter there were good rains. Just look around, greenery we have all around. So in that way the crop grew and the yield in this particular year for basmati rice is higher," he said.Asked



President, Basmati IREF, and Joint Managing Director, Chaman Lal Setia speaking Exports on the sidelines of the Bharat International Rice Conference 2026 in New Delhi, Setia said the monsoon and subsequent rainfall had supported the growth of the basmati crop, resulting in expectations of higher yields.

about the expected increase, Setia said, "It will definitely be 5-10%... higher as compared to the preceding year."The expected improvement in yields is significant for India's basmati rice industry, as higher agricultural productivity could support export availability amid expectations of growing international demand.

Setia also expressed optimism about the long-term demand for Indian basmati rice, pointing to the increasing popularity of Indian food across international markets."The requirement of Basmati is likely to grow in the time to come," he told ANI.He said Indian basmati rice has established a presence across international markets, while his own company exports to 96 countries.Setia noted that the growing popularity of Indian cuisine among consumers in Europe and the United States is helping expand the market for basmati rice beyond traditional consumers.

He also highlighted India's position in the global basmati rice trade, noting that the crop has geographical indication (GI) recognition and is cultivated in specific geographical regions.India is one of the world's leading producers and exporters of basmati rice, with the crop playing an important role in the country's agricultural exports. Higher yields could improve supply availability, although actual export performance will also depend on international demand and market conditions.The Bharat International Rice Conference 2026 is being held from October 23 to 25 in New Delhi, bringing together Indian exporters, international buyers and other stakeholders in the global rice trade.

Trump claims France is "burning down" over immigration policies

US President Donald Trump on Saturday (local time) criticised France's immigration policies while addressing a campaign rally for Republican candidates in Perry, Georgia.Addressing the rally, Trump said, "France is right now burning down because it opens its borders to people who hate it. These are people who hate it. They hate France. They hate the people of France. They move there. They don't like the buildings. They don't like the monuments. They don't like the paintings. They don't like anything about France."Using the current situation in France as an example, Trump drew a parallel to immigration policies of the US as he said, "And you know what you do with those people? Never let them come into your country. And that's what we're doing."His remarks come as, in the United States, early voting for the November 2026 midterm elections has begun. The elections will determine



control of both chambers of Congress and could shape Trump's ability to advance his legislative agenda during the remainder of his presidency. Meanwhile, nearly 1,000 people were arrested during protests across France on Saturday (local time), Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said, warning that the figure could increase

further, as demonstrations against the high cost of living and other issues witnessed clashes between protesters and police in Paris and other cities.According to France 24, the French government said around 410,000 protesters had marched across the country, while organisers estimated the turnout at nearly

800,000.Authorities announced that the demonstration in Paris had been completely dispersed along the Cours de Vincennes following clashes between protesters and law enforcement personnel at the rear of the march."A Gendarmerie helicopter has been deployed to support ground units and locate any

remaining groups of rioters," the prefectural police said, adding that "more than 500 rioters" had been present towards the end of the demonstration.Police used water cannons and tear gas grenades after projectiles were thrown at them. During a press briefing, Nunez said, "As I speak to you, we are at nearly 1,000 arrests.""I believe this figure will increase significantly," he added. The minister also noted that 385 arrests had been made by the same time the previous Saturday, a day marked by violence and looting.Hundreds of demonstrations took place across France as public anger mounted over the rising cost of living and a lack of educational funding, leading to clashes with security forces attempting to prevent a repeat of recent violence.While initial gatherings were relatively peaceful, severe clashes broke out late Saturday evening in Paris. Riot police deployed tear gas and water cannons against crowds.

Sonia Gandhi opens her heart to memories of Rajiv

In a small Greek restaurant in Cambridge, far from India and long before destiny placed them at the centre of its political history, a young Sonia met a young Rajiv Gandhi. It was an ordinary encounter in an English university town, introduced by a common friend, but one that would quietly change the course of two lives. Nearly six decades later, Sonia Gandhi has returned to that tender beginning, opening a window into a world that belonged to the two of them alone - a world of love, laughter, companionship and cherished memories that time has carried forward, even as tragedy has left its indelible mark.

"In a small Greek restaurant in Cambridge, my journey of love began. Rajiv and I created a world filled with love, laughter and memories. On 10th November, I share that world with you," Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi wrote in her first post on X, announcing her forthcoming memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, scheduled for release on November 10.

There is a quiet poignancy in those words. They speak not of political power, public acclaim or the extraordinary events that would eventually define their lives in the eyes of a nation, but of something far more intimate: the beginning of a love story, the happiness of finding someone special and the precious private world two people build together. For Sonia, the

memory of Cambridge is more than a recollection of the past. It is a journey back to the moment when a chance introduction became a friendship, friendship blossomed into love, and love opened the door to a lifetime of shared joys and sorrows.

Her recollection of Rajiv is strikingly tender, revealing the qualities that first drew her towards the young man who would eventually become her husband. "Of course he was very good-looking," she recalled, with the affectionate candour of someone revisiting a memory that has never lost its warmth. But his appearance was not what remained most deeply etched in her heart. "He was a very gentle-looking person. Of course he was very good-looking, but that gentleness came through. That was something that really touched me and struck me. I'll never forget when I first met him," she said.

It was Rajiv's gentleness that made the difference. Beneath the handsome face, she saw a quality that reached her heart - a quiet warmth that made her feel drawn to him almost from the beginning. In that simple recollection lies the essence of a romance that would endure far beyond the carefree days of youth and survive, in memory, even the cruelest separation.

The setting was The Varsity, a Greek restaurant in Cambridge that Sonia had discovered while trying to find food she enjoyed during her years in England. The



restaurant was frequented by Indian and Italian students, and it was there that a common friend introduced her to Rajiv. Neither could have known what the meeting would eventually mean. They were simply two young people beginning to know one another, sharing the company of friends and attending parties, allowing affection to develop naturally, without any awareness of the extraordinary public lives that lay ahead.

"That is when I met Rajiv; in that very restaurant. When I first met him, I felt almost immediately that he was someone I would really love to be with. And of course, I learned out he felt the same. I remember when I first met him, a common friend introduced us and then we became friends. We used to go to parties with friends," Sonia recalled.

The words carry the sweetness of a love remembered without embellishment.

There was no grand declaration, no dramatic turning point, no moment that either could have recognised as the beginning of a story destined to become part of India's collective memory. There was simply an instinctive feeling that this was someone with whom she wanted to spend her life. And, as she discovered, the feeling was mutual.

Before Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister and Sonia Gandhi emerged as

one of the most consequential figures in Indian politics, they were a young couple discovering the pleasures of companionship. Their story began in the familiar ways in which so many love stories begin - through friends, conversations, shared outings and the growing comfort of being together. What made theirs extraordinary was not the beginning, but the life that followed and the immense personal sacrifices that would eventually become inseparable from it. Sonia and Rajiv married in 1968, bringing together two different worlds and beginning a family life that would unfold within the Nehru-Gandhi family, one of India's most prominent political dynasties. Their children, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, became the centre of their private universe. For a time, their lives were shaped by the familiar rhythms of marriage and parenthood, even as the family's political responsibilities and public prominence placed them in the national spotlight.

Yet the heart of Sonia's forthcoming memoir appears to lie beyond the familiar chronicles of political events and public office. Its title, Belonging: A Journey of Love, suggests an intimate exploration of what it means to find a home in another person, in another country and within a family whose history is intertwined with the destiny of a nation. For Sonia, whose journey began in Italy and led her to India, belonging was not merely a matter of

geography or identity. It was also something created through love, nurtured through shared experiences and sustained by the memories of those who mattered most.

But the happiness of those early years would eventually be overshadowed by devastating loss. In 1984, Rajiv's mother, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was assassinated. A decade later, on May 21, 1991, Rajiv himself was killed in a suicide bombing at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu while campaigning for the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections. He was only 46.

His death tore apart the world Sonia had built with him. A husband, companion and father was suddenly gone, leaving behind a widow and two children who had lost their father. The tragedy was not only a national catastrophe; it was also the intimate devastation of a family whose private grief unfolded before an entire country.

For Sonia, the loss of Rajiv meant the end of the life they had imagined together. The future that had once seemed to stretch ahead through the ordinary pleasures of marriage, family and growing old together was irrevocably altered. The man whose gentleness had first touched her in Cambridge was no longer there to share the laughter, the conversations and the small, unremarkable moments that often become the most precious memories of a life together.

And yet, as her latest words suggest, love does not necessarily end when the person one loves is gone. It survives in recollections, in photographs, in familiar gestures and in the smallest details that remain vivid long after time has moved on. A restaurant in Cambridge, a friend's introduction, the memory of a gentle face - these are the fragments through which an entire life can return, if only for a moment.

Sonia's memoir offers the prospect of seeing Rajiv not merely as the former Prime Minister whose life was cut short by political violence, but as the young man she first encountered in an English restaurant, the husband with whom she built a family and the father whose absence became part of the lives of their children. Behind the historical figure was a man whose personality, affections and private moments were known most intimately to those who loved him.

The book will also trace Sonia's own journey from childhood in post-war Italy to her life in India, the challenges of making a home in an unfamiliar country and her eventual emergence into public life. It promises to bring together the themes that have defined her personal journey: love and duty, family and identity, grief and resilience, and the enduring search for a place to belong. Her announcement on X followed her debut on Instagram a day earlier, when she shared the first glimpse of the memoir with a message expressing gratitude and anticipation.

BHIM Payments App Partners with Goonj for 'Meethi Diwali' campaign
SHIMLA: BHIM Payments App, India's homegrown payment app developed by NPCI BHIM, is spreading the light of festive celebrations with the third edition of its 'Meethi Diwali' campaign. On every 7th transaction made by a user on the app between October 19 and November 8, BHIM Payments App will contribute towards providing school kits to children in need of learning support. For this campaign, BHIM App has partnered with Goonj, a civic and developmental organisation known for its long-standing pan India dignity-led initiatives across education, community development, and disaster relief. The campaign encourages consumers to choose BHIM App for their everyday transactions and become part of a collective effort to put essential learning materials within the reach of more children.

Ather Energy Inaugurates Its First Experience Centre in Mandi
MANDI: Ather Energy Limited, one of India's leading electric two-wheeler manufacturers, has inaugurated its first Experience Centre in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, in association with Walla Ventures LLP. Customers can explore Ather's product portfolio at the outlet, including the Konarc S, the family scooter Rizta Z and the performance-focused Ather 450S. Konarc is Ather's newest electric scooter, built on its EL platform. Across its S and Z series, Konarc offers IDC range options of 100 km, 125 km, 161 km and 200 km. Konarc S is currently available at the Mandi centre. Designed for everyday riding, Konarc has a steel unibody chassis, a 14-inch front wheel and long-travel suspension. It also offers 31 litres of under-seat storage, along with features such as AutoHold, Park Assist Reverse, MagicKey and AutoPop. Konarc comes with Ather's Bedrock battery, which is backed by a warranty of 10 years or 1,00,000 km, whichever comes first, with guaranteed 70% battery health.

LG Electronics India Limited earns Great Place to Work certification third year-in-a-row
SHIMLA: LG Electronics India Ltd. (LGE India), one of India's leading consumer durables companies, has earned the Great Place to Work® Certification™ third year in a row. Great Place to Work®, a global authority on workplace culture and employee experience, awarded LGE India this certification basis employee feedback through the Trust Index™ survey, alongside an assessment of workplace culture. By drawing on employees' perspectives, the assessment provides insight into how trust, engagement and the everyday workplace experience shape an organization's culture. First achieving the certification in 2023, LGE India has continued to build on this recognition through its focus on employee experience, workplace culture, and an environment that supports professional growth. This recognition will continue to help in securing the best talent in the job market and will also enhance shareholder confidence.

IDFC FIRST Bank Q2 FY27 Results: PAT up 196.5% YoY at ₹ 1,045 Crore
CHANDIGARH : IDFC FIRST Bank today announced its unaudited financial results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2026. The Bank reported Profit After Tax of ₹ 1,045 crore in Q2 FY27, up 196.5% year-on-year. For H1 FY27, Profit After Tax stood at ₹ 2,120 crore, with Return on Assets at 0.99%. Commenting on the results, Mr. V. Vaidyanathan, MD and CEO, said, "Our PAT crossed ₹1,000 crore for the second quarter in a row, in both Q1 and Q2 FY27. We are also now internationally rated, with an investment-grade rating from S&P Global Ratings. Our Opex growth has been lower than income growth by about 500 basis points for the second consecutive quarter, demonstrating strong operating leverage. Consequently, our cost-to-income ratio continues to decline, and our ROA is now within touching distance of 1%."

HDFC Bank Launches Pioneering Flexi Electric Car Loan product for Electric Vehicles
CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, has launched a first of its kind Flexi Electric Car Loan, an innovative auto loan product to finance the purchase of Electric Vehicles (EV). The Flexi Electric Car Loan will offer differential loan proportions for the body and battery of the EV vehicle. The battery loan can be repaid over a longer term. This will allow the flexibility to customise the EMI outflow. This loan is now live at the Bank's more than 9700 branches spread across the country. Commenting on the launch of the new offering, Mr. Arvind Vohra, Group Head – Retail Assets & Rural Banking, HDFC Bank said, "The EV revolution in India is set to embrace the EV revolution."

Zigly Pet Care expands its presence in Punjab with the launch of its new centre in Mohali
MOHALI: Zigly Pet Care, India's first omnichannel pet care brand, has announced the launch of its new integrated pet care centre in Mohali, further strengthening its presence in Punjab. The new centre brings together pet products, grooming, wellness and veterinary services under one roof, making quality pet care more accessible to the region's growing community of pet parents. Located at SCO No. 526, Ground Floor, Sector 70, Sahibzada Ajit Singh (SAS) Nagar, Mohali, the new centre has been designed to cater to the everyday needs of pets and their parents, bringing together a curated range of pet food, treats, toys, accessories, grooming essentials and wellness products alongside professional services. Speaking about the launch, Saurabh Jain, CEO, Zigly Pet Care, said, "As pet parenting becomes an increasingly important part of family life."

SBI Life launches 'Waiver of Premium' rider, ensuring continuity of policyholders' long-term financial plans
CHANDIGARH : SBI Life Insurance, one of India's most trusted private life insurers, launched 'Waiver of Premium' rider designed to ensure that policyholder's long-term financial plans are not derailed by setbacks in life, such as a critical illness or disability. Financial planning is inherently long term, with commitments often extending across several years. Whether it's planning for a child's education, preparing for retirement, creating financial security for loved ones or meeting other important financial commitments, staying on track requires not only adequate protection but also the ability to sustain the financial commitment over time. An unforeseen event can impact one's ability to meet premium commitments. SBI Life's 'Waiver of Premium' rider addresses this need by waiving off all future premiums (including extra premiums) upon the occurrence of specified contingencies covered under the rider, helping the base policy and other attached riders to continue as envisioned. Thus, families remain protected and long-term goals such as child's education.

News

South Korean Men's Hockey team receives hearty & rousing punjabi welcome at Mohali airport with dhol, bhangra & phulkaris



SAS NAGAR (MOHALI): The South Korean men's hockey team received a vibrant Punjabi welcome upon arriving at Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), completing the arrival of all six participating teams for the Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament 2026. The players and support staff were greeted with the energetic beats of the dhol, spirited Bhangra performances by local artists and colourful Phulkaris, offering them a glimpse of Punjab's rich cultural heritage and legendary

hospitality. The tournament, scheduled to be held from October 27 to November 5, 2026, at Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar and Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali, will bring together top Asian hockey teams for an exciting contest. The Punjab Government, led by CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, has made elaborate arrangements to ensure world-class infrastructure, seamless logistics and warm hospitality for all participating nations.

The South Korean contingent has arrived with a 20-member squad, including goalkeepers Kim Jaehyeon and Sohn Taemin. The squad also features Park Geonwoo, Jeong Junseong, Go Soung Hoon, Kim JaeHo, Son Dain, Kim Yong Bok, Chun Semin, Song JeongSeob, Yoo Hyoguk, Kong Yoonho, Om Junyoung, Kwon Yechan, Song Haeseong, Bae Soung Min, Han Sangjun, Kim DaeHyun, Choi Gajin and Kim Donggeon. The State Government has put comprehensive arrangements in

place for the teams' accommodation, transportation, security and practice facilities to ensure a smooth and memorable experience throughout the tournament. The preparations reflect Punjab's commitment to promoting international sporting events and providing athletes with facilities that meet the highest standards. With all six participating teams now in Punjab, anticipation is building for the tournament, which is expected to deliver high-intensity hockey action and attract sports enthusiasts from across the country.

Guest Teachers Begin Nyay Yatra from Kurukshetra to Chandigarh



HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA: Guest teachers from across Haryana began a Nyay Yatra from Taj Park in Kurukshetra towards Chandigarh on Sunday, demanding regularisation of their services in accordance with court orders. The march was organised on the call of the Guest Teachers Joint Struggle Front, Haryana Pradesh. Carrying banners and posters, the teachers highlighted their long-pending demand for permanent service security and the benefits available to regular employees. They said they had been contributing to Haryana's education system for years but continued to work under temporary arrangements. Mocha President Krishan Dharshool said guest teachers had served government schools with dedication, including those in remote and rural areas. He urged the state government to implement the three-year policy introduced in 2014 and expedite the regularisation process for eligible teachers in accordance with court orders. Describing the Nyay Yatra as a struggle for teachers' dignity, rights and future security, Dharshool said the agitation would be intensified if the government failed to address their demands. Maina Yadav, President of the Women's Wing, said prolonged temporary employment had caused financial and mental stress among women guest teachers. She urged the government to

Gujarat students explore Punjab's spiritual heritage at Sri Anandpur Sahib under Yuva Sangam



ROPAR: From experiencing the spiritual legacy of Sri Anandpur Sahib to discovering Punjab's rural traditions and cultural heritage, students from Gujarat gained first-hand insights into the state's rich identity under Yuva Sangam organised as part of the Ministry of Education's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative. Hosted by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali, the delegation visited the historic Sri Anandpur Sahib, where the students explored the magnificent Virsat-e-Khalsa Museum to understand Sikhism's history, traditions, sacrifices and enduring values. They also paid obeisance at Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, received Karah Prasad and experienced the spirit of seva, equality and community bonding through participation in the traditional langar. The tour includes visits to Chandigarh's iconic places, interaction with experts in Panjab University, Visit of Ludhiana for Verka Dairy, Hero Cycles, Panjab Agricultural University followed by IIM Amritsar. The students will also explore prominent historical and cultural landmarks, including the Golden Temple, Jallianwala Bagh, the Partition Museum, the Attari-Wagah Border and Virsat-e-Khalsa. Traditional Bhangra and Giddha workshops will further introduce them to Punjab's vibrant folk culture. Through this diverse exposure, Yuva Sangam seeks to foster cultural understanding, strengthen inter-state connections and deepen the spirit of national integration among young people. Commenting on this project, Prof. Anil K. Tripathi, Director, IISER Mohali, said, "Yuva Sangam provides students with a unique opportunity to experience India's cultural diversity through direct interaction with local communities, traditional artisans and institutions. Such exchanges go beyond classroom learning."

1,400 students showcase mental arithmetic skills at 14th Punjab SIP Abacus Competition



CHANDIGARH: Around 1,400 students from Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and the Chandigarh Tricity participated in the 14th Punjab SIP Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Competition on Sunday, putting their mental calculation skills, speed, accuracy and concentration to the test. A highlight of the competition was the advanced-level challenge, where participants were required to solve 260 arithmetic sums in just 11 minutes. The exercise tested not only their speed and accuracy but also their concentration and ability to perform under pressure. The competition brought together students from across the region and provided them an

opportunity to assess their abilities in a large competitive environment. The event also saw 140 students graduate after successfully completing their respective levels of the SIP Abacus programme. The competition was conducted in two rounds. The event was attended by Sham Lal Bansal, Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Panchkula; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, IAS, Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Chandigarh Administration, and Managing Director, CITCO; and Dr Syed Sehish Asgar, IAS, Special Secretary, Power, Government of Punjab, who interacted with the participants and encouraged them.

The House of Abhinandan Lodha Introduces The Ridge, Mashobra

LUDHIANA : The House of Abhinandan Lodha (HoABL) announced the launch of 'The Ridge', an ultra-luxury villa development in Mashobra, Himachal Pradesh, approximately 10 kilometres from Shimla. The Ridge caters to the growing demand among India's high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth households for second homes that offer more than an occasional retreat. It combines pristine natural surroundings with world-class wellness and seven-star hospitality and offers an exceptional mountain living experience conceived as a legacy to be cherished across generations. Spread across 11.5 acres at approximately 7,000 feet above sea level, The Ridge comprises a limited



Himalayan terrain, an exceptional products ecosystem, pristine nature and panoramic views, all complemented by seven-star hospitality. Its longevity philosophy is rooted in an integrated approach to nature, movement, recovery, wellness and science, making wellbeing an intrinsic part of living in the mountains. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Abhinandan Lodha, Chairman, House of Abhinandan Lodha, said: "At The House of Abhinandan Lodha, our philosophy across projects has been to create elevated experiences for our customers. For those who have spent years building businesses and creating wealth, the next priority is often how they choose to live. With The Ridge, we bring this philosophy to life through a mountain residence that combines exceptional living standards with a deep connection to nature, offering a space to reconnect, spend meaningful time with family and create a legacy to be cherished across generations."

Amazon and I4C Scale Up Nationwide Campaign to Strengthen Consumer Protection Against Online Scams

CHANDIGARH: Amazon India today announced the second phase of its collaboration with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to help consumers shield from recognising online scams to taking informed action. The initiative brings together practical safety guidance, technology-led innovation and interactive consumer education to help people identify suspicious communications, make safer digital payments and respond to evolving cyber threats. Amazon and I4C are jointly driving a series of initiatives at a national and regional level. These include: Taking safety messages to 1 million delivery packages: Messaging on how to shop online safely carried on 1 million Amazon delivery packages across Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata ahead of the festive season. Advancing AI-led cybersecurity innovation: RAKSHAM – National AI Cybersecurity Hackathon 2026, in collaboration with IIT Delhi, invited student teams to develop AI-powered solutions to emerging threats, including voice-cloning fraud, scam-pattern recognition and deepfake detection. The hackathon received close to 5,000 registrations with the winner being announced on 25 October from among

the top 30 shortlisted teams. Making scam awareness interactive: A digital interactive game that challenges consumers to distinguish genuine communications from suspicious delivery alerts, refund requests, payment prompts and offers. Nishant Kumar, Director, Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, said: "Amazon's collaboration with I4C is important to strengthen public awareness and help citizens stay safer from online scams especially e-commerce scams. As cyber threats evolve, awareness must translate into informed decisions and timely action. By combining practical consumer education with technology-led innovation, this initiative aims to equip citizens to recognize warning signs, respond more confidently and contribute to a safer digital ecosystem." Rakesh Bakshi, Vice President – Legal, Amazon India, said: "At Amazon, our customer obsession drives everything we do – and ensuring they have the safest online shopping experience is at the heart of that commitment. Our partnership with I4C has been instrumental in strengthening consumer awareness and advancing our shared mission to tackle online fraud."

JEET AI Launches India's First AI Tutor That Goes Beyond Answers to Actually Teach

GURUGRAM: JEET AI introduces India's first AI Tutor that truly teaches, replicating the experience of learning with a personal teacher. Rather than waiting for students to ask questions, it actively teaches concepts, writes and annotates on a virtual board, presents relevant multimedia content, and uses interactive simulations to simplify complex topics. For instance, while teaching a concept in Chemistry, JEET AI can illustrate chemical reactions, explain the underlying science through visual demonstrations, and pause to test whether the student has understood the concept before moving forward. Just like a good teacher, it continuously checks comprehension, asks questions, and tests students throughout the lesson, adapting its explanations based on their understanding. Students can interrupt at any moment, ask unlimited questions, and request explanations repeatedly, without hesitation or judgment. JEET AI has launched with teaching capabilities in Hindi, with support for additional Indian languages, including Tamil and Kannada, set to be introduced in the coming months. Ritvik Kulshrestha, Founder of Jeet AI and CEO of Extramarks Education, said, "For centuries, the best form of education has been a great teacher sitting beside a student, understanding their difficulties, and adapting to their needs. Unfortunately, this level of personal attention has always been a privilege available to very few. With JEET AI, we are using technology to change that. Our goal is not to build another tool that answers questions, but to make the experience of having a great personal teacher accessible to every student." For decades, students have relied on coaching centres, recorded lectures, and YouTube videos to prepare for their examinations.

Thousands Attend 'Shri Radha Rasamritam' in Panchkula on Sharad Purnima

PANCHKULA: Thousands of devotees gathered at Indrachanush Auditorium, Sector 5, Panchkula, on Sharad Purnima to attend 'Shri Radha Rasamritam — Sharad Purnima Special', organised under the guidance of Acharya Shri Vinayak Ji as part of the Sankalp Sanat explored the spiritual significance of Radha Tattva and the tradition of divine love. During the discourse, Acharya Shri Vinayak Ji explained the deeper meaning of Shri Radha-Krishna's divine love, the importance of surrender and the essence of devotion. He emphasised that Radha Tattva is not merely a subject of worship but a spiritual experience rooted in love, compassion, dedication and complete surrender, capable of bringing about inner transformation. The discourse highlighted how true devotion encourages humility, selfless integr reflect on the importance of incorporating spiritual values into their daily conduct.

Gyan Ganga Global School Students Shine at Imaginarium-2026

SONIPAT: Students of Gyan Ganga Global School (G-3) showcased their talent, dedication and patriotic spirit by securing first position in the Inter-School Patriotic Group Singing Competition held as part of Imaginarium-2026. Students from Classes VI to VIII participated in the competition and impressed everyone with their melodious voices, outstanding presentation and patriotic performance. Their excellent teamwork, coordination and deep sense of devotion towards the nation helped them achieve this remarkable success. The competition was organised at Rishikul Vidyapeeth, Sonapat, as part of Imaginarium-2026. Representing Gyan Ganga Global School, students Saket, Moksh, Piyush, Mani, Bhumika, Saanvi, Prachi, Ayush, Akshit and Raunak participated enthusiastically and brought laurels to the school by winning first position. On this achievement, School Chairman Sudhir Jain, Director Dhruv Jain and Principal Geeta Chopra congratulated the students and appreciated their efforts. They encouraged the students to continue excelling in cultural activities alongside academics. Cha ab



students' hard work and collective efforts. She also congratulated Music Teacher Prachi for her valuable guidance and contribution in preparing the team for the competition.

Myrus Ventures Directors Honoured for Luxury Farmhouse Project in Panchkula

PANCHKULA: Myrus Ventures directors Ashish Mittal, Munish Singla and Rajnish Singla were honoured with the "Excellence Award – Pioneers in Ultra-Luxury Farmhouse Living" for their project, Lincoln Hills, Panchkula. The award was presented by Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria at a Zee Media event held in Mohali on October 9, 2026. The recognition acknowledges the company's efforts to develop distinctive luxury real estate destinations in the Chandigarh Tricity region. Located in the scenic Shivalik foothills, approximately 25 km from Panchkula city, Lincoln Hills is envisioned as an integrated luxury farmhouse estate spread across combine natural surroundings, privacy and premium lifestyle amenities to offer an exclusive farmhouse living experience. Speaking on the occasion, Myrus Ventures Director Ashish Mittal said the recognition was a matter of pride for the company. "Our vision has always been to create exceptional spaces that offer a distinctive lifestyle and become a legacy for generations to come. Lincoln Hills is a landmark project for us, envisioned as an exclusive address for those who appreciate space, privacy and the finer things in life," he said. around 100 acres. The project aims to



'Mann Ki Baat' strengthens the spirit of public participation and nation building: Sanjay Tandon

CHANDIGARH: Senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon on Sunday listened to the 139th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' at the BJP on office in Sector 33, Chandigarh, along with Chandigarh BJP in-charge Mahendra Pandey, BJP State President Jalinder Pal Malhotra and other party workers. Speaking on the occasion, Tandon said that 'Mann Ki Baat' is an important platform for learning about the inspiring initiatives of citizens across the country, their spirit of public participation and their contributions to nation-building. He said, "Through 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi brings inspiring stories of ordinary citizens who are making extraordinary contributions to society. The programme highlights the power of collective efforts and demonstrates how people's participation can bring meaningful and positive change." Tandon further said that the programme encourages citizens to recognise their responsibilities towards society and strengthens their commitment to serving the nation. It also provides a valuable opportunity to learn from grassroots initiatives, appreciate the achievements of fellow citizens and draw inspiration for constructive social action. He added that 'Mann Ki Baat' has emerged as a meaningful medium of connecting people from different regions and backgrounds, reinforcing the spirit of unity, social responsibility and collective progress. Tandon said that such initiatives inspire every citizen to contribute, in their own capacity, towards building a stronger, more inclusive and developed India in keeping with the vision of Viksit Bharat.



IndiGo and Adani Airports announce phased expansion of international flight operations at Navi Mumbai Airport

CHANDIGARH / LU DHIANA: IndiGo and Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) jointly announced that they are in final stages of operationalizing a plan for IndiGo to commence international operations from Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) from February 2027 and progressively expand its presence thereafter, further strengthening their partnership and Mumbai Metropolitan Region's (MMR) dual-airport system. As part of its expansion at NMIA, IndiGo will progressively transfer 12 daily international departures from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) to NMIA, representing all the present operations from CSMIA to Bahrain, Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, Madinah, Kuwait, Ras Al Khaima, Fujairah, Muscat, Dhaka and Jakarta. An additional daily service to Kathmandu will also be introduced, taking IndiGo's international network at NMIA to 12 destinations between February and July 2027. IndiGo will also transition the required domestic connectivity from CSMIA to NMIA to support these international services from CSMIA to NMIA ensuring seamless onward connections for customers. In close collaboration with IndiGo, AAHL has been working to enable the necessary infrastructure at NMIA for delivering a smooth and efficient transfer experience between IndiGo's International and Domestic services at NMIA.

Shoppers Stop Brings the Spirit of Gifting to Life with 'Gifts of Love'

FARIDABAD : Diwali is a celebration of light, togetherness and the people who make every moment special. It is also a time when a thoughtfully chosen gift becomes a way of expressing love, gratitude and appreciation. This Diwali, Shoppers Stop, India's leading premium fashion, beauty and gifting destination, brings the spirit of giving to life with 'Gifts of Love', a curated festive gifting collection celebrating the many relationships that make the season meaningful. With Diwali bringing families, friends and loved ones together, Gifts of Love brings together an extensive selection of beauty, fragrances, watches, handbags, sunglasses, footwear and accessories, making it easier for customers to find something special for everyone on their gifting list. From a meaningful gift for a parent or partner to a festive indulgence for a friend or a thoughtful gesture for a colleague, the campaign celebrates the idea that the best gifts are those chosen with the person in mind. Jiten Mahendra, Customer Care Associate & CMO, Shoppers Stop, said, "Diwali is a celebration of relationships, and gifting is one of the most meaningful ways to express love and appreciation. At Shoppers Stop, our ambition is to elevate festive shopping beyond transactions through three pillars – Engagement, Experience and Exclusivity. With 'Gifts of Love', we bring together thoughtfully curated premium brands, personalised gifting and memorabilia."

AI Must Enhance Human Wisdom, Not Replace It: Dr SS Bhatti



CHANDIGARH: Artificial Intelligence (AI) should enhance human intelligence rather than replace creativity, ethical judgement and compassion, eminent architect, educationalist and philosopher Dr Surinder Singh Bhatti said while delivering the 18th First Friday Forum (FFF) Orator in Chandigarh. Titled "Education and Artificial Intelligence: From Knowledge to Awakening", the oration highlighted the need to balance technological advancement with human values. Describing AI as "Frozen Human Intelligence", Dr Bhatti acknowledged its potential to accelerate research, process information and improve productivity but stressed that its true value depended on human wisdom, imagination and ethical responsibility. Advocating his philosophy of Holistic Humanism, he called for integrating humanities, art, science and technology into education. He emphasised that education must go beyond knowledge acquisition and technical skills to nurture creativity, critical thinking, compassion and responsible citizenship. A major highlight of the event was the launch of eight books authored by Dr Bhatti. Chief Guest Prof Dr RS Bawa, former Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor of Chandigarh University, released 'The Muse of Metaphors'. Prof Dr IS Dua, former Chairman of the Department of Botany, Panjab University, released 'Dr Surinder Singh Bhatti (Architect, Poet, Educator, Artist, and Mystic)'. Renowned artist Prof Prem Singh released 'My Bosom Buddy', while Engineer ML Garg released 'Holistic Humanism'. Prof Swati Behl Upal, Principal of the University Institute of Architecture, Chandigarh University, released 'FUTURELIGHT'.

BHIM Payments App Partners with Goonj for 'Meethi Diwali' Campaign

ROHTAK: BHIM Payments App, India's homegrown payment app developed by NPCI BHIM, is spreading the light of festive celebrations with the third edition of its 'Meethi Diwali' campaign. On every 7th transaction made by a user on the app between October 19 and November 8, BHIM Payments App will contribute towards providing school kits to children in need of learning support. For this campaign, BHIM App has partnered with Goonj, a civic and developmental organisation known for its long-standing pan India dignity-led initiatives across education, community development, and disaster relief. The campaign encourages consumers to choose BHIM App for their everyday transactions and become part of a collective effort to put essential learning materials within the reach of more children. The joy of Diwali lies in its moments of togetherness, its promise of new beginnings and the happiness that grows when the celebrations go beyond our own. This year, BHIM App is extending that warmth to classrooms, where access to something as simple as a school kit can make a significant impact on the lives of underprivileged children. The initiative reflects BHIM App's commitment to making digital payments a part of everyday life while creating opportunities for meaningful impact. It also reinforces the idea behind Bharat Ka Apna Payments App, that a simple, familiar action can contribute to something bigger, making the spirit of Diwali reach a little further. Commenting on the initiative, Gaurav Kochhar, Chief of Business, NPCI BHIM, said,



KAY2 Xenox eyes enhanced market share in Punjab, aims to increase production capacity by 15% in one year

CHANDIGARH: KAY2 Xenox, India's youngest and fastest-growing TMT Bars (the Intelligent Steel) manufacturer, is accelerating its expansion in Punjab. To meet the surging demand for steel products in TMT, the company plans to increase its TMT Bar production capacity by 15% within a year. The company currently has a 15k Tons production capacity of 48000 MTPA in the State. KAY2 Xenox has a strong network of dealer's network in the State and is planning to expand it by 10% through various mason meet and builder meet. Mr. Sunil Agarwal, Director, KAY2 Xenox, said, "KAY2 Xenox has in a short span of time made significant inroads into markets across the country. The premium product is engineered to support modern construction and design trends. As we look to expand our market reach, Punjab is an important market with phenomenal growth opportunities and fast paced infrastructure developments. As part of our expansion strategy, we are reinforcing our presence to deliver high quality input materials to meet the evolving demand in the state." KAY2 Xenox is a premium brand of KAY2 TMT Bars which offers unique rib design that achieves superior bonding with concrete in a hexagonal pattern and ensures a solid foundation and quality of any structure.

Mankind Pharma calls for greater awareness around breast cancer, early detection and timely treatment

LUDHIANA: Marking Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Mankind Pharma highlighted the importance of breast cancer awareness, early detection and timely treatment through its Pink October campaign. The initiative builds on the company's #1 Million Lives journey, which aims to make cancer awareness more accessible and encourage individuals to take proactive steps towards their health. "Recognising unusual changes in the breast and seeking medical advice without delay are important steps towards timely diagnosis. Screening recommendations depend on factors such as age and individual risk, making consultation with a qualified healthcare professional essential."

HDFC Bank Educated over 1.8 Lakh Citizens under Cyber Suraksha Awareness Campaign

CHANDIGARH: HDFC Bank, as a part of its commitment towards strengthening cyber fraud prevention and customer awareness, conducted over 8,800 workshops as a part of a nationwide awareness initiative titled 'Cyber Fraud Suraksha'. These workshops were conducted between July - Oct 2026, and the Bank reached over 1.8 lakh citizens across the country. Commenting on this Mr. Manish Agrawal, Senior Executive Vice President – Credit Intelligence and Control – HDFC Bank said, "Cybercrime is a serious threat, and a lack of awareness often causes people to fall victim to cyber frauds. Therefore, it is essential to create awareness among citizens. The objective of this campaign was to educate participants on the various modus operandi used by fraudsters and the secure banking practices they should follow."

Tanishq Introduces Adhyantara this Festive Season, Translating the Infinity Wonder of the Cosmos into Extraordinary Jewellery

LUDHIANA/LALANDHAR/AMRITSAR: Ahead of the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras, Tanishq, India's largest jewellery retail brand from the House of Tata, unveils Adhyantara, its latest jewellery collection featuring actress Tripti Dimri. Inspired by the boundless beauty and mystery of the cosmos, the collection brings the wonders of the universe closer to the woman who inspires it. From the brilliance of distant stars to the poetry of celestial forms, Adhyantara captures the extraordinary, inviting her to explore a world where imagination knows no bounds. Speaking about the launch, Ms. Pelki Tshering, Chief Marketing Officer, Tanishq, said, "Dhanteras is a moment when we celebrate prosperity, optimism and new beginnings, making it a deeply meaningful occasion for Tanishq. With Adhyantara, we wanted to explore the infinite wonder of the universe and bring it closer to the woman who inspires us."

Himachal Pradesh lift Balrajji Dass Tandon Trophy on first-innings lead

CHANDIGARH: Himachal Pradesh clinched the title of the 6th Late Balrajji Dass Tandon Multi-Days Cricket Tournament after securing a 19-run first-innings lead over Andhra in the final which ended in a draw at DAV College Cricket Ground, Sector 10, on Sunday. Resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 265 for eight, Andhra were bowled out for 271 in 97 overs on the second day. Himachal Pradesh, who had posted 290 for four in 74 overs in their first innings, were declared winners on the basis of their first-innings lead. For Andhra, B Sai Krishna Chaitanya (76) while M L Prudhviraj contributed 82. Yash Choudhary, Adish Minhas, Vedant Sharma and Arnav Thakur claimed two wickets each for Himachal Pradesh. In reply, Himachal Pradesh built their innings around an unbeaten century by Nesarav and a fluent knock from captain Sambhav. Nesarav remained unbeaten on 102 by hitting 12 boundaries while Sambhav scored 82 including nine fours and a six.

Deepak Reddy appointed as CEO Designate of Bajaj General Insurance

CHANDIGARH: The Board of Directors of Bajaj General Insurance Limited (formerly known as Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited), a material unlisted subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv Limited, approved the appointment of Deepak Reddy as CEO Designate of the company, effective January 1, 2027. He will take charge as MD & CEO on 1st April 2027, subject to approval of IRDAIL. Dr. Tapan Singhel will continue as MD & CEO until March 31, 2027, ensuring a seamless transition. Subject to approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Deepak Reddy will take charge as MD & CEO from April 1, 2027. Sanjay Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Limited, said, "Few leaders have the distinction of building an institution from the ground up. Tapan is one of them. From its early years as a joint venture to its evolution into a wholly Bajaj-owned company, he has played a defining role in shaping Bajaj General Insurance into one of India's most trusted general insurers."

Indriya Unveils Festival of Love, Its Diwali Campaign Featuring Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth

JALANDHAR: Diwali is one of the few times of the year when we pour ourselves into creating joy for everyone we love. Every detail matters, from decorating our homes and preparing rituals to choosing gifts and welcoming family and friends. Yet, in the midst of this celebration, the simplest expressions of love for our inner circle can often take a back seat. Rooted in Indriya's philosophy of finding the 'Us in We', Festival of Love celebrates the relationships and moments of connection that sit at the heart of every celebration. This Diwali, Indriya, Aditya Birla Jewellery, brings this thought to life through its latest campaign featuring Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth. Sandeep Kohli, CEO, Indriya, said, "The festive season remains one of the most important periods for the jewellery industry."

Mankind Pharma calls for greater awareness around breast cancer, early detection and timely treatment

GURUGRAM: Marking Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Mankind Pharma highlighted the importance of breast cancer awareness, early detection and timely treatment through its Pink October campaign. The initiative builds on the company's #1 Million Lives initiative, which aims to make cancer awareness more accessible and encourage individuals to take proactive steps towards their health. Breast cancer awareness is important in encouraging timely medical consultation and improving understanding of the disease. Potential warning signs may include a lump or thickening in the breast, changes in breast size or shape, skin changes, nipple changes or unusual discharge. While these changes may not necessarily indicate cancer, they warrant medical evaluation. Clinical examination and mammography, as appropriate to an individual's age and risk profile, can support early detection. "Cancer awareness must extend beyond healthcare facilities and become an integral part of how people approach their health. Through our #1 Million Lives initiative, we aim to make reliable health information more accessible and encourage proactive healthcare decisions. Pink October reinforces this commitment by highlighting breast health awareness, early detection and timely medical consultation."

We're following Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Ji's path to build Punjab Rooted in equality, dignity & justice: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

VIKASH VERMA
DHURI: Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday paid obeisance to Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Ji and flagged off a grand Shobha Yatra at Gandhi Basti in Dhuri to mark his sacred Parkash Purab, reaffirming his government's commitment to the path of truth, righteousness, equality and justice shown by the revered saint. Invoking the timeless teachings of the Ramayana, he said Punjab, the sacred land of Guru Sahiban, saints and peers, would continue to uphold the values of humanity, dignity and brotherhood, where the seeds of hatred could never flourish.

Highlighting education as the most powerful means of transforming lives, the Chief Minister said that 882 students from Punjab government schools had cleared NEET this year, compared with just 80 in 2021, demonstrating how quality education is opening doors to a brighter future for children from humble backgrounds.

Sharing a few snippets from this auspicious occasion, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "Participated in the grand Shobha Yatra organised at Gandhi Basti in Dhuri constituency,



Sangrur, today to mark the Parkash Purab of Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Ji and performed the ceremonial flag-off. The sacred Ramayana, composed by Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Ji, conveys the timeless message of goodness, truth and equality. His profound teachings continue to serve as a guiding light for our society even today."

"Heartfelt greetings to all devotees in Punjab and across the country and abroad on the auspicious occasion of Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Jayanti, being celebrated tomorrow. Let us all resolve to follow the path shown by Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Ji and uphold his noble teachings in our lives," he added

Paying tributes to Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Ji, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Ji, the Pitaamah of Sanskrit literature and the Adi Kavi, or first poet, gave the world the timeless epic Ramayana, which conveys the eternal message of the triumph of good over evil. Its teachings on morality, duty, compassion, ideal leadership and righteous conduct have guided generations and remain

equally relevant today."

The Chief Minister said, "In today's materialistic world, we need to strengthen the values of truth, humanity and social responsibility. The teachings of Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Ji remind us that righteousness, equality and respect for every human being must remain the foundation of society."

He said that Punjab is fortunate to be associated with the sacred legacy of Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki Ji, who imparted knowledge and training to Luv and Kush, the sons of Lord Ram, on this pious land. He said the great saints, Gurus, seers and martyrs had consistently inspired people to rise above divisions and work towards a society founded on unity, brotherhood and equality.

Emphasising the transformative power of education, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Education is the most effective instrument of social transformation. Children from economically disadvantaged families are now clearing some of the country's most prestigious competitive examinations, proving that talent is not restricted by financial circumstances."

Bhatia Mobile Enters Home State Haryana



ROHTAK: Bhatia Mobile, the fastest-growing mobile retail chain in Western India, is opening its next store in Rohtak, where the family's roots lie. After opening its first store in Surat, Gujarat, and expanding to 500+ mobile stores across four states, the company is making a "homecoming" after 24 years. Bhatia Mobile's first outlet in Haryana is opening at HR BH Rohtak, Shop No. 11-12, Municipal Market. Mrs. Kamlesh Kurnan Bhatia, the owner of the company, will personally attend the inauguration of this store.

Rohtak marks the beginning of Bhatia Mobile's journey in Haryana, and more cities will be added in the future. The company plans to continue its expansion, particularly in the growing Tier-2 and Tier-3 markets. As India's digital ecosystem continues to grow, retailers that combine scale with trust will shape its direction, and the Bhatia family aims to be among them.

For the inauguration of the Rohtak store, several special offers have been arranged for customers, including neckbands worth Rs. 999 for just Rs. 90, earbuds worth Rs. 1,999 for just Rs. 199, and although iPhone prices have increased, they will be available here at old prices. Phones will also be available on easy EMIs.

In addition, a Spin and Win offer will also be available during the inauguration, giving customers a chance to win EV bikes, TVs, washing machines, smartphones and prizes worth lakhs of rupees.

Five founding members of Jhijhana Ramlila Committee honoured after four decades

KARNAL (SHIV KUMAR SHARMA): The Shri Ram Lila Committee honoured five former members who helped establish the Ramlila stage in Jhijhana around 40 years ago, laying the foundation for the annual staging of Ramlila in the town. The five former members had established the Ramlila ground and built a stage by carrying soil on their heads. They also initiated the Ramlila tradition, bringing performers from Dehradun to entertain audiences. According to the committee, more than two dozen members were associated with the organisation when it was formed four decades ago. People from Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities worked together to organise the event. The five former members honoured were Mahendra Kumar Sharma, former president and acharya at Rashtriya



Shiksha Sadan Inter College; Suresh Chand Garg, former secretary; Dharamveer, popularly known as Netaji; Kareshan Rajvanshi; and Khurshid Alam, former media coordinator of the Haryana State Haj Committee. The honour recognised their contribution to establishing the Ramlila stage and sustaining the tradition over the years. The former committee members had long hoped that a room-like hall would be constructed above the stage to provide performers with a place to rest and improve facilities for audiences. After nearly four decades, Jhijhana Municipal Committee chairman Suresh Pal Kashyap fulfilled this long-

standing demand by getting a hall constructed above the stage and providing the facilities required by the Ramlila Committee. To mark the occasion, current committee members visited the homes of the five former members and felicitated them with representations of Lord Ram Lalla. They also sought their blessings and expressed gratitude for their contribution. The senior members administered an oath to the current committee members and urged them to continue the tradition with dedication. They expressed satisfaction that the Ramlila they had initiated 40 years ago was still being staged for audiences, describing its continuation as a matter of pride.

Hettich Opens First Exclusive Store in Mohali, Expands Presence in Tricity

MOHALI: Hettich India has opened its first Hettich Exclusive (HeX) store in Mohali, expanding its experiential retail presence in North India and bringing its range of German-engineered interior solutions closer to customers across Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula. Located in Sector 82, the new store caters to homeowners, architects and interior designers, offering an opportunity to explore the company's products and interior solutions in a



real-life setting. Commenting on the launch, Rahul Thakkar, Director – Sales, Hettich India, said Mohali was a fast-growing city with customers who valued quality, design and innovation. "With our first Hettich Exclusive store, here, we are bringing our experiential touchpoints closer to customers across the Tricity and expanding opportunities for them to discover and shop our award-winning, German-engineered interior solutions," he said. The store features curated displays of modern living spaces, showcasing premium furniture fittings, architectural door hardware, furniture lighting and built-in kitchen appliances. It also offers complimentary design consultations, allowing customers to work with expert designers to visualise and develop furniture concepts tailored to their individual needs and lifestyles. Hettich's Experience Centre in Chandigarh will continue to serve customers and industry professionals, providing opportunities to explore the brand's latest innovations and interior solutions. The Mohali outlet is part of Hettich's broader expansion strategy to establish multiple HeX stores across India this year and strengthen.

Bank of Baroda Launches Festive Campaign - 'bob Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang'

LUDHIANA/CHANDIGARH: Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, has announced the launch of its festive campaign "bob ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang – Shubh Bhi, Labh Bhi." The campaign brings together a comprehensive suite of offers across retail loans, MSME loans, savings products and spending on Debit Cards, designed to make festive financial aspirations more accessible and rewarding for customers across the country. Speaking on the festive campaign, Smt. Beena Vaheed, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda said, "The festive season is an auspicious time when individuals and families look to fulfil their aspirations, whether it is purchasing a home or vehicle, growing a business, or building long-term financial savings. Through our festive offerings, our aim is to make financing more accessible and rewarding through competitive interest rates and attractive benefits. With solutions tailored to meet diverse customer needs, Bank of Baroda remains committed to supporting our customers at every step of their financial journey."

Outline Premier League Concludes, 300 IT Professionals Showcase Sporting Talent

CHANDIGARH: The two-day Outline Premier League (OPL), organised to promote fitness, health awareness and sportsmanship among young IT professionals, concluded on an enthusiastic note in Sector 23, Chandigarh. Around 300 IT professionals participated in the event, showcasing their sporting talent and team spirit across cricket, football, badminton and table tennis.



beyond the workplace. In cricket, Accounts XI defeated PMO XI by five wickets to clinch the title. In football, E-Care emerged champions after defeating Accounts 3-2 in an exciting contest. In table tennis, Ritik Sharma won the men's singles title, defeating Vikas Sharma in the final, while Amisha Rana claimed the women's singles title, with Komal Sandhu finishing as runner-up. In badminton, Jyoti won the women's singles title, while Sambhav emerged victorious in the men's singles category. Anil Sharma, CEO of Outline Systems, felicitated the winners.

The event provided IT professionals with an opportunity to take a break from their daily work routines and engage in physical activities. It also aimed to strengthen teamwork, camaraderie and interpersonal relationships among employees

JK Maxx Paints forays into sustainable paints with JK Naturals Aura, India's First Nature Lovers' Paint

LUDHIANA : JK Maxx Paints, backed by the rich legacy and expertise of JK Cement Limited, has launched JK Naturals, its new sustainable paints brand, with JK Naturals Aura as its first product. Introduced as India's First Nature Lovers' Paint, the brand brings together home beautification and a conscious approach to everyday living. Designed for modern homes, JK Naturals Aura Luxury Interior Emulsion combines 40%+ eco-friendly content, including 10%+ bio-based emulsion, with air-purification technology and a premium finish. Developed in collaboration with Shark Solutions, a



Denmark-based cleantech company and a global leader in recycling, JK Naturals Aura includes recycled PVB (polyvinyl butyral) recovered from end-of-life laminated glass

into its formulation. This material supports circularity by converting post-consumer waste into a value-added raw material for paint manufacturing. The product's phased market introduction will commence in North India between late October and mid-November, with a nationwide rollout planned thereafter. JK Naturals Aura features advanced air-purification technology designed to reduce formaldehyde present in indoor environments and help improve indoor air quality. Its formulation combines recycled and bio-based materials with a rich sheen finish and superior smoothness, offering consumers a luxury interior emulsion offering across a palette of 2,000+ shades. The range also incorporates recycled packaging, extending its sustainability focus beyond just the formulation.

UNITED SIKHS Extends Relief to Flood-Displaced Families in Nepal

CHANDIGARH/BIDUR : UNITED SIKHS is continuing its humanitarian relief efforts for families displaced by devastating floods and landslides in Nepal, shifting its focus from immediate food assistance to shelter improvements and essential supplies. A month after the disaster struck parts of Nepal, many families remain homeless, with several residents of the worst-affected Rasuwa district

UNITED SIKHS delivered 10 truckloads of crushed stone and four truckloads of sand at one shelter site in Bidur to improve flooring and reduce dampness in temporary shelters. The organisation also distributed stationery, sketchbooks and sports equipment for children, along with sanitary pads and other hygiene essentials for women. At a second site, the relief team provided insulated water bottles, electric kettles and heaters for elderly residents staying in a temporary shelter after their residential facility was damaged. At a third site, families received insulated water bottles, sanitary pads, sports equipment and drawing materials for children. The initiative aims to address the wider needs of displaced communities beyond immediate survival.



taking refuge in temporary shelter camps in Bidur, around three to four hours from Kathmandu. Through its "From Food to Shelter Project," the organisation is working to improve living conditions for displaced families by providing materials and supplies to help them access safer, warmer and more dignified accommodation. During its latest relief mission,

While shelter improvements and heating supplies are intended to provide safer living conditions, hygiene products support women's health and dignity. Educational and recreational materials are also helping children maintain a sense of normalcy amid prolonged displacement.

Amit Shah to Lead BJP march in Karnal on November 5

KARNAL (SHIV KUMAR SHARMA): BJP Haryana president Dr Archana Gupta said the party had launched the 'Save Democracy, Remove over th op and outreach programmes. Dr Gupta said the BJP's public outreach campaign would run from October 22 to November 5. Activities under the campaign include foot marches, public meetings, press conferences, interactions with eminent citizens and youth conventions. She said the campaign aimed to present the party's position on the accuracy of electoral rolls and the integrity of the electoral process. According to the BJP, the opposition was questioning constitutional institutions and creating distrust in the democratic system. Amit Shah to participate in Karnal march. Dr Gupta said Union Home Minister Amit Shah would visit Karnal on November 5 and



participate in a foot march organised under the campaign at 10 am. The march will begin in Sector 12 and conclude at Mahatma Gandhi Chowk. The party has begun preparations for the event. Dr Gupta reviewed the arrangements at a meeting with BJP core group members and mandat presidents in the presence of district president Praveen Lather. The report also noted that Shah had visited Gurugram on October 7 to attend the Viksit Bharat Sankalp programme at Maharana Pratap Swarn Jayanti Udyan, also known as Leisure Valley. State-level responsibilities assigned: The BJP has assigned responsibilities to party leaders for various components of the campaign. Overall coordination: State general secretary Ved Phoola will serve as convener, with former minister Kavita Jain and state Yuva Morcha vice-president Karn Pratap Singh as co-conveners. Press conferences: State media coordinator Bhupeshwar Dayal, chief spokesperson Sanjay Sharma and state vice-president Laxman Yadav will oversee this component. Foot marches across Haryana: State vice-president Jawahar Saini, state secretary Madan Chauhan, Ravi Batan and Bijender Dalal have been assigned responsibility. Rashtra Chintan Samvad: State general secretary Gopal Sharma, state vice-president Ashok Gurjar, former MP and state vice-president Sunita Duggal, and state vice-president Mukesh Gaur will coordinate the programme.

Karnal doctor completes 126 national and international marathons in four years

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: While doctors generally serve humanity by treating patients, a Karnal-based orthopaedic specialist has set an example by promoting a healthier lifestyle through running. Dr Balveer Singh Birk has participated in 126 national and international marathons and mini-marathons over the past four years, emerging as an inspiration for people, particularly the youth.

Aged over 50, Dr Birk has participated in marathon events across the US, Germany, Australia and the UK, as well as in major Indian cities, including Kolkata, Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Recently, he completed the 42-km Chicago Marathon, where he represented India and drew appreciation from fellow participants. The event attracted around 55,000 runners and also offered participants an opportunity to explore Chicago's historic landmarks. Rahul Chaudhary from



Karnal also participated in the marathon alongside him. Dr Birk's journey towards running began around five years ago, when he noticed that his weight was increasing and lifestyle-related conditions, including diabetes and high blood pressure, were becoming a concern. Instead of relying solely on medication, he decided to make changes to

his lifestyle and began running at Karnal's Karn Stadium. His friend and associate, Pravesh Gaba, joined him in the initiative. What began as an individual effort has since grown into a group of 35 people who participate in running activities. Dr Birk said people should devote at least one to one-and-a-half hours daily to physical activity. He added that he had given up junk food and refined flour products around four years ago as part of his efforts to improve his health. Emphasising the importance of exercise, particularly during winter, he said regular physical activity could help people maintain their health and reduce the risk of lifestyle-related problems. His journey highlights how consistent exercise and healthier daily habits can encourage others to take greater responsibility for their well-being.

Bhagwan Valmiki: From Adi Kavi to Jagat Guru — an immortal legacy of penance, sacrifice and social reform

The birth anniversary of Maharishi Bhagwan Valmiki, the Adi Kavi of Indian culture and the author of the epic Ramayana, is being celebrated across the country with great enthusiasm. Bhagwan Valmiki was not merely a sage but also a symbol of truth, sacrifice, knowledge and social justice.

1. Ramayana: An epic of ideals, struggles and devotion to duty

Bhagwan Valmiki is known as the 'Adi Kavi' because he composed the first shloka in Sanskrit literature: "Ma Nishada Pratishtham Tvamagamah Shashwateeh Samah." According to tradition, witnessing the killing of a Krauncha bird stirred deep compassion in his heart, giving rise to the verse that marked the beginning of the Ramayana.

2. Ramayana: Not merely a scripture, but a guide to life

The Ramayana presents three enduring dimensions that continue to guide humanity.

A. Portrayal of ideals: Valmiki presented Lord Ram as an ideal human being. Ram is depicted not only as a divine figure but also as an exemplary son who accepts 14 years of exile to honour his father's promise, a devoted brother, an ideal husband and a king who places his



people's welfare above his personal happiness. Characters such as Bharat, Lakshman and Hanuman embody the ideals of brotherhood, service and devotion.

B. Portrayal of struggles: Ram's life is marked by numerous challenges, from leaving the royal palace for exile to Sita's abduction and the battle against the powerful Ravana. Valmiki's narrative conveys that hardship is an inevitable part of life, but those who remain steadfast in their principles can overcome adversity. Ram's struggles can serve as an inspiration for farmers, labourers and young people facing challenges such as unemployment and inflation.

C. Portrayal of duty: The Ramayana places duty at the centre of human conduct. Ram's decisions, including those involving personal sac-

rifice for his responsibilities as a ruler, are presented as examples of his commitment to duty. Valmiki's teachings encourage individuals to look beyond personal interests and recognise their responsibilities towards their families, society and nation.

3. A pioneer of social harmony and respect for women

Bhagwan Valmiki is regarded as an important figure in the ideals of social reform and equality. His legacy is associated with the principle that knowledge and dignity should not be restricted by social hierarchies.

One of the most significant episodes in the Ramayana concerns Sita's life after she leaves Ayodhya. According to the epic, when the pregnant Sita takes refuge in Valmiki's hermitage,

the sage offers her shelter and protection. He also educates her sons, Luv and Kush, imparting knowledge of both scriptures and warfare. Their subsequent encounter with Ram's forces highlights their learning, courage and abilities.

This episode is often cited as an illustration of compassion, the dignity of women and the importance of education. The ideals associated with Valmiki's legacy remain relevant to contemporary discussions on women's rights and equal educational opportunities.

4. The relevance of Valmiki's philosophy in contemporary India

At a time when society continues to grapple with ideological differences and inequality, the teachings associated with Bhagwan Valmiki offer three important lessons:

* Education as a force for transformation: The education imparted to Luv and Kush at Valmiki's hermitage underscores the importance of ensuring that every child, particularly those from economically disadvantaged and marginalised communities, has access to quality education.

* The dignity of one's actions: Valmiki's legacy inspires the belief that an indi-

vidual's actions, knowledge and character are central to their contribution to society.

* The triumph of truth: The Ramayana conveys the enduring message that truth and righteousness must prevail over falsehood and injustice, regardless of the challenges involved.

Conclusion

On Bhagwan Valmiki's birth anniversary, celebrations and processions offer an opportunity to remember his legacy. However, the occasion also calls for a commitment to the values of truth, education, equality and social justice associated with his teachings.

The message emerging from this legacy should reach every corner of the country and the wider world: a society can progress when it upholds human dignity, expands access to education and treats every individual with fairness and respect.

Jai Bhagwan Valmiki! Jai Siya Ram! Jai Samvidhan!

The author is a former member of the Haryana Public Service Commission and currently serves as president of the Karnal District Congress Committee.

- By Dr Rajesh Vaid

Market Committee Vice-Chairman Rajiv Narang prays for prosperity at 'Dada Kheda' shrine

KAMAL SHARMA TARAORI: A spirit of brotherhood and social harmony was on full display in Durga Colony, Taraori, where prayers and a grand community feast were organized to mark the birthday of Market Committee Vice-Chairman Rajiv Narang. Local residents participated in the religious proceedings, offering prayers for prosperity and reinforcing a message of mutual love and brotherhood. Rajiv Narang paid his respects at the 'Dada Kheda' shrine, praying for the well-being, peace, and prosperity of the region. The enthusiasm and sense of belonging among the attendees were truly remarkable. On this occasion, people praised the social conduct and helpful nature of Rajiv Narang, noting that he consistently stands by them through all of life's ups and downs. His willingness to step forward whenever help is needed, combined with his ability to foster strong bonds among the community, are his defining traits—which is why the local residents offered their birthday wishes with such genuine enthusiasm. Rajiv Narang remarked that religious events serve as a medium to strengthen love, brotherhood, and unity within society.



He noted that prayers and devotional singing bring peace to the mind, promote positive thinking, and inspire a spirit of service and harmony. Such gatherings provide an opportunity for community members to come together, share in each other's joys and sorrows, and deepen their interpersonal relationships. He expressed his sincere wish for the continued prosperity of the region and the preservation of peace within society. The event reflected both deep religious faith and a strong sense of social solidarity. Following the prayers, attendees partook in the 'prasad' served during the community feast. The event once again conveyed the message that religious traditions are not limited to faith alone; rather, they play a vital role in uniting society and strengthening brotherhood.

Brahmin community meeting calls for unity and stronger organisation

SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: Members of the Brahmin community resolved to strengthen their organisation at a Brahmin Brotherhood Meet held at Parshuram Bhawan in Saungal village on Sunday. They also decided to continue organising such meetings regularly, with the next programme scheduled for November 1 in Jakhauli village. The programme was coordinated and conducted by Ashok Majra. Addressing the gathering, Shiv Parashar said unity had become essential for the Brahmin community in the present circumstances and that collective organisation was necessary to secure its rights. Ashok Serda called upon community members to set aside differences and come together, while Jai Bhagwan Bhuna said unity was essential for resolving common problems. Naresh Pai and Vinod Pai stressed the importance of involving young people in the organisation, adding that unity would help strengthen the community. Jai Prakash Patwari of Jakhauli said unity should be pursued as a mission and suggested that members begin their interactions with the greeting "Jai Bhagwan Parshuram". Satish Kumar of Saungal emphasised discipline and sensitivity as essential elements of unity. He also called for greater attention to the education and sports participation of children from the community. Advocate Manoj Sharma urged members to adopt a positive outlook and avoid pulling one another down. He also offered free legal assistance to community members facing social injustice.



Hundreds of people travel to Agroha Dham on Sharad Purnima

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: As is the annual tradition, a convoy of buses carrying approximately 250 people departed from the Agarwal Dharamshala near the Kurukshetra railway station on Sunday morning—coinciding with the occasion of Sharad Purnima—to travel to Agroha Dham. The convoy was led by Vishal Singla, President of the Shri Vaishya Agarwal Panchayat. President Vishal Singla noted that, as in previous years, this pilgrimage provided community members with the opportunity to visit Agroha Dham—the place where Maharaja Agrasen, the legendary progenitor of the Agrawal clan, lived and worked, and a site revered as a Shaktipeeth for the Agrawal community. He mentioned that there was great enthusiasm among the community members and devotees regarding the trip. Upon reaching Agroha, the group of about 250 pilgrims from Kurukshetra was deeply moved and delighted by their visit to the various holy sites. A notable feature of this year's pilgrimage was the exceptionally high level of enthusiasm among the travelers, which necessitated the arrangement of additional buses. Vishal Singla shared that the pilgrims were particularly struck by the transformation of the landscape; a region once characterized by arid deserts and sand dunes—where even drinking water was scarce—now offers amenities such as boating. The visitors from Kurukshetra paid their respects at several shrines, including the temple of Maharaja Agrasen, the temple of the clan deity (Kuldevi) Shri Mahalakshmi, as well as temples dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, Vaishno Devi, Tirupati Balaji, Sati Mata, Lord Hanuman, and a replica of the Amarnath Cave.



Government of Haryana

Heartiest Greetings
on the birth anniversary of

Maharishi Valmiki Ji

Author of the Ramayana and
the pioneer of a new era in Sanskrit literature

State Level Programme

Presided Over By

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

October 26, 2026 | 8:00 AM
Sant Kabir Kutir, Sector-3, Chandigarh

“Heartiest greetings to all countrymen on Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti. His virtuous and idealistic thoughts have had a profound influence on our society and families since ancient times. His ideological light, based on social harmony, will always illuminate our countrymen.”

- Narendra Modi

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