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21st century belongs to India, country to 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047: PM Modi

KURNOOL (ANDHRA PRADESH), OCTOBER 16



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the 21st century belongs to 140 crore Indians and that the country will become "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047 even as he attacked the Congress saying the grand old party neglected the power sector.

Hailing the country's Make in India ecosystem, he said, "we saw the might" of home-made "things" in Operation Sindoor, the military offensive launched at crossborder terror launchpads in Pakistan, post the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Referring to the recent developments such as the hike in Income Tax exemption to Rs 12 lakh and GST rate reforms, Modi said the vision of the NDA government is "citizen-centric development" and pointed out that continuous reforms are being taken up to make people's lives easy.

"As (Andhra CM) Chandrababu Naidu said, by 2047, the centenary year of independence, Viksit Bharat will happen. I can say confidently that the 21st century is going to be India's century. The 21st century belongs to 140 crore Indians," the PM said in his address after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for projects worth over Rs 13,000 crore.

Modi said today the world is seeing India as a new manufacturing centre of the 21st century and the basis of this success is the vision of a self-reliant India even as Andhra Pradesh is becoming a major centre for its success.

He alleged that 11 years ago, when the Congress government was in power, the per capita electricity consumption was less than 1,000 units and at that time, the country had to face challenges such as blackouts. Electricity poles were not even installed in our villages. "Friends, from clean energy to the total energy production of the country, India is making new records in every sector. Today, electricity has reached every village in the country. Electricity consumption per capita has increased to 1,400 units," he said. PTI

Modi inaugurates, lays foundation for projects worth ₹13,430 in Andhra

KURNOOL (ANDHRA PRADESH): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated and laid the foundation for multiple projects worth Rs 13,430 crore here spreading across the state. The projects span across key sectors such as industry, power transmission, roads, railways, defence manufacturing, and petroleum and natural gas. PM Modi laid the foundation for the Transmission System Strengthening at Kurnool-III Pooling Station at an investment of over Rs 2,880 crore. PTI

Punjab CM, Cabinet to perform ardas at Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib to mark 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
New Delhi/ Chandigarh, October 16



The Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann will commence a series of commemorative events dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of the Ninth Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, by performing an Ardas at the Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib in New Delhi on October 25.

Addressing the media on Monday at Punjab Bhawan New Delhi Cabinet Ministers Harjot Singh Bains and Tarunpreet Singh Sond along with Advisor (Tourism & Cultural Affairs) Deepak Bali announced that the state government has finalized the month-long schedule dedicated to this historic occasion. They informed that the series of event will begin on October 25 at Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib in Delhi, where Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Cabinet Ministers and other prominent dignitaries will pay obeisance. On this occasion, the Chief Minister will also visit the sacred martyrdom sites of Bhai Mati Das Ji, Bhai Sati Das Ji, and Bhai Dayala Ji, who made unparalleled sacrifices in devotion to the Guru.

Later in the evening, a grand Kirtan Darbar will be held at Gurdwara Sri Rakab Ganj Sahib, where a large congregation of devotees is expected to participate with devotion and reverence. They said that Hind di Chadar Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji laid down his life in Delhi to protect human rights and religious freedom a sacrifice unmatched in world history. The Ninth Guru was a true symbol of secularism, unity, and universal brotherhood, and his life and philosophy continue to serve as a beacon of light for all humanity.

From November 1 to 18, Light and Sound Shows will be held in all districts of Punjab, depicting the great life and teachings of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. Kirtan darbars will also be organized in towns and cities blessed by the Guru's presence. The core objective of these events is to educate people about the Guru's philosophy, his life of sacrifice, and the eternal message of peace and humanity that continues to inspire millions across the globe. They said that on November 18, a Kirtan Darbar will be organized at Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir).

They further said that next day, November 19, a Nagar Kirtan will commence from Srinagar, in which hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits will also join the congregation. This Nagar Kirtan will halt at Jammu on November 19, Pathankot on November 20, and Hoshiarpur on November 21, before reaching Sri Anandpur Sahib on November 22.

VP Radhakrishnan and Brazilian counterpart discuss enhancing ties in defence, connectivity

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16



Vice President CP Radhakrishnan met Brazilian counterpart Geraldo Alckmin in New Delhi on Thursday, with talks focused on enhancing energy cooperation, deepening partnerships in pharmaceuticals, defence, research investments, connectivity, and collaborations in emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digitilisation.

CP Radhakrishnan and Geraldo Alckmin expressed optimism about strengthening economic and trade ties.

In a post on X, Vice President's office wrote, "Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri CP Radhakrishnan, met H.E. Mr. Geraldo Alckmin, Vice-President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services of Brazil, who is on an official visit to India, at the Vice-President's Enclave today."

"The two leaders expressed optimism about strengthening trade and economic ties. They discussed enhancing energy cooperation, deepening partnerships in pharmaceuticals and defence, boosting research investments, improving connectivity, and collaborating in emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence and digitilisation," he added.

Earlier in the day, Geraldo Alckmin, who is also Brazil's Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services, met Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi. The two leaders reviewed bilateral trade ties while reaffirming shared commitment to deepen cooperation and investment across various sectors.

"Excellent meeting with H.E. Geraldo Alckmin, Brazil's Vice President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade, and Services. Reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral trade ties while reaffirming our shared commitment to deepen co-operation and investment ties across diverse sectors, including energy, healthcare, agriculture, and technology. Shared democratic values and a common vision for inclusive and sustainable growth underpin our partnership," Goyal posted on X following the meeting. PTI

Trump claims Modi assured him India won't buy Russian oil, calls it 'big step' toward ending Ukraine war

- TRUMP PRAISES PM MODI; THIS IS FOLLOWED BY A BIZARRE REMARK

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 16



US President Donald Trump has claimed that his "friend" Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured him that India would stop purchasing oil from Russia, a move he described as a "big step" toward increasing pressure on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

India's continuing purchase of petroleum products from Russia, notwithstanding Western sanctions, has become a major issue that resulted in a severe downturn in ties between New Delhi and Washington.

Speaking to reporters at his Oval Office on Wednesday, Trump said the US was "not happy" that India was buying Russian crude, arguing such purchases helped finance President Vladimir Putin's war.

"He (Modi) is a friend of mine, we have a great relationship... we were not happy with him buying oil from Russia because that let Russia continue on with this ridiculous war where they've lost a million and a half people," the US president said in response to a question. "I was not happy that India was buying oil, and (Modi) assured me today that they will not be buying oil from Russia. That's a big step. Now we've got to get China to do the same thing," he said.

India is the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels behind China, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The US president said India may not be able to cut the procurement immediately, but the process has started. PTI

EAM Jaishankar, Lankan PM Harini discuss ways to enhance cooperation in education, trade

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16



External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar met Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya on Thursday and reaffirmed New Delhi's continued support to Colombo.

The leaders discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation between India and Sri Lanka in education and capacity building.

"Pleased to meet PM Harini Amarasuriya of Sri Lanka this morning in Delhi. Discussed India's continued support to Sri Lanka and strengthening our cooperation in education & capacity building," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

Amarasuriya arrived in India on Thursday for a two-day official visit, marking her first trip to the country since assuming office.

The Sri Lankan Prime Minister, who will be in India till October 18, is scheduled to meet senior political leaders to discuss key bilateral issues and avenues for strengthening cooperation in multiple sectors.

During her visit, Amarasuriya will deliver the keynote address at the 'NDTV World Summit' jointly organised by NDTV and the Chintan Research Foundation in New Delhi. PTI

Karnataka Cabinet decides to bring rules to check RSS activities in public places, govt institutions

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 16

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to bring rules to check RSS activities from taking out march on the roads or holding events in government places.

The decision was taken based on Karnataka Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge's letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a ban on RSS activities and its affiliated organisations.

"The rules we want to bring is regarding public places, government schools, colleges, government premises, government owned institutions and aided institutions. We will bring together the previous orders issued by the Home Department, Law Department, and the Education Department to frame a new rule. In the next two to three days, the new rule will come into force within the framework of law and the Constitution," the minister told reporters after the Cabinet meeting. PTI

Create special jails for fugitives in every state, cancel passports after red notice: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday suggested the creation of a special prison for fugitives in each state that meets international standards, and cancel the passports of those facing Interpol red notices to blunt their claims of mistreatment upon extradition and stop their free movement across borders.

Several fugitives, including Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, have raised the issue of "poor conditions" of Indian prisons to counter their extradition in foreign courts.

Inaugurating a conference on 'Extradition of Fugitives - Challenges and Strategies' organised by the CBI, Shah said, "Till the time we create fear for the Indian legal system in the minds of fugitives who are hurting the Indian economy, our sovereignty, and our security from abroad, we cannot ensure security of the country."

India has 338 extradition requests pending with various countries to bring back fugitives wanted for financial crimes, terrorism, and narcotics smuggling, among others.

Shah said the passports of fugitives could be red-flagged upon the issuance of an Interpol Red Notice against them. PTI

All 16 ministers in Gujarat submit resignations to CM Patel ahead of cabinet expansion

GANDHINAGAR, OCTOBER 16



A day ahead of the planned cabinet expansion in Gujarat, all 16 ministers except Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel resigned on Thursday, BJP sources said. Patel will expand his cabinet on Friday, the state government had announced earlier in the morning.

"Resignations of all the 16 ministers have been taken by the party. Except for chief minister Patel, all the ministers have resigned," said a BJP source. As per the official release, the cabinet expansion will take place at 11.30 am on Friday. The present council of minister has 17 members including CM Patel. Eight of them are cabinet-rank ministers while the others are Ministers of State (MoS). Gujarat, which has a 182-member assembly, can have a maximum of 27 ministers (15 per cent of the strength of the House).

Earlier this month, MoS Jagdish Vishwakarma became the new president of the state Bharatiya Janata Party unit, replacing Union minister C R Paatil. Bhupendra Patel became chief minister for the second time on December 12, 2022. PTI

DC gears up to curb stubble burning with strict monitoring in Ferozepur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 16



The district civil and police administration has intensified efforts to bring stubble burning incidents to a zero level. Deputy Commissioner Deepshikha Sharma and SSP Bhupinder Singh Sidhu, while chairing a meeting with SDMs, DSPs, and officers from related departments, directed strict monitoring in hotspot villages and urged close coordination among officials. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Dr. Nidhi Kumud Bambah was also present.

The DC instructed officers to involve progressive farmers in sensitizing others against burning stubble and to encourage maximum use of subsidized machinery provided by the agriculture department, giving priority to small and marginal farmers. She emphasized public awareness campaigns to highlight the harmful effects of stubble burning on humans, animals, birds, and the environment.

She further informed that cluster and nodal officers have been deployed in different blocks for stubble management and mapping has been done with industries for the use of balers. Farmers were urged to cooperate with the administration in achieving the target of 'zero burning.'

SSP Bhupinder Singh Sidhu stressed strict compliance with the Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal's directions and appealed to farmers to refrain from setting stubble on fire, contributing instead to environmental protection.

The meeting was attended by SDMs Harbans Singh (Ferozepur/Guruharsahai), Arvinder Pal Singh (Zira), Chief Agriculture Officer Randhir Singh, all DSPs, and other concerned officials.

Assistant Civil Surgeon Ludhiana inspects Community Health Centre, Payal

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 16



The Assistant Civil Surgeon Dr Vivek Katria Ludhiana, conducted an inspection visit to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Payal to review the functioning and service quality of the facility.

During the visit, Dr katria assessed various departments, including the Outpatient Department (OPD), Laboratory, Pharmacy, and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Wing. The inspection aimed to ensure that all healthcare services are being delivered efficiently and in accordance with government health standards.

The Dr katria also interacted with doctors, nursing staff, and other healthcare workers to discuss ongoing programs, patient care practices, and record maintenance. Emphasis was laid on maintaining cleanliness, ensuring the availability of essential medicines, and strengthening preventive healthcare measures.

As part of the visit, direct feedback was taken from patients regarding the quality of medical services, staff behavior, and overall satisfaction. Most patients expressed appreciation for the timely and cooperative services provided at the centre.

Dr katria instructed the staff to continue improving service delivery and to focus on patient-centered care. The visit reaffirmed the commitment of the District Health Department to provide accessible, reliable, and high-quality healthcare services to the residents of Payal and nearby areas.

State sanctions ₹4.84 cr for road upgrades in Kapurthala; new fire tenders inducted ahead of festive season



ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 16

In a significant boost to Kapurthala's urban infrastructure and civic preparedness, the Punjab Government has released a grant of Rs 4.84 crore to the Municipal Corporation, Kapurthala, for the construction, repair, and improvement of major city roads. Alongside this development initiative, the civic body has also been equipped with new modern fire tenders to strengthen fire safety measures ahead of the Diwali and festive season.

Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation, Anupam Kaler (IAS), informed that the grant will be utilized for the upgradation and reconstruction of several key roads across the city, including Mall Road, Shalimar Bagh, Mohabbat Nagar, Tarlokpura, Central Town, and the Kotu Chowk–Dandupur Road stretch. She stated that tenders for these projects have already been floated to ensure the timely commencement of work.

Describing the allocation as a major achievement for Kapurthala, Kaler emphasized that all works would be carried out adhering to high-quality standards and long-term durability. She added that the Municipal Corporation remains committed to inclusive urban development through active public participation, ensuring that projects are implemented based on citizen feedback and local needs.

In a parallel effort to strengthen emergency response systems, the Punjab government has provided the Kapurthala Municipal Corporation with new, state-of-the-art fire tenders, including Mini Fire Tenders, Tata Yodha Fire Tenders, and other essential firefighting equipment. Kaler said the new vehicles would enhance the city's firefighting capabilities, particularly in narrow lanes and densely populated areas, enabling faster response during emergencies.

Police nab two in ₹50 lakh extortion, firing cases with pistol seizure

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 16



In a major breakthrough, Ferozepur police have arrested two accused involved in an extortion bid of Rs 50 lakh and a firing incident outside a businessman's house. The arrests were made following a joint operation led by DSP Karan Sharma Sharma with the support of CIA staff, under the tutelage of Manjit Singh, SP(D) during which a country-made pistol and two live cartridges were recovered from the accused.

According to police, on September 18, the complainant, Jashandeep Singh of village Badhni Gulab Singh, received a phone call from an unknown number demanding Rs 50 lakh. When he refused, the accused fired shots outside his residence on October 10, around 10:05 pm, to create terror.

During technical surveillance, police identified and arrested the accused, Tarsem Singh alias Jora, and Lovedeep Singh alias Laddi, of village Bandala Kalan. Both were intercepted at a naka point when they tried to flee on a motorcycle.

Investigations revealed that the two accused had previously become friends while lodged in jail in connection with separate serious cases, including murder and sexual assault. They conspired together to extort money and carried out the firing to intimidate the victim.

Police confirmed that the pistol used in the incident was the same weapon recovered from their possession. Both accused have a criminal history: Tarsem Singh is already facing trial in a murder case (FIR No. 88/2018 under Section 302 IPC at PS Sadar Ferozepur), while Lovedeep Singh is booked in a rape and abduction case (FIR No. 59/2018 under Sections 376, 363, 366 IPC at PS Bandala Kalan). Bhupinder Singh Sidhu, SSP stated that the arrests were the result of coordinated efforts of the district police teams and assured strict action against those trying to disturb peace through such criminal activities. Police will seek detailed remand for further investigation.

Guest lecture on Current Good Manufacturing Practices organised

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mandi Gobindgarh, October 16

On the occasion of the 3rd National Current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) Day, the Placebo Club, School of Pharmacy, Lal Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, and Mata Jarnail K. College of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) and IQAC, Desh Bhagat University, organized an online guest lecture.

Dr Keshav Jindal, Professor (Pharmaceutics), Adesh Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, Adesh University, Bathinda, was the eminent speaker for the session. He was warmly welcomed by Shivani Kumari, Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy.

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB
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Advertisement No. RGNUL/53 dt. 14/10/2025

SEVENTH CONVOCATION

It is hereby notified that Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab is holding its SEVENTH CONVOCATION on DECEMBER 24, 2025, at Sidhuwal Campus, Bhadson Road, Patiala. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court and Chancellor, RGNUL, Punjab will confer Degrees and Medals to the students, who after examination have been found eligible to get their respective degrees for:

1. Post-Docotral Research (LL.D)
2. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
3. Post-Graduation (LL.M. One Year Course) 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 Batch
4. Graduation [B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) Five Year Integrated Course] 2018-23, 2019-24, 2020-25 Batch

The concerned students (lists of eligible students is on the RGNUL website) are hereby informed to attend the rehearsal on December 23, 2025 at 2:00 PM and the Convocation on December 24, 2025 at 10:30 AM.
The students must register and confirm their attendance on or before November 30, 2025 to the Controller of Examinations, through e-mail: convocation@rgnul.ac.in, in the prescribed proforma available at RGNUL Website.

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Finding balance, building strength: PAMETIs training for women extension functionaries concludes

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 16



Punjab Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (PAMETI), PAU Campus, Ludhiana, organized a three-day training programme on "Work–Life Balance for Women Extension Functionaries" from 14th to 16th October, 2025. In total, 25 women officers from different state departments participated in this training.

During the inaugural address, Dr K.B Singh, Director, PAMETI revealed the objectives of training and importance of learning art of balancing personal and professional life. Dr Rupinder Kaur, Deputy Director (HRM), PAMETI coordinated the training and revealed that the programme aimed to help women extension officers to enhance their overall well-being, and maintain a healthy balance between professional and personal life.

Over the course of the three days, various experts shared their insights through interactive. Dr. Vishal Bector, Associate Director (Industrial Linkages), PAU, spoke on "Work–Life Balance: Improving Quality of Life", while Dr D. S. Ladhar, Retired Professor (Extension), highlighted the "Power of Positive Thinking".

Rachna Gupta and Shweta Sharma from Swami Vivekanand Meditation Pyramid, Ludhiana conducted a refreshing session on "Recharge Yourself: Breathe and Balance" followed by meditation practices. Dr. Pretty Bhalla from Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, delivered an engaging session on "Breaking Free from Overthinking Traps".

MRSPTU hosts Inter-University Collaborative Meet and signs letters of intent with leading Punjab universities



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Bathinda, October 16

In a landmark initiative conceptualised under the visionary leadership of Punjab Governor-cum-Chancellor, Gulab Chand Kataria, and Punjab Education Minister, Harjot Singh Bains, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPTU), Bathinda, hosted an Inter-University Collaborative Meet and signed Letters of Intent (LoIs) with three eminent universities of Punjab Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar; Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana; and Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University (PSOU), Patiala — to strengthen inter-university collaboration and promote academic excellence across the state.

The high-level academic meet brought together Vice Chancellors and senior representatives from leading universities of Punjab to deliberate on strategies for academic cooperation, innovation, and research excellence.

Two robbery suspects held by Phagwara Police; cash, weapon and scooter recovered

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 16

In a swift breakthrough, Phagwara Police have arrested two suspects involved in a robbery that took place on October 13.

Superintendent of Police (Sub-Division Phagwara), Madhvi Sharma, confirmed to media that the accused have been identified as Harpreet alias Peeta and Ajay, both residents of village Pasla near Noormahal.

Police recovered Rs 34,100 in cash, a country-made toy pistol, a metallic sickle, and the white Activa scooter (PB-08-FM-8465) used in the crime. The incident occurred when Mahinder Ram, a resident of Nawan Pind Nihalgarh near Phagwara, was returning home on his bicycle after withdrawing Rs 60,000 from Punjab Gramin Bank, Jagatpur Jattan. On the outskirts of his village, two scooter-borne assailants intercepted him and snatched his money bag.

Following his complaint, a case (FIR No. 150 dated 13.10.2025 under Section 304(2) BNS) was registered at Satnampura Police Station. A special investigation team led by Inspector Hardeep Singh was formed under the supervision of DSP Phagwara Bharat Bhushan. SP Sharma also revealed that Harpreet alias Peeta had a prior criminal record, having been booked in a theft case (FIR No. 82 dated 11.04.2023 under Sections 379, 411 BNS at Phillaur Police Station, Jalandhar Rural).

World Anaesthesia Technology Day observed

DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, October 16



The Department of Allied Health Sciences (Anaesthesia and Operation Theatre Technology) at Rayat Bahra Professional University celebrated World Anaesthesia Technology Day under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Dr Chander Mohan and leadership of Principal Dr Harinder Gill.

During the event, quizzes, street plays, awareness talks, and academic sessions were organized to enhance students' knowledge and practical understanding. Students showcased remarkable talent and teamwork.

Dean Dr Atul Khajuria said that anaesthesia technicians and specialists are the unsung heroes of the operation theatre who ensure every surgery is safe and play a crucial role in saving lives.

Head of Department Dr Sukhmeet Bedi stated that the purpose of the programme was to highlight the vital role of anaesthesia technicians in safe surgery and patient care. She added that the event not only boosted students' confidence and professional skills but also increased public awareness about the role of anaesthesia professionals in modern medicine.

NSO organises seminar and essay competition at Punjab Technical University

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 16

The National Statistics Office (NSO), Regional Office Jalandhar, under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, organized a Seminar and Essay Competition at Punjab Technical University, Kapurthala Road, Jalandhar.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students of various colleges and universities. In the essay competition, Anshul Singh won first prize, Alisha secured second, and Aanvi Tyagi bagged the third prize.

The seminar was inaugurated by Pallavi Agrawal Srivastava, Joint Director and Regional Head, NSO (Field Operations Division), who delivered the keynote address. She emphasized the crucial role of NSO in nation-building and highlighted the importance of statistical data in policy-making and development.

Mohit Jain, Assistant Registrar (Training & Placement) at Punjab Technical University, also graced the occasion.

Other dignitaries present included Harblas (Deputy Director), Arun Kumar (Assistant Director), Umesh Kumar Limbu, Balram Singh, Manisha, Gaurav Jain, Pooja Joshi, Shiwam Tyagi, Mohd Tarik, Ashok Kumar (Senior Statistical Officers), along with Ravinder, Jasmine, and Shivani.

The event successfully promoted awareness among students about the significance of statistics in governance and the pivotal role of the NSO in collecting and disseminating reliable data for informed decision-making.

Governor felicitates Ferozepur's 'Yes Man' Vipul Narang for outstanding social service



HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 16

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria honoured young social worker Vipul Narang, popularly known as "Yes Man" for his dedication to humanitarian service. On his return to Ferozepur after the ceremony, several social organizations gave him a grand welcome.

Narang, known for never saying 'no' to any needy person, has been actively engaged in welfare activities ranging from supporting education and healthcare for underprivileged children to serving cows at local gaushalas. He has provided spectacles to hundreds of school children after arranging free eye check-ups, paid school fees for needy students, distributed uniforms and books, and organized medical camps.

Honoured by the Governor in his capacity as Patron of the Red Cross, Narang said he would continue his mission of service. He has also arranged MRI and CT scan facilities for children requiring advanced medical tests, donated ACs, refrigerators and inverters to schools, and extended assistance to specially-abled children, including arranging artificial limbs.

Speaker pays floral tributes to great warrior Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji on occasion of his birth anniversary

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16



Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan paid floral tributes to Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji on the occasion of His 355th birth anniversary at Punjab Vidhan Sabha Secretariat. He was accompanied by MLA Rana Inder Partap Singh, MLA Fauja Singh Sarari,Secretary Punjab Vidhan Sabha Ram Lok Khatana and other staff members.

He highlighted that Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji was a great warrior who dedicated His entire life for the welfare of humanity. Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji was founder of first Sikh rule in Punjab who abolished the zamindari system and provided ownership rights to the tillers of land. His memories will always remain in our hearts. We should follow the path as shown by Him in our life.

Certificate of election given to Punjab Rajya Sabha candidate Rajinder Gupta

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Secretary cum Returning officer Ram Lok Khatana on Thursday handed over the certificate of Election to Punjab Rajya Sabha candidate Rajinder Gupta who was elected unopposed to the upper House of Parliament. This certificate was given to him in the presence of Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, Rajinder Gupta was accompanied by his wife Madhu Gupta.

CBI arrests Punjab Police DIG Harcharan Bhullar in ₹8 lakh graft case



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested Punjab Deputy Inspector General of Police Harcharan Singh Bhullar in an alleged bribery case of Rs 8 lakh, officials said.

A 2009-batch IPS officers, Bhullar was arrested from his Mohali office in a case registered on charges that he demanded a bribe of Rs 8 lakh in addition to monthly illegal gratification through his middleman Krishanu for "settling" a 2023 FIR registered against a scrap dealer from Mandi Gobindgarh named Akash Batta. In return, it was to be ensured that no further coercive or adverse police action was taken against the scrap dealer's business, they said. "The CBI laid a trap and caught the private individual red-handed while demanding and accepting Rs 8 lakh from the complainant on behalf of the DIG at Sector 21, Chandigarh.

"During the trap proceedings, a controlled call was made to the public servant, during which he acknowledged the payment and directed the middleman and complainant to come to his office," an agency spokesperson said in a statement.

She said the CBI team arrested the public servant (Bhullar) from his office in Mohali, besides arresting the other accused from Chandigarh. The agency conducted searches at Bhullar's office and residence, and seized Rs 5 crore in cash.

The CBI also seized jewellery weighing about 1.5 kg, property documents, keys of two luxury vehicles (Mercedes and Audi), 22 luxury watches, locker keys, 40 litres of imported liquor, one double-barrel gun, one pistol, one revolver, and one air gun along with ammunition, the spokesperson said. An additional cash of Rs 21 lakh was seized from the premises of the arrested middleman, she said.

Bhullar was serving as the DIG of Ropar Range, a position he assumed in November 2024. The Range includes Mohali, Rupnagar, and Fatehgarh Sahib districts. Bhullar is the son of former Punjab DGP M S Bhullar. Throughout his career, Bhullar held several positions, including DIG of Patiala Range, joint director of the vigilance bureau, and senior superintendent of police in Jagraon, Mohali, Sangrur, Fatehgarh Sahib, Khanna, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur.

He also led a special investigation team that probed a drug case in 2021 against Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)leader Bikram Singh Majithia. Additionally, Bhullar was actively involved in Punjab government's anti-drug initiative, 'Yudh Nashian Virudh'.

DIGITAL KRANTI

₹98 cr project to equip govt schools with interactive smart panels in state

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16



Catapulting the traditional education system into the modern digital age in the state, the Punjab government will install over 8230 cutting-edge Interactive Flat Panels (IFPS) worth Rs 98 crore in the state government schools to make classrooms more engaging, improve conceptual understanding and further enhance learning outcome, announced Harjot Singh Bains, Minister of School Education, Punjab.

Divulging the details about the landmark project, Harjot Singh Bains informed that 3,600 government schools will be equipped with the state-of-the-art Interactive Flat Panels (IFPs). By March 2026, the initiative would transform learning for lakhs of students, introducing dynamic, interactive digital classrooms that replace traditional teaching methods.

Reaffirming the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab government's commitment to provide quality education, Harjot Singh Bains stated, "This is a quantum leap towards bridging the digital divide by ensuring equitable, world-class education for every child in Punjab. We are empowering our teachers and preparing our students to become the innovators and leaders of tomorrow. This investment underscores our unwavering commitment to building a future-ready Punjab, where a student in the most remote school has the same access to cutting-edge learning tools as one in an urban school."

Manish Sisodia hails state govt's transformative governance during Phagwara visit

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 16



Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Punjab in-charge Manish Sisodia on Thursday lauded the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government for ushering in transformative changes across multiple sectors, particularly in education, governance, social welfare, and industrial development, over the past three and a half years.

Addressing the media in the presence of Lok Sabha member Raj Kumar Chabbewal and AAP Halka Incharge Harji Maan at Vishwakarma Mandir, Phagwara, where he visited to pay obeisance, Sisodia reaffirmed that the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections would be contested under Chief Minister Mann's leadership, citing his government's "remarkable performance" and rising stature among India's chief ministers.

Highlighting the government's achievements in education, Sisodia said, "Under the Mann government, the condition of government schools in Punjab has improved to levels never witnessed in the past 75 years. There is not a single government school whose infrastructure has not been upgraded. Teachers are being sent abroad for advanced training to enhance learning outcomes.

Ministers meet Karnataka CM to invite him for 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Bengaluru, October 16

Punjab Public Works Minister Harbhajan Singh and Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal today met Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Bengaluru to extend a formal invitation for the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of the Ninth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, to be held at Sri Anandpur Sahib next month.

During the meeting, both the Ministers apprised the Chief Minister about the series of religious events being organised to honour the supreme sacrifice of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, revered as the 'Hind Di Chadar'. They also invited him to participate in the concluding commemorative events at Sri Anandpur Sahib and shared details of the nationwide events being planned to mark the historic occasion.

NCW member resolves women's grievances on-spot

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 16



National Commission for Women (NCW) member Mamta Kumari on Thursday directed police to resolve all pending women's grievances heard during her visit within 15 days.

Kumari held a meeting with women from diverse backgrounds, attended by officials from district administration, Commissionerate Police, Ludhiana Rural police, and Khanna police.

During the session, women from various areas shared grievances related to domestic violence, dowry and other harassment issues. Of the 44 complaints received, majority of them were settled on the spot, with strict orders issued for the remaining cases.

Kumari assured swift resolution and directed the district magistrate to form a committee to monitor each case. She also instructed police officials to take firm action against perpetrators of atrocities against women.

"Women must register complaints fearlessly. The NCW is committed to delivering justice to every woman," Kumari emphasized. She urged them to prioritize women's welfare, address their challenges promptly, and ensure the effective implementation of support programs.

She also spoke about the 'Tere Mere Sapne' centre, a significant step toward empowering youth for successful marriages. She highlighted that these centres provide expert counselling on emotional, social, and psychological aspects of marriage, equipping individuals with the tools for healthy family relationships.

'YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH'

On day 229, Punjab Police nab 95 drug smugglers with 3.4 kg heroin

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 229th day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 427 locations on Thursday leading to the arrest of 95 drug smugglers after registration of 82 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 33,219 in 229 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 3.4 kg heroin, 7.5 kg poppy husk, 878 intoxicant tablets/capsules and Rs 9210 drug money from the possession of arrested drug smugglers.

Notably, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann has asked the Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendent of Police to make Punjab drug free state. The Punjab government has also constituted a 5-member Cabinet Sub Committee led by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema to monitor the war against drugs.

Over 120 Police teams, comprising over 1200 police personnel, under the supervision of 74 gazetted officers have conducted 427 raids across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 469 suspicious persons during the day-long operation.

The state government has enforced a three-pronged strategy Enforcement, Deaddiction and Prevention (EDP) to eradicate drugs from the state, the Punjab Police as part of 'De-addiction' has convinced 37 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

Railway introduces 6 pairs of festival special trains, enhances passenger facilities

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 16

To facilitate smooth travel during the festive season, Northern Railway Ferozepur Division has introduced six pairs of Festival Special trains in addition to regular services. The initiative aims to help passengers conveniently reach their hometowns to celebrate festivals with their families.

The special trains include: 05050 (Amritsar–Chhapra), 04608 (Amritsar–Chhapra), 05735 (Amritsar–Katihar), 05733 (Amritsar–Katihar), 05006 (Amritsar–Badhni, and 09098 (Ludhiana–Bandra Terminus).

To ensure passenger comfort and safety, the railway has made elaborate arrangements at major stations including Ludhiana, Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar City, Jalandhar Cantt, Amritsar, and Ferozepur Cantt. Help desks have been set up with staff deployed to guide travellers, while nine additional booking and enquiry counters have been opened where needed.

Team NIDHI-TBI visits SARAS Mela, lauds innovation and market awareness among incubatees

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 16



The SARAS Mela, organized by the district administration, Ludhiana, turned into a hub of entrepreneurial spirit and innovation as the team from NIDHI-TBI (DST, GoI) visited the stalls of its registered incubatees, engaging with grassroots-level innovators and providing them on-the-spot mentoring and motivation. Led by Dr Ramandeep Singh (Principal Investigator), Gurinder Singh (CEO), and Sameer Gautam (Business Manager), the team made their presence felt with enthusiastic interactions and deep insights shared with the incubatees. The visit aimed not just at encouraging the entrepreneurs but also at giving them practical exposure to consumer behavior in a real-world market setting.

As the team moved stall-to-stall, they applauded the creativity and effort put in by the incubated startups. They also commended the dedication shown by the entrepreneurs in bringing locally inspired, sustainable, and innovative products to the SARAS Mela platform, which witnessed high footfall from a diverse consumer base.

Tarn Taran observes Nutrition Month with focus on healthy eating and junk food awareness

INDER PAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, October 16



In line with the guidelines issued by the Department of Social Security and Child Development (Women and Child Development), the month of September–October was celebrated as Nutrition Month in Tarn Taran district under the Poshan Abhiyan (Nutrition Campaign). The campaign ran from September 17 to October 16, across all Anganwadi centers in the district.

District Program Officer Rahul Arora informed that daily awareness activities were conducted by Anganwadi workers and helpers focusing on themes such as nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescent health, child wellness check-ups, food demonstrations using local ingredients, and hygiene practices.

As part of the concluding day's theme, an awareness session on the harmful effects of junk food was organized at all Anganwadi centers. Children, parents, and community members were educated on the health risks of consuming junk food and were encouraged to adopt a nutritious, home-cooked diet.

Kataria brings Diwali joy to welfare homes

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16

In a touching pre-Diwali gesture, Punjab Governor and Administrator UT Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, visited several welfare institutions, including Nari Niketan, Sector 26; Ashiana & Snehalaya for Girls-15; Sr. Citizens Home, Sector 15; and Chandi Kusht Ashram, Sector 47.

During these visits, the Governor engaged in meaningful interactions with the residents. They shared their daily routines, joys, challenges, and aspirations, while the Governor listened attentively, offering encouragement and heartfelt advice.

In response, the Administrator expressed, "They are our family members. Their Diwali should be celebrated just like we celebrate it in our own homes. May I receive their blessings so that I can do even better work for them."

The two-way interaction brought smiles, laughter, and warmth, as residents felt valued and heard. Sh. Kataria emphasized the importance of care, empathy, and inclusivity, highlighting that every individual in the community deserves to feel loved and celebrated during this festive season.



"They are our family members. Their Diwali should be celebrated just like we celebrate it in our own homes. May I receive their blessings so that I can do even better work for them."

The residents expressed their gratitude for the Governor's personal attention, and the warmth of the visit made Diwali feel closer to home for them. By hearing about their daily lives and acknowledging their experiences, the Governor strengthened the bond of trust and family-like connection, leaving an indelible impression on everyone present.

Principal Secretary to the Governor Vivek Pratap Singh, Deputy Commissioner Chandigarh Nishant Kumar Yadav, Secretary Social Welfare Anuradha Chagti and other officers of Chandigarh Administration were also present.

Punjab Governor pays tribute at memorial service for Munishri Abhay Kumar Ji

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16

A memorial service was held today at Anuvrat Bhawan, Sector 24-C, Chandigarh, to mark the passing away of revered Jain Muni Abhay Kumar Ji Swami. On this occasion, Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria paid a heartfelt tribute to Munishri Ji, saying, "Munishri Abhay Kumar Ji lived a life full of penance and meditation. He dedicated his entire life to the service of the Dharma Sangha. I salute his penance and sacrifice."

Kataria expressed his deep sorrow upon hearing the news of Munishri's passing. He stated, "I received the news only yesterday, but due to various arrangements, I was unable to reach him immediately. However, when I attended the memorial service today, my heart was filled with emotion."

He said he was astonished to learn that the wise saint Munishri Vinay Kumar Ji Alok, Abhay Muni's elder brother, continued to serve his younger brother a unique example in itself. The Governor said that Abhay Muni was a living example of equality, simplicity, humility, and a sweet voice. By serving the Dharma Sangha for so long, he set an example of restraint and dedication.

The Administrator further stated that saints like Munishri Abhay Kumar Ji bring messages of morality, peace, and harmony to society. His life will be an inspiration for everyone.

Addressing the memorial gathering, the wise saint Munishri Vinay Kumar Ji Alok said that Abhay Muni was his younger brother, with whom he had a close relationship for nearly 70 years. He explained that despite difficult life circumstances, Abhay Muni always remained hardworking, selfless, and dedicated to religious work. "Abhay Muni memorized and composed millions of mantras, was proficient in many languages, and thoroughly studied the Jain Agamas, Vedas, Upanishads, grammar, Nyaya, and history," he said.

Muni Vinay Kumar Ji explained that Abhay Muni was born into a middle-class family in Sardar Shahar, Rajasthan. His father was Shri Sumer Mal Ji and mother was Smt. Bhanwari Devi. He was the third of four siblings and received his primary education in Sardar Shahar.

At the memorial meeting, Muni Sudhakar Kumar Ji said, "Abhay Muni taught us how to live life. Everyone is living in the world, but he demonstrated through his conduct how to make life meaningful." He added that Muni Abhay Kumar Ji was a profound scholar of the Jain Agamas and Tatsama texts, and his life was easy, simple, and friendly.

Mohali DC distributes sweets and blankets to patients of Government Nasha Mukti Kendra



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, October 16

Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal on Thursday visited the Government Nasha Mukti Kendra, Sector 66, Mohali, where she distributed sweet boxes and blankets to the patients undergoing de-addiction treatment, on the occasion of the festive season.

During her visit, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected the stalls displaying diyas (earthen lamps) made by them. Appreciating their efforts, she said such activities help instill self-confidence and provide an opportunity for skill development and rehabilitation.

Interacting with the patients undergoing de-addiction treatment, Komal Mittal encouraged them to embrace a new beginning and rejoin their families as responsible and self-reliant individuals. She highlighted that the district administration, in collaboration with the NGOs, is making continuous efforts to impart skill training to the youth undergoing treatment so that they can earn a livelihood and reintegrate successfully into mainstream society after their discharge.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Sonam Chaudhary, ADC (Rural Development) and Secretary, District Red Cross Society, SAS Nagar, Harbans Singh, besides Dr. Pooja Garg from the Nasha Mukti Kendra and other staff members.

MLA KULWANT SINGH'S EFFORTS BEAR FRUIT

Major relief for Sec 76-80 plot holders, GMADA reduces enhancement charges from ₹3,164 to ₹2,325 per sq mtr

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, October 16



Residents and plot holders of Sectors 76 to 80, SAS Nagar, have welcomed the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority's (GMADA) decision to reduce enhancement charges from Rs 3164 to Rs 2325 per square meter, providing direct relief of Rs 839 per square meter to nearly 10,000 plot holders. They expressed heartfelt gratitude to MLA Kulwant Singh for his dedicated and persistent efforts in securing this reduction.

The long-awaited relief is the result of MLA Kulwant Singh's continuous follow-up with GMADA for nearly four years. Expressing their gratitude, members of the Anti-Enhancement Committee and representatives of the affected sectors met the MLA today and later addressed a joint press conference to share the development.

Addressing mediapersons, MLA Kulwant Singh recalled that the enhancement amount, initially fixed between Rs 700 and Rs 850 per square meter in 2013, had escalated to Rs 3164 per square meter due to delays by previous governments.

"Instead of resolving the issue in time, successive governments kept deferring it for political reasons, which unfairly burdened the plot holders," he said.

He added that GMADA's issuance of demand notices at such inflated rates had triggered strong resentment among residents, who rightly questioned the delay in recovery. To collectively take up the issue, residents had formed an Anti-Enhancement Committee, which later approached him for intervention.

"Since GMADA was legally bound to pay enhanced compensation to landowners as per Hon'ble Supreme Court directions, a complete waiver was not feasible. However, I had assured residents that I would ensure the burden was significantly reduced and I'm pleased that the promise stands fulfilled today," said the MLA.

'Golden hour' crucial for saving lives in road accidents: Dr Anil Sofat

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16



A team of Park Hospital, Mohali including Dr Bhanu Pratap Singh director orthopedics and robotic joint replacement surgery, Dr Rohit Jaswal CEO, Dr Anil Sofat consultant neurosurgery, Dr Ankur Sharma consultant plastic surgery, Dr Ashish Sharma consultant GI surgery and Dr Jaya Sharma consultant emergency medicine addressed a press conference here on rising cases of road accidents & trauma services in North India.

Dr Bhanu Pratap Singh said, "Ironically the road accidents dip 5% globally, increasing 15.3% in India in the last 12 years. It contributes to 83% of all traffic-related deaths in India. There is an urgent need to spread awareness of the golden hour period, where the first 60 minutes are most important in saving lives after an accident.

Dr Ashish Sharma said that Park Hospitals run North India's biggest trauma program at Mohali, Patiala, Bhatinda, Ambala, Sonipat, Panipat, Karnal, Gurugram and Jaipur. The hospital's trauma team consists of orthopedic surgeon, thoracic surgeon, GI surgeon, plastic surgeon, neurosurgeon, anesthetist and ER physician. All hospitals are fully equipped with OTs, in-house blood bank, and in-house CT/MRI scan to deal with any kind of trauma injury.

Dr Anil Sofat said," We need to take trauma accidents seriously as India reported over 460 deaths in a single day due to road accidents. India accounts for just 1% of global vehicular population but the country has the highest number of accident-related deaths across the globe."

Chandigarh's professional golfer heralds development of 'Made in India' golf wedge-system

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16



While International brands rule the roost in the area of golf equipment, a homegrown brand 'Pinakin' has bucked the trend. Pinakin, has made 'Make in India in the game of golf' a reality with the unveiling of its first product: a revolutionary interchangeable wedge system which are also called specialized iron clubs.

Combining precision engineering with the heritage of Indian craftsmanship, this wedge is designed to offer golfers unprecedented flexibility and performance around the greens. The 'golf equipment innovation' was led by Chandigarh's professional golfer Gurbaaz Mann with the active support of Siddhartha Kumar,Vice President (VP), Chandigarh Golf Association (CGA) & under the mentorship of the CGA Golf Academy. The Pinakin wedge system is the result of extensive R&D and rigorous on-course testing.

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

According to Mann, "The ultimate test for any club is performance. We engineered this modular system to offer players the flexibility to better perform in different turf conditions. Akshay Uppal, Co-Founder, Pinakin says, "From day one, our mission has been to challenge the status quo. This wedge is a testament to how innovative materials science can create a club that delivers both superior feel and measurable results.

Satyam Talwar, Co-Founder, Pinakin says, "India has world-class talent, not just on the course but also in metallurgy and engineering. Our wedge is proof that breakthrough innovation can come from home soil and compete on a global stage."

Health officials directed to intensify anti-dengue activities

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, October 16

To review the progress of various health programs and schemes, Civil Surgeon Dr. Sangeeta Jain held a monthly meeting with the program officers and senior medical officers of the district here on Thursday. Emphasizing the prevention of dengue, malaria, chikungunya and other diseases, the civil surgeon asked all the officials to make people more aware about the symptoms, causes, prevention and treatment of these diseases and step up house-to-house anti-dengue drive under the Har Shukarwar, Dengu te War" campaign. She said that although the number of dengue cases in the district this time is very less as compared to previous years, but despite this, vigilance is very important as usually it is more prevalent from July to November.

Notably, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Balbir Singh had honoured Dr. Jain for excellent performance in dengue prevention in the district during the Civil Surgeon Conference held recently. Dr. Jain appreciated the entire staff for this honor and also motivated them to work with more diligence and dedication.

Expressing satisfaction over the flow of patients in the 'Aam Aadmi Clinics' and the health facilities being provided there, the Civil Surgeon told the officials that the patients coming to these centers should not face any problem and they should be provided free of cost all the medicines, examination and treatment facilities. She said that all the medicines prescribed by doctors should be given to the patients from the hospital pharmacy itself. No patient should be asked to buy medicines from private chemist shops.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAVI JOT S/O MANGAT RAM R/O Mohalla-Ramgarhia, Hariana, Hoisharpur, Punjab-144208, have changed the name of my minor son LAKSH aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as LAKSH KUMAR.

I, Sourav S/o Raj Kumar R/o House No. B-2-864, Gandhi Nagar Near F.C.I Godown, Jalandhar-144008, Punjab have changed my name from Sourav to Sourav Taneja. All concerned please note.

I, Bipan Kumar S/o Malkit R/o Village Mohriwal, PO. Poonian, Tehsil Shahkot, District Jalandhar, Punjab-144702, India have changed my name from Bipan Kumar to Given Name as Bipan & Surname as Kumar. All concerned please note.

I, NASRAN PARVEEN R/o H. No. 64, Mohalla Iftikhaar Ganj, Navi Abadi, Malerkotla DIST: Malerkotla have changed My name NASRAN PARVEEN TO NASRA

I Alla Rakhi alias rakhi w/o Mohammad Gulzar r/o new abadi,iftkhaar ganj, Malerkotla district Malerkotla I have changed my name Alla Rakhi alias rakhi to Allahrakhi

I, Karamjit Kaur W/o Dalbara Singh Gill R/o Wara bhai ka (Faridkot) have changed my name from Karamjit Kaur to Paramjit Kaur Gill.

I Manmeet Kaur W/o Parminder Singh R/o 447/1, St. No. 10 R, Ishar Nagar, Shimlapuri, Ludhiana have changed my name to Manmeet Kaur Kohli

I, Gurwinder Singh S/o Sh. Gurcharan Singh R/o Near Baba Namdev Gurdwara, Dashmesh Avenue, Sangrur have changed my name to Gurwinder Singh Khangura.

I, Silvee W/O Harmeet Singh R/O H.no.311Az, Model Town Extension Ludhiana Have Changed My Name Silvee To Silvee Singh .

I, Bhagirath S/O Shankar Lal R/O H no 1889/4 Habib Ganj Ward no 52 Islam Ganj Ludhiana changed my name to Bhagirath Nirwan.

I Harjeet Singh Chhabra S/o Amrik Singh R/o H.no. 293, Block - E, Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Harjit Singh , Harjeet Singh to Harjeet Singh Chhabra.

I Surinder Pal Jindal S/o Prem Chand R/o H.no -310 F,Near Water Tank,Block -F,Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar ,Basant Avenue,Ludhiana Punjab 141013 have changed my name from Surinder Pal Jindal to Surinder Paul.

I Kuldeep Singh Gill S/o Ajit Singh R/o Plot No. 6, H. No. E/101, St. No.3, Near Daffodils Public School, Varinder Nagar, Bhoura, Ludhiana have changed my name to Kuldeep Singh

I Harjot Singh Ghuman S/o Sandeep Singh Ghuman R/o 557/A, W.No.1, Kartarpura Basti, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Sangrur have changed my name to Harjot Singh

I Harpal Kaur Ghuman W/o Sandeep Singh Ghuman R/o 557/A, W.No.1, Kartarpura Basti, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Sangrur have changed my name to Harpal Kaur

I, Manvinder Kaur D/o Jaspal Singh R/o Village & PO Thuhi ,Tehsil Nabha, Distt Patiala ,Punjab have changed my name from Manvinder Kaur to Manvinder Kaur Zandu.

I, Abhay S/o Sukhdev Singh R/o H.No.294, Bahadur Ke, Bhattian, Bhattia, Ludhiana have changed my name Abhay to Abhay Singh

I, Tripta Sharma Spouse of Manohar Lal Resident of 107-A, Blue Valley, Merankot-Loharka Road, Airport Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Tripta Sharma to Tripta. Vide affidavit No.vide certificate number IN-PB 83893033659708X dated 15 Oct 2025 at Amritsar, Punjab

I,Ankita Chawla D/O Sunil Kumar Chawla R/O 49-B, Hoshiarpur Road,Akash Colony,Jalandhar,Punjab 144004 inform that Ankita and Ankita Chawla both names are mine and one and the same person and have equal value.

I, supandeep son of sarabjit singh village sidhwan bet post office bholath, disst. Kapurthala have changed my name from supandeep to supandeep singh. Please note.

I, hitherto known as NIRPJIT KAUR BADWAL D/O BHAGVAN SINGH W/O JAGTAR SINGH R/O MCB-Z8- 00409/001 ST NO 4/1 Mansa Road, Nachhater Nagar, Bathinda, PO: Bathinda, District: Bathinda, Punjab-151001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIRPJIT KAUR.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ਮੈਂ, ਅਕਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਲਖਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ, ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਕਿਸ਼ਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਲਾ, ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ ਸੁਰਖਪੁਰ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਕਪੂਰਥਲਾ, ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਕਰਨਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਕੁਝ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇਕਾਰ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਮੈਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਲੜਕੇ ਕਰਨਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ, ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਤਮਾਮ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਮੇਰੇ ਉਕਤ ਲੜਕੇ, ਨਾਲ ਜੋ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕਿਸਮ ਦਾ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਉਹ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਇਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

ਮੈਂ, ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਜੇਡਿਆਲੀ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਵਾ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਜਲੰਧਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਸੁਖਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਨ ਮਰਜੀ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ ਵਾ ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਮੈਂ, ਸਤੀਸ਼ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਲਾਲ ਚੰਦ ਵਾਸੀ 67/1, ਭਾਰਗੋ ਕੈਂਪ, ਜਲੰਧਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੀ ਬੇਟੀ ਨਾਤਾਸ਼ਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਫੇ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਦਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

I, Bikar Singh S/o Mewa Singh R/o H.No. 26, Street No. 22, Bhakra Enclave, Village Malo Majra, Sangrur Road, Tehsil & District Patiala declare that I had Evicted my son Mandeep Singh from all my moveable/immovable properties on 03-12-2015 through Eviction Notice in newspaper. Now my son is under my control, therefore I withdraw my said disclaimer. From today onwards he will have all the rights in my movable and immovable properties.

We Sukhwinder Singh S/o Gurmukh Singh and Sarabjit Kaur W/o Sukhwinder Singh R/o St. No. 17, Daba Lohara Road, Sahibzada Fateh Singh Nagar, Shimlapuri, Ludhiana declare that our daughter Arshpreet Kaur is out of our control. We disowned her from our all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with her at his/her own risk. We and our family members will not be responsible for any act or conduct done by her.

I, Rani W/O Surinder Kumar R/O H no 105 Street no 3 Ward no 8 Company Bagh Tibba Road Basti Jodhewal Ludhiana declare that my son Rohit Kumar and his wife Simran are out of my control so I disown them from my movable and immovable properties anybody deal with them at their own risk.

I, Ram Piyari W/o Gurmail Singh R/o H No. 14976, St No. 1 to 5, Sukhdev Nagar, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana, state that my son Narinder Pal alias Gona, his wife Pinki and their son Vikas are fighting with me and my family and All Are Out of My control. Therefore I Disown them from my movable and immovable property. The person who deals with them and has relations with them will be responsible for it. I will not be held responsible.

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Road Committee MC Chandigarh approves major road and infrastructure projects

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16

The 3rd meeting of the Road Committee of the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Dalip Sharma, Councillor and attended by Committee Members including Sarabjit Kaur, Gurcharanjit Singh, Suman Devi, Nirmala Devi, Manaur, Maheshinder Singh Sidhu along with the concerned officers of the Municipal Corporation.

During the meeting, the committee members asked the concerned officers to start the recarpetting work of roads soon for which the tenders have already been called.

The committee also reviewed and discussed various development proposals amounting to ₹59.29 lakhs.

After detailed deliberations, the Committee recommended all works for administrative and technical approval, ensuring their timely execution for the convenience and welfare of the public.

The key projects considered included:

- Improvement of roads and parking near Army Hospital, Sector 47-A at an estimated cost of ₹ 9.67 lakh.
- Repair of road cuts in Bapu Dham Colony, sector 26 at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.07 lakh.
- Fixing of GI chain link fencing in ABC Centre at Raipur Kalan at an estimated cost of ₹2.23 lakh.
- Completion work of the Veterinary Hospital and sick animal building at Gaushala Raipur Kalan at an estimated cost of ₹23.32 lakh.

Mayor, Sr Dy Mayor inspect hot mix plant; issue necessary directions for speedy repair of city roads

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 16



For ensuring speedy repair of city roads, Mayor Principal Inderjit Kaur alongwith Senior Deputy Mayor Rakesh Prashar conducted an inspection at the hot mix plant of Municipal Corporation (MC) at Hambran road on Thursday.

Strict directions were issued to the concerned officials and staff that the plant should be run at full capacity and there should be no compromise with the quality of the hot mix material.

Executive Engineer Arvind Kumar among other officials was also present during the inspection.

Mayor Principal Inderjit Kaur stated that the plant is being run to its full capacity and adequate machinery/ raw material; has been deployed to ensure speedy repair of city roads. She has also been checking the work at ground level and the officials have been directed to move to the field to take stock of the repair works.

Mayor Inderjit Kaur and Senior Deputy Mayor Rakesh Prashar directed the officials that quality repair work should be taken up on the roads.

They further stated that working under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, major road construction projects are also being taken up in the city to develop quality road infrastructure for residents.

Hoshiarpur Health Dept ramps up drive against food adulteration during festive season: DC

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, October 16



To curb food adulteration during the festive season, the Health Department has intensified monitoring and enforcement across Hoshiarpur district. Deputy Commissioner Ashika Jain emphasized that safeguarding public health remains the administration's top priority.

Dedicated teams, led by District Health Officer Dr. Jatinder Bhatia and comprising Food Safety Officers Munish Sodhi, Vivek Kumar, and Ishank Bansal, are conducting extensive inspections in both urban and rural areas. The teams are collecting samples from sweet shops, dairy products (including paneer, desi ghee, and khoya), packaged sweets, spices, fruits, vegetables, and other food items.

DC Jain stated that the teams will maintain continuous vigilance throughout the festive period to ensure that only safe and quality food items reach consumers.

She urged citizens to remain cautious when purchasing food, advising them to check packaging and expiry dates, and report any suspected adulteration to the Health Department. Samples collected from various locations have been sent to laboratories for testing, and strict action will be taken against those found guilty of adulteration or selling substandard products.

The monitoring drive will continue throughout the festive season. Appealing for public cooperation, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged people to support the campaign for "Safe Food, Healthy Festivals" and contribute to building a society free from food adulteration.

MLA Bhullar distributes ₹36.94 lakh compensation to food-affected families



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 16

Approval letters for compensation worth Rs 36.94 lakh to nearly 60 beneficiaries affected by floods in the district were handed over by Ferozepur City MLA Ranbir Singh Bhullar. The distribution took place at Hussainiwala Rest House in the presence of villagers, panchayat representatives, and officials.

The beneficiaries included families from villages Veer, Kalu Wara, Tendi Wala, Gatti Rajo Ke, New Gatti Rajo Ke, Gatti Rahime Ke Bhakhra, and Jhugge Hazara Singh Wala, who had suffered losses due to floods.

Addressing the gathering, Bhullar said that the Punjab government under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has fulfilled its commitment to provide relief funds to flood victims before Diwali. He emphasised that the government stands firmly with the people in both joy and sorrow, ensuring transparent distribution of compensation for loss of life and property.

He added that priority is being given to relief work in the directions of the Chief Minister and that no eligible family will be left out. "The Mann government has proved that it not only makes promises but also fulfils them on time," Bhullar said, thanking the Chief Minister for supporting the affected families.

Commissionerate Police Ludhiana solves robbery case; three accused arrested



GUKIRPAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 16

In a major breakthrough, the Ludhiana Commissionerate Police successfully solved a robbery case and arrested three accused under the ongoing drive against looters and snatchers. The operation was carried out under the directions of Commissioner of Police Ludhiana, Swapan Sharma, and Deputy Commissioner of Police (City/ Rural) Rupinder Singh.

Giving details,Sameer Verma, Additional DCP Zone-1, and Kikkar Singh, PPS, ACP North Ludhiana, informed that the police team led by Inspector Harshveer Singh, Incharge Police Station Salem Tabri, acted on the complaint of Parminder Singh, resident of Varinder Nagar. A case (FIR No. 177 dated 03.10.2025) under Sections 304 and 3(5) of BNS was registered at Police Station Salem Tabri.

During investigation, the police arrested Gurbinder Singh alias Ruby on October 12, 2025, who, during interrogation, revealed the names of his accomplices Gurjant Singh alias Lucky and Gurtej Singh alias Sooraj. Both were later arrested on October 15 and Section 317(2) BNS was added to the case.

> The police recovered 16 mobile phones of different brands, one iron weapon (datar), and three motorcycles (including Splendor and Platina) from the accused.

The police recovered 16 mobile phones of different brands, one iron weapon (datar), and three motorcycles (including Splendor and Platina) from the accused. It was further revealed that Gurbinder Singh alias Ruby has three previous cases of robbery and snatching registered against him in different police stations of Ludhiana.

Police officials stated that further investigation is underway to trace other incidents and members connected with this gang.

Two Ferozepur traders fined ₹2.5 lakh for adulterated sweets; festive food checks continue

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 16



In a crackdown on food adulteration ahead of the festive season, two traders in Ferozepur have been fined Rs 2.5 lakh under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, following directions from the Punjab Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration.

Adjudicating Officer-cum-Additional Deputy Commissioner Major Amit Sareen imposed a Rs 1.5 lakh fine on Gobind Ram of Ferozepur City after a sample of khoya barfi collected on January 24, 2024, was found substandard. In a separate case, Vijay Kumar of M/s Bawa Sweet, Mallanwala Road, was fined Rs 1 lakh for a failed khoya barfi sample taken on October 11, 2023.

Food Safety Officer Dr. Sarabjit Kaur and Designated Officer Dr. Amarveer Singh Sidhu led inspection teams across Ferozepur city and Guru Har Sahai. Six new food samples were collected during these checks.

Shopkeepers were directed to maintain hygiene, use quality ingredients, ensure staff wore clean uniforms, and prominently display license or registration numbers on bills. Non-compliant sweets containing unapproved food coloring were destroyed on the spot.

Officials reiterated that the ongoing checks are aimed at ensuring the availability of safe and hygienic sweets during the festive season.

Awareness rally and farmer camp held in Khanna to promote stubble management without burning

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Khanna (Ludhiana), October 16

Taking forward the campaign to create awareness among farmers about the harmful effects of stubble burning, an awareness rally and farmer camp was organised at A.S. School, Khanna by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in collaboration with the CII Foundation. The event aimed to encourage farmers and students to adopt eco-friendly methods of paddy straw management.

The programme was graced by Dr Jyoti Yadav Bains, SSP Khanna, who lauded the efforts of the Agriculture Department. Addressing around 400 students from four different schools, she urged them to contribute towards environmental protection and to stay away from drugs.

State Information Commissioner Punjab presents book on Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji to Haryana Governor

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16



The State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Harpreet Sandhu, on Thursday had a meeting with the new Governor of Haryana, His Excellency Professor Aslam Kumar Ghosh, at Raj Bhawan, Haryana, in Chandigarh and presented his authored book 'Spiritual Journey of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib' for the State of Haryana.

The pious volume is dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Year of the Ninth Sikh Guru Sahib and depicts the visuals of the historical shrines where Guru Sahib left his footprints from his birth till martyrdom. It serves as a pious tribute to the unparalleled legacy of the Ninth Sikh Guru, revered as "Hind Di Chadar" for his supreme sacrifice in defence of religious freedom and human dignity.

The Governor of Haryana acknowledged the pious volume on the Ninth Sikh Guru's life journey, authored by State Information Commissioner Punjab Harpreet Sandhu, and described the book on religious heritage as a very meaningful work and a noble cause within society.

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's contribution to agriculture, Sikh rule and martyrdom is unparalleled: Sandeep Sandhu



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mullanpur Dakha, October 16

The 355th birth anniversary of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur was celebrated at Rakba Bhavan at a state-level function organized under the patronage of Krishan Kumar Bawa, President of the Baba Banda Singh Bahadur International Foundation. The event commenced with the conclusion of the Sri Sukhmani Sahib recitation.

Sandeep Singh Sandhu, General Secretary of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, graced the occasion as the chief guest. After offering floral tributes at Baba Ji's statue, he said,"Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's contribution to agriculture, establishment of Sikh rule, and his martyrdom are unparalleled."

He also lauded Bawa's committed efforts in preserving and promoting the legacy of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur.

On this occasion, 21 eminent personalities from various fields were honoured with the Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial Awards, including Bibi Pushpa Rani (USA), Dr. Swaraj Singh (Global Thinker and Social Worker), Bhola Singh Sandhu (Amritsar), Dr. Raj Singh Vaishnav, Dr. Jagtar Singh Dhiman (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Guru Kashi University), and Prof. Jeevan Das Bawa.

Speaking at the seminar, Dr. Swaraj Singh remarked,"Baba Banda Singh Bahadur completed the Sikh revolution and laid the foundation of the Khalsa Raj, which was truly a people-oriented and secular system of governance."

Dr. Jagtar Singh Dhiman emphasized that, "The Sikh state established by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur became the world's finest secular rule, later exemplified by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Such governance is needed even more today." He further urged that schools should include comprehensive lessons about Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in their syllabi.

During the event, Neeraj Bawa was appointed Chairman of the Youth Wing Foundation, Ludhiana, while Charanjit Singh Sidhu was named President of the Mansa Unit. Dr. Trilochan Bawa was also appointed Vice President of Bairagi Mahamandal, Punjab.

Recruitment rally for Territorial Army from Nov 17 to Nov 30

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 16

The Territorial Army Group Headquarters Western Command has announced a recruitment rally for the Territorial Army, set to take place in Ludhiana from November 17 to November 30.

This opportunity is open to domiciliates of Punjab (excluding Pathankot and SAS Nagar), Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Leh, Chandigarh, and NCT of Delhi. The recruitment process emphasizes fair and transparent selection based on merit, with no stage payments involved.

The rally will offer positions including Soldier (General Duty)-716, Clerk-02, Chef Community-06, ER-02, Artisan Metallurgy-01, House Keeper-01, Tailor-02, and Mess Keeper-01.

Awareness drive on stubble burning and environment held



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, October 16

Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Rahul (IAS) and Chief Agriculture Officer Dr. Tejbir Singh, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare organized an awareness event and competitions at PM Shri Government Senior Secondary Smart School, Harike, Block Patti.

The program, held as part of the department's Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign, focused on the harmful effects of stubble burning and the importance of sustainable agricultural practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Block Agriculture Officer Dr Bhupinder Singh highlighted the negative impact of crop residue burning on soil fertility and the environment. He urged students to become ambassadors of change by spreading awareness in their communities and discouraging stubble burning. "The future depends on the youth their energy and meaningful thinking can lead to real change," he said.

Millers, experts policymakers unite in Punjab to tackle malnutrition



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 16

Millers for Nutrition, powered by TechnoServe, has brought together millers, nutrition experts, government officials, and industry representatives to discuss how fortification can become a powerful solution to tackle hidden hunger at an event, themed "Unlocking Market Potential: Advancing Fortified Rice in Punjab," this Wednesday at Hotel Park Plaza.

Monojit Indra, Senior Practice Leader at TechnoServe and Program Lead for Millers for Nutrition Asia, said, "India has achieved remarkable success in food production, but we still face deep-rooted challenges in nutrition. Fortification allows us to transform simple staples into nutritious foods that improve health for all. Millers leading the way can make fortified rice a part of every household's diet, and this is also a reflection of how the milling industry can take charge in India's fight against malnutrition."

Vet Varsity celebrates 'World Food Day'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 16



The College of Dairy and Food Science Technology, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana, celebrated World Food Day on October 16. The theme for this celebration was "Milk & Millets: A Powerhouse of Nutrition".

The event was graced by Dr Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University as the and Dr J.P.S Gill, Vice-Chancellor, Vet Varsity as the Guest of Honour. Dr R.S Grewal, Director of Extension Education and other officers of the university also graced the occasion.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr S. K. Uppal, Dean, College of Dairy and Food Science Technology. Dr R. S. Grewal introduced the theme of the event and emphasized on integration of milk and millets into daily diets to help address malnutrition and lifestyle related disorders.

Dr Satbir Singh Gosal addressed the gathering and said that World Food Day is a reminder of our collective responsibility to ensure that every citizen has access to safe, nutritious, and sustainable food.

bright Punjab Express

Decline of LWE

Slowly but surely, the Centre's policy of fighting Naxalites on their own terms, is beginning to show results. There is a marked decline in Naxalite acitivities in the affected 'Red Corridor' and a sustained campaign launched by the security forces has decimated the movement. In the latest development, Senior Maoist leader and CPI (Maoist) politburo member Mallojula Venugopal Rao, alias Bhupathi has surrendered before Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, along with 60 cadres of the banned outfit, at a ceremony in Gadchiroli.

Bhupathi, who carried a combined bounty of around ₹6 crore announced by six states— Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha—laid down 54 weapons, including seven AK-47s and nine INSAS rifles as he and his associates surrendered before Fadnavis.

According to police sources, Bhupathi and his associates had first surrendered before the Gadchiroli police on Monday night near Laheri, bordering the Abujhmad region of Chhattisgarh's Bastar region. The formal surrender ceremony was originally scheduled for Thursday, but Fadnavis advanced it and flew to Gadchiroli from Mumbai on Wednesday morning in a special aircraft. The surrender parade, attended by DGP Rashmi Shukla and several senior officials, is being hailed as the largest in the history of Maoist insurgency in Maharashtra.

Once considered one of the most influential strategists in the CPI (Maoist), Bhupathi—also known as Sonu—had long supervised guerrilla platoon operations along the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border. His surrender marks the end of a four-decade-long militant career, during which he led the outfit's once-dominant military stronghold in Abujmarh, Chhattisgarh, bordering Maharashtra and Telangana.

Bhupathi had entered into a rehabilitation agreement with government negotiators before surrendering. In a dramatic sequence, the 69-year-old former chief of the PLGA Central Military Commission trekked nearly 25 km from his forest encampment to the designated surrender point, Laheri. His second-in-command, Prabhakaran, reportedly withdrew at the last moment and disappeared into the forests with four women guerrillas.

Fadnavis hailed the surrender as a "victory for peace and development", adding that it demonstrated the effectiveness of dialogue and rehabilitation over violence. "This historic surrender proves that the path of peace, dialogue and development is stronger than the path of violence. We welcome all those who want to return to the mainstream," he said.

According to Sandip Patil, Inspector-General of Police (Anti-Naxalite Cell), Maharashtra state, the rehabilitation package, along with assurances of safety and livelihood, was crucial in persuading Bhupathi and his cadres to give up arms. He added that the move was the outcome of months of negotiations and sustained counter-insurgency operations under the guidance of Union home minister Amit Shah and the coordinated efforts of state police forces.

At its peak in 2010, left-wing extremism (LWE) affected nearly 200 districts across India, posing a serious internal security challenge. Over the years, consistent security operations and developmental initiatives have sharply reduced both the geographical spread and intensity of Maoist activity, with Bhupathi's surrender marking another significant step toward the movement's decline.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



Looking at ₹3 lakh crore annual target for India-made military hardware by 2029: Rajnath Singh



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday that the government expects to achieve an annual target of manufacturing military hardware worth Rs 3 lakh crore in India and Rs 50,000 crore in exports by 2029 as part of the big push to self-reliance in the defence sector.

"Operation Sindoor is a glowing testimony to India's growing indigenous prowess, which is a result of the government's relentless efforts to create a self-reliant defence manufacturing ecosystem within the country," the minister said in his address to the students of Symbiosis Skills and Professional University here.

When the government commenced work to make India self-reliant in defence, it seemed difficult in the beginning; however, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, no stone was left unturned to expand the domestic defence manufacturing, and the efforts began to yield positive results due to this resolve, he said.

"We pledged to move towards transforming the defence sector because, since independence, we had been heavily dependent on other countries for weapons. We had become accustomed to purchasing weapons as we lacked the political will to manufacture in India, nor did we have the laws that promoted defence manufacturing. This required a change. It is our resolve that India manufactures indigenous weapons for its soldiers. The entire world witnessed the bravery of our soldiers during Operation Sindoor. They achieved the set objectives, using a large amount of Made-in-India equipment," Rajnath Singh pointed out.

Acknowledging the contribution of youth in defence manufacturing, he stated that, in the last 10 years, annual defence production has increased from Rs 46,000 crore to a record Rs 1.5 lakh crore, of which approximately Rs 33,000 crore has been contributed by the private sector. He exuded confidence in achieving the Rs 3 lakh crore defence manufacturing target and the Rs 50,000 crore exports target by 2029.

Rajnath Singh urged the students to move beyond academic achievement and strive to become creators, innovators and contributors to national development, emphasising that true success lies not merely in acquiring degrees but in applying knowledge meaningfully for the benefit of society.

Highlighting the importance of skill development in shaping India's future, the minister said: "We are no longer in the era of 'What do you know?'. The world now asks, 'What can you do?' Knowledge that cannot be applied is incomplete. Skill is the bridge between learning and doing."

About the impact of technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), Rajnath Singh dispelled fears about job loss and human redundancy, stating that AI will not replace humans, but those who use AI will replace those who don't.

"Technology must remain a tool, not a substitute for human sensitivity, values, and ethics," he said. **IANS**

DoT to launch innovation and regulatory sandbox to boost AI-driven digital twin technology



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is set to launch an Innovation and Regulatory Sandbox as part of its Sangam Initiative to promote telecom-powered Digital Twins and AI-driven insights for smarter infrastructure planning, the Ministry of Communications said on Thursday.

The initiative aims to bring together industry, academia, and policymakers to co-develop advanced digital solutions that will transform how India plans, manages, and monitors large-scale projects.

The announcement was made during the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025, where the DoT showcased its pioneering Digital Twin with AI-Driven Insights initiative.

The exhibit demonstrated how the integration of telecom networks, computing, and sensing technologies can revolutionise planning and decision-making in sectors like mobility, tourism, and green infrastructure.

The DoT's Digital Twin demonstrations drew strong engagement from policymakers, planners, and technology experts.

Developed in collaboration with leading telecom operators and equipment makers, the live showcase highlighted real-world use cases such as urban mobility insights, tourism flow analysis, and intelligent traffic coordination through connected systems.

In one demonstration, telecom mobility data was used to analyse travel patterns across areas like Vasant Kunj and Central Vista in New Delhi, offering valuable insights for metro and transport agencies.

Another use case focused on Ayodhya, where mobility data revealed detailed tourist movement patterns, helping planners improve infrastructure and travel experiences.

A third demo showed how telecom-powered networks could create real-time green corridors for emergency or special vehicles using AI and edge computing.

Under the Sangam Initiative, the upcoming sandbox will serve as a collaborative platform for developing AI models, data frameworks, and digital twin toolkits.

It will ensure secure, privacy-preserving, and interoperable systems that can be applied across multiple sectors, from transport to urban planning.

DoT has also partnered with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to form an Inter-Ministerial Joint Working Group focused on using telecom-enabled Digital Twin technologies for smarter urban mobility.

Additionally, the department is working with academic institutions such as IISc, IIT Kanpur, and IIT Madras, along with transport bodies like DMRC and CUMTA Chennai, to advance research and implementation. **IANS**

Why women face higher risk of multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's



US researchers have identified a gene on the X chromosome that drives inflammation in the female brain and explains the reason why women are disproportionately affected by conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and multiple sclerosis.

The team from the University of California-Los Angeles noted that, as females have two X chromosomes, as opposed to only one in males, they get a "double dose" of inflammation, which plays a major role in ageing, Alzheimer's disease, and multiple sclerosis.

Using a mouse model of multiple sclerosis, they found the gene Kdm6a, which causes inflammation in microglia -- immune cells in the brain.

When Kdm6a and its associated protein were deactivated, the multiple sclerosis-like disease and neuropathology were both ameliorated with high significance in female mice, revealed the study, published in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

"Multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease each affect women more often than men, about two to three times as often. Also, two-thirds of healthy women have 'brain fog' during menopause. These new findings explain why and point to a new treatment to target this," said lead author Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl, director of the Multiple Sclerosis Programme at UCLA Health.

When the team genetically "knocked out" the gene Kdm6a in brain immune cells, the inflammatory molecules shifted from being activated to a resting state.

The team also performed a pharmacologic "knock down" of the protein made by this gene using metformin -- widely used as a treatment for diabetes.

While these interventions were highly significant in female mice, their effect was almost undetectable in males, Voskuhl said.

"This is consistent with there being 'more to block' in females due to having two copies of the X-linked gene," said Voskuhl.

"It's also why females are more likely to get multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease than males. This has implications for the clinic. Women may respond differently to metformin treatment than men." **IANS**

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in the articles published in these columns are the personal opinions of the authors. The facts and opinions appearing in the articles do not reflect the views of Bright Punjab Express and Bright Punjab Express does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same.

NEWSBRIEFS

RSS ban row: Karnataka Police arrest man for threatening Priyank Kharge

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Police have arrested the man who threatened Priyank Kharge, the Minister for RDPR, IT and BT, over his proposal to ban the activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in public places. The accused was arrested in Latur, Maharashtra, on Thursday. The accused has been identified as Danappa Naroni, also known as Danesh, a resident of Solapur district in Maharashtra. The arrest was carried out in a joint operation by the Kalaburagi district police and Bengaluru Police. According to officials, after making a threatening and abusive phone call to Minister Kharge, the accused left his native place and was staying in Latur. The police are bringing him to Bengaluru for further investigation, and he is likely to reach the state capital by tonight. **IANS**

Bengal SIR: Several BLOs demand central security after receiving threats

KOLKATA: A section of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) on Thursday wrote a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal, seeking deployment of paramilitary forces after receiving threats to include "false names" in the voter's list. The BLOs, as part of the Electoral Workers Unity Forum, said they must be given security when they go to booth-level areas for election duty as part of the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR). They alleged that threats are coming from different places, even though the SIR notification was yet to be issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI). **IANS**

I know pain of hunger, so introduced Anna Bhagya free rice scheme: K'taka CM

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 16



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Thursday that he knows the pain of hunger and the value of food, and therefore had introduced the Anna Bhagya scheme

He was speaking after inaugurating the World Food Day programme organised by the Department of Food and Civil Supplies at the Banquet Hall in Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

"I know the suffering of hunger and the value of food. That is why I introduced the Anna Bhagya scheme...Famous Kannada poet D.R. Bendre called farmers 'Anna Brahma (God of Food)'. Hence, wasting or throwing away food is an insult to Anna Brahma," he said.

"There was a time when we depended on America for food grains. Today, we have progressed to the level of exporting food to foreign countries. But alongside this achievement, the amount of food waste has also increased, which is distressing," he remarked.

The CM said that in Bengaluru alone, 943 tonnes of food is wasted every year, which is worth around Rs 360 crore, citing a study by the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK).

"Knowingly wasting food is arrogance against food itself ... Wasting food is a sinful act," he recalled Mahatma Gandhi's words.

"It is Congress' commitment that no one should go to bed hungry. That is why we have implemented pro-poor programmes. It was Congress Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who introduced the Food Security Act. The BJP strongly opposed the Act. BJP's ideology is anti-poor. People must understand this. Don't clap for the BJP on one side, and for Congress' pro-poor programmes on the other side. Understand that it is Congress which is committed to ensuring food security," he appealed.

"Strict action will be taken against those who hoard Anna Bhagya rice and sell it in the black market. To prevent such practices, we have decided to distribute 5 kg of rice along with an additional 5 kg of pulses and grains," the Chief Minister announced.

"Awareness about food and protection of small farmers is the responsibility of the government, society, and every citizen," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar stated, "Earlier, for the free gas scheme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo used to be displayed in front of all petrol pumps. Now, that has been stopped. The price of cooking gas, which was Rs 400, has gone up to Rs 1,100. Prices of everything have skyrocketed while incomes have plummeted."

"To address this, we have implemented the guarantee schemes. We allocate Rs 53,000 crore every year for this. Even if prime ministers and other leaders criticise our schemes, in the end, they copy them to retain their political positions. In Bihar, even before elections were announced, Rs 10,000 was deposited into the accounts of women in the state. This shows that people's basic food needs are extremely important," he said. **IANS**

Trinamool to hold anti-SIR rally in Kolkata next month

KOLKATA, OCTOBER 16



Amid indications that the notification for Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal will be released soon, the Trinamool Congress has decided to go all out against the exercise with a mega rally in Kolkata soon after the current festive season is over with Kali Puja, Diwali and Bhai Photo (Bhai Dhuj).

Sources in the Trinamool Congress said that the proposed mega anti-SIR rally in Kolkata is likely to be conducted in the first week of November. The main speakers during the event will be West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and party general secretary and Lok Sabha member Abhishek Banerjee.

"At the rally, both the Chief Minister and the party's general secretary are expected to present the blueprint on how anti-SIR movements will be carried out in different parts of the state for the next few months. The Chief Minister is also expected to spell out the points of argument of Trinamool Congress against SIR," said a member of the state cabinet who refused to be named. Trinamool Congress leadership has already started questioning how top state BJP leaders like the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, and Union Minister of State, Santanu Thakur, are predicting the number of voters whose names would be deleted after the SIR is completed, even before the formal notification for the exercise is yet to be released.

Already, the Chief Minister had claimed that she would not tolerate it if the names of voters from a particular community were deleted from the electoral rolls after the SIR.

Several Trinamool Congress leaders, including some elected public representatives and members of the state cabinet, have threatened that "West Bengal will be on the boil if the name of a single genuine voter is deleted from the list".

The Trinamool Congress has been describing SIR as a "ploy" by the BJP and the Union government to "slap NRC" in West Bengal. On the other hand, the BJP has claimed that the Chief Minister was opposing the SIR to ensure that the names of Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators remain in the voters' list. **IANS**

24 transgenders attempt suicide in Indore, two critical

INDORE, OCTOBER 16



In a disturbing incident that has rocked Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, 24 transgender individuals from the Nandlalpura area attempted en masse suicide by consuming phenyl, a toxic household cleaning agent.

The incident happened on Wednesday night. Police have arrested one, Sapna, the leader of transgender community and launched a hunt for Raja Hashmi, who has fled the scene. Also names of two scribes have surfaced in the entire incident.

The desperate act, stemming from deep-seated disputes and allegations of sexual assault within the community, has thrust Indore's transgender population into the national spotlight, highlighting their vulnerability and cries for justice.

According to a senior police officer and Additional District Magistrate Roshan Rai, all 24 individuals were rushed to Maharaja Yeshwantrao (MY) Hospital, where medical teams are working to stabilise them.

According to Chief Medical Health Officer (CMHO) Dr Madhav Hasani, the victims' conditions have largely improved, with 22 now out of danger. However, they have been admitted to different wards of the hospital according to their condition; two remain in critical condition and are under intensive observation in the ICU. **IANS**

Six militants arrested, drugs worth ₹7.26 crore seized in Manipur

IMPHAL, OCTOBER 16



Security forces in Manipur have arrested six militants belonging to different banned outfits and seized drugs worth Rs 7.26 crore, besides apprehending six drug peddlers in separate operations conducted over the past 24 hours, officials said on Thursday.

A senior police official said that the six militants belonging to Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) were arrested from Imphal West and Imphal East districts.

He said that the hardcore militants were involved in various crimes, including intimidation, forcible collection of subscriptions from people, government employees, contractors and others. A few arms, incriminating documents, a car and several mobile phones were recovered from the arrested guerrillas.

Besides this, the Assam Rifles, in coordination with Manipur Police, apprehended six drug peddlers and recovered 270 soap cases containing brown sugar weighing 3.636 kg, worth approximately Rs 7.26 crore in Senapati and Kangpokpi districts of Manipur. **IANS**

LOST & FOUND

I Meena Kumari W/o Sh. Ram Dayal R/o #125, Preet Enclave, Near Anaj Mandi Kharar Declare us under: 1. That The Original Registry of Plot Vasika No. -15572 dated 16/03/2018 In Favour of Mehar Singh & Harvinder Singh has been Lost. 2. That I am availing Loan from SBI Mohali. The said property will be mortgaged to SBI RACPC, Sector 68 Mohali, Punjab. 3. That in case any party has any claim towards the relevent property the same should be lodged with the intending party and the above stated branch of SBI Sector 68 RACPC Mohali, Punjab within 15 days from the Publication of this notice. MOB NO- 98769-84183

Public Notice

Residential House (Land and Building) built on Plot measuring 347.77 Sq Yards situated at Street No 3, Dina Milkman Wali Street, Old College Road, Jaitu, District Faridkot-151202 Bounded as East: 20'0" & 57'2" Street & Madan Lal, West: 77'0" Raj Kumar, North: 87'5" Sunil Garg, South: 24'3" & 63'2" Madan Lal bearing House MC No- B-9/342 From the Ownership of Mrs. Sheela Devi W/o Davinder Singh and Mr Davinder Singh S/o Mathura Dass R/o Jaitu District Faridkot-151202 vide Registered Sale Deed No. 2262 dated 14/01/2008 and Sale Deed No. 2263 dated 14/01/2008 is mortgaged with Canara Bank, Branch Jaitu for Rs. 47,50,000/-(Forty Seven Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) Now the General Public/Banks/Financial Institutions through this notice are informed to submit the written objection to the undersigned regarding the mortgage of this property with Canara Bank, Branch Jaitu may respond or raise objection within 7 days to Branch Incharge, Canara Bank, Branch Jaitu. Mob. 9855525886

Manager,Canara Bank Jaitu
(DP Code-5886)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sardar Singh S/o Kishan Singh R/o H.No 197, St. No. 3, New Deep Nagar, Civil Lines, Ludhiana declare that I am Owner of Land area 2 Kanal 6-1/2 Marla, situated at Village Baramhara Teh & Distt Ludhiana. I have lost the previous original sale deed wasika no. 7024 dated 28/06/2007. Regarding which a DDR No. 637805/2025 Dated 11/10/2025 has been lodged by me. If anyone has any objection regarding the said sale deed, he/she can express his/her objection to the within 15 days of publication of this notice. contact to Rahul Singla Advocate, Chamber No. 1007, 1st Floor, District Courts, Ludhiana. Mobile No. 9888977149

DELHI/NCR

Froth-free Yamuna water to welcome Chhath devotees at Kalindi Kunj: CM Rekha Gupta



NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday visited the Yamuna bank in south-east Delhi's Kalindi Kunj area and assured Chhath devotees that this year the water is cleaner and without the poisonous froth.

"At this point, froth used to rise to a height of one metre. But today there is no sign of froth due to the measures taken by the Delhi government," said CM Gupta during her field visit.

"Our government is alert and committed to offering a new experience to the devotees. We are fully prepared, hundreds of employees are working round the clock to clean the river," she said, warning people against "fake and misleading" videos being circulated to allege re-emergence of froth in Kalindi Kunj ahead of Chhath.

She said the government has adopted eco-friendly treatment of froth so that no harm is caused to any of the creatures in the river's ecosystem. CM Gupta hit out at previous governments for lacking the intent to tackle the froth that poses a hazard to devotees.

"There are hundreds of excuses available to you if you don't want to do anything. Our government had the intent, and we found environment-friendly solutions to deal with the froth," said the Chief Minister.

She also highlighted the government's commitment to environmental protection and cited the efforts to allow green crackers for Diwali celebrations. In a post on X, CM Gupta said, "Today, upon reaching Kalindi Kunj, I inspected the cleanliness works of the Yamuna. For the grand organisation of Chhath Mahaparv, the Delhi government is engaged in preparations on a war footing."

Team Delhi is working day and night to ensure arrangements for a clean Yamuna, cleanliness at the ghats, and the best facilities for Chhath devotees. I reviewed the entire management with the officers and gave necessary directions, she said.

Accompanied by Art and Culture Minister Kapil Mishra, who heads the special committee to coordinate Chhath arrangements, CM Gupta said, "This year, during the Chhath festival, when devotees stand in the clean Yamuna and offer arghya to Lord Surya, that sight will symbolise our shared commitment to faith, tradition, and the environment." **IANS**

Delhi Police detain two Nigerian nationals illegally residing in India for over a decade

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16



The Operations Cell of Delhi Police's South West District has traced and detained two illegal African migrants who had been residing in India without valid documents for over a decade, officials said on Thursday. The accused have been identified as Emmanuel Kido Obuh (35) and Harrison Umunna (43), both residents of Akumazi Umuocha, Delta State, Nigeria.

According to police, a fresh deportation process has been initiated against the duo with the assistance of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Delhi, after completion of all necessary formalities.

Officials said that to curb crime and identify foreigners living illegally in the district, teams from the Operations Cell were directed to collect intelligence and take firm action against such individuals.

A special team led by Inspector Gajender Singh, in charge of the Anti-Narcotics Cell, and supervised by ACP (Operations) Vijaypal Tomar, was tasked with identifying and verifying illegal migrants, particularly in vulnerable areas.

While investigating a case under the NDPS Act, the team received a tip-off about some illegal African nationals roaming in the Kishangarh area near Mehrauli. **IANS**

MHA approves 26 new Delhi Police infrastructure projects worth ₹653 crore

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

To strengthen policing infrastructure in the national capital, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved 26 new infrastructure projects worthRs 653.46 crore for the Delhi Police, the officials said.

The projects include the construction of 18 police station buildings, seven police posts, one women's hostel, and 180 staff quarters, they said.

"The MHA has accorded administrative approval and expenditure sanction amounting to Rs 653.46 crore for the execution of 26 new infrastructure projects of Delhi Police," an official statement said. **AGENCIES**

Air pollution dips to 'very poor' in Delhi-NCR ahead of Diwali



NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

Air pollution levels in Delhi-NCR have turned into the 'very poor' category, raising serious public health concerns even before the Diwali festivities. Data recorded on Thursday morning shows that air quality in several parts of Delhi, Ghaziabad, and Noida has deteriorated further, surpassing even some of the previous most polluted areas.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in many localities has breached the 300 mark, placing them in the "very poor" category. The AQI between 301 and 400 is considered very poor.

In Ghaziabad, Loni reported an AQI of 339, the highest in the entire region. Other areas like Vasundhara and Indirapuram recorded AQIs of 287, while Sanjay Nagar stood at 260.

In neighbouring Noida, the situation was equally alarming. Sector 125 reported an AQI of 358, Sector 116 recorded 334, Sector 1 was at 257, and Sector 62 registered 207. **IANS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to public that my client M/s Impact Projects Pvt. Ltd. Amritsar had agreed to sell a plot number 581 measuring 200 Sq. Yards situated in "Garden Enclave" at Village Khankot, G.T. Road Bye-Pass, Tehsil & District Amritsar, Punjab to Arun Kumar Mehta s/o Sh. Ram Sharan Dass r/o 541, Gali No. 4, Chowk Lachhmansar Kalan, Namey Shah, Amritsar, It is informed that Sh. Arun Kumar Mehta expired on 20/09/2021 leaving Ravi Kanta (wife) and Manav Mehta (son) r/o H.N. 13-B2, Dayanand Nagar, Lawrence Road, Amritsar as the only legal heirs after his death. Affidavits are submitted by above legal heirs stating that if above plot agreed to be purchased by late Arun Kumar Mehta be transferred in the name of Ravi Kanta and Manav Mehta in equal shares, nobody will have any objection. These documents are under consideration. If any person has any objection of the transfer of above plot in name of Ravi Kanta (wife) and Manav Mehta (son) r/o. H.N. 13-B2, Dayanand Nagar, Lawrence Road, Amritsar, then he/she can submit his/her objections along with documents with the undersigned personally or through representative within seven days from today. After the expiry of fixed period, no objections of any kind shall be entertained, and the agreement of above mentioned plot shall be transferred to the above-named Applicants.

KAMAL KISHORE THAKUR
Advocate, Asr.
(M) 98142-54052

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the Instruction of ICICI Bank Ltd. Mall Road Amitsar I hereby informed the general public that Varinder Singh s/o Dara Singh is absolute owner of Property Plot no. 36, measuring length 40 feet breadth 25 feet, Total measuring 111.11 Sq Yards Khasra no. 37//17 min, Bounded as East : Passage 20 feet wide, West : Plot no 37, North : Passage 20 feet wide, South : Plot no 36-A, situated at Rakhshikargah Abadi Rishi Vihar, Tehsil & Distict Amritsar.
Jaspal Singh s/o Surjit Singh became the owner of above said property vide sale deed regd dated 25.08.2000 as doc no. 5970 and same is remained as owner of 3.5 Marlas in the Jamabandi for the year 2007-08, 2012-13, 2017-18. Then Jaspal Singh s/o Surjit Singh sold 111.11 sq yards of property to Varinder Singh s/o Dara Singh vide sale deed regd dated 18.02.2021 as doc no. 2020-21/93/1/12965 of which mutation no. 37816 has been sanctioned by revenue authorities. Now Varinder Singh s/o Dara Singh is selling 111.11 sq yards of property to Avtar Singh s/o Kuldeep Singh & Kiranjit Kaur w/o Avtar Singh who and are taking loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. Varinder Singh s/o Dara Singh has lost following original documents (1) Original sale deed executed by Krishan Lal s/o Ishar Dass through G.P.A. Tilak Raj s/o Ishar Dass regd dt. 25-08-2000 as doc no. 5970. Lost Information report has been lodged with Community Policing wing no. 137954/2021 dt 15.11.2021. Anybody having claim or claiming any prior rights or interest in any manner in this property or has raised loan by depositing the aforesaid sale deed to any person/bank/corporation/financial institution may approach the undersigned and may submit objection in writing 7 days from the date of this public notice. After the expiry of the period of this notice, no claim shall be entertained and such claim shall be deemed to be false, fake, frivolous, fraudulent and baseless claim and shall have no value in the eyes of law. It shall also be deemed that nobody has any objection for mortgaging the aforesaid property with ICICI Bank Ltd Mall Road Amritsar.

Vikas Verma (Advocate)
MB. 9815156302

ਗਰੇਟਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਏਰੀਆ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ

ਗਲਾਡਾ ਕੰਪਲੈਕਸ, ਰਾਜਗੁਰੂ ਨਗਰ, ਫਿਰੋਜਪੁਰ ਰੋਡ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ।

ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ



ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ MIG-238, ਫੇਜ-3 ਦੁੱਗਰੀ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਦੀ ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਬ੍ਰਿਜ ਮੋਹਨ ਬਾਲੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਐਸ.ਡੀ ਬਾਲੀ ਵਾਸੀ 288, ਸੈਕਟਰ-15, ਪੰਚਕੂਲਾ, ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਦੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ: 1600 ਮਿਤੀ 07.04.1998 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਅਲਾਟੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਬ੍ਰਿਜ ਮੋਹਨ ਬਾਲੀ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਮਿਤੀ 10.09.2005 ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ। ਸ੍ਰੀ ਬ੍ਰਿਜ ਮੋਹਨ ਬਾਲੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਿਤੀ 01-03-2005 ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਅਣਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਸ਼੍ਰੀਮਤੀ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਬਾਲੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਬ੍ਰਿਜ ਮੋਹਨ ਬਾਲੀ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ 561, ਅਭਿਨਵ ਅਪਾਰਟਮੈਂਟਸ ਵਸੁੰਦਰਾ ਇੰਨਕਲੇਵ, ਈਸਟ ਦਿੱਲੀ, ਦਿੱਲੀ' ਦੇ ਹੱਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ, ਇਸ ਅਣਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੀਮਤੀ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਬਾਲੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਬ੍ਰਿਜ ਮੋਹਨ ਬਾਲੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਕਾਨ ਦੀ ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਮ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਲੋੜੀਂਦੇ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਕੇਸ ਇਸ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੈ।

ਉਕਤ ਮਕਾਨ ਦੀ ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਤੋਂ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਮੰਗਣ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਰਾਹੀ ਆਮ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਅਲਾਕੀਤੀ ਤਬਦੀਲੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੇ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਨਹੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ MIG-238 ਫੇਜ-3 ਦੁੱਗਰੀ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਦੀ ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਸ਼੍ਰੀਮਤੀ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਬਾਲੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਬ੍ਰਿਜ ਮੋਹਨ ਬਾਲੀ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ
ਗਲਾਡਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Chandan Damari (Aadhaar card no:-8353 2132 3619) S/o Subhash Chandra R/o H.no. 1433. Kamra Gali, Gandhi Nagar Fazilka Tehsil & District Fazilka, declare that a shop booth No. 66-B area 10 feet x 125 feet i.e. 1250 sq. feet situated at Navi Anaj Mandi, Fazilka due to a transfer of ownership Varinder Kumar S/o Shagan Lal S/o Mangat Rai R/o Teacher Colony, Fazilka Tehsil Wala Fazilka in favour of Wimars Kumar and Vilash Kukdar S/o Varinder Kumar S/o Shagan Lal R/o Teacher Colony, Fazilka Tehsil & Distt Fazilka in The vasika no:-3953 dated 23-11-2017 was issued by Musdaka Sub Registrar Fazilka, it has been lost by me, for which I have registered FIR Serial No. 638459/2025 dated 13/10/2025 if found by someone, please contect :-81820-00222

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to public that my client M/s Impact Sare Magnum Townships Pvt. Ltd. Amritsar had allotted (through transfer) plot number 59 measuring 180 Sq. Yards situated in "Crescent ParC" at Village Vallah, G.T. Road Bye-Pass, Tehsil & District Amritsar, Punjab to Darshan Kaur w/o Savinder Singh r/o Nadala, Kapurthala, Punjab. It is informed that Darshan Kaur expired on 28/12/2017 leaving Varinder Singh (husband), Rajinder Pal Singh (son), Manpreet Kaur (daughter) and Rajwinder Kaur (daughter) as the only legal heirs after her death. Affidavits are submitted by above legal heirs stating that if above plot owned by late Darshan Kaur be transferred in the name of Rajinder Pal Singh s/o Savinder Singh only, no legal heir will have any objection. These documents are under consideration. If any person has any objection of the transfer of above plot alone in the name of Rajinder Pal Singh s/o S. Savinder Singh r/o Main bazar Nadala, District Kapurthala, Punjab, then he/she can submit his/her objections along with documents with the undersigned personally or through representative within seven days from today. After the expiry of fixed period, no objections of any kind shall be entertained, and the above-mentioned plot shall be transferred in the above-named Applicant.

KAMAL KISHORE THAKUR
Advocate, Asr.
(M) 98142-54052

Haryana CM to address state-level function in P'kula on completion of one year of current govt

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will address a state-level function marking the completion of one year of the present state government at the Indradhanush Auditorium, Panchkula, on Friday. The event will highlight the government's key achievements, flagship initiatives and the roadmap for the coming years. In this connection, Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi today chaired a high-level review meeting to take stock of the preparations for the celebration. He directed all Deputy Commissioners to organize district-level programmes, which will be followed by a live broadcast of the Chief Minister's address from the state-level function.The meeting was informed that Chief Minister will distribute development grants to Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies and hand over plot allotment letters to beneficiaries under the Mukhya Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana 2.0 (Phase-II) during the event. The Chief Secretary emphasized ensuring smooth arrangements, wide public participation and proper dissemination of the government's achievements at both state and district levels. He also instructed departments to coordinate effectively for security, media coverage, public outreach, and on-ground logistics to make the event a success.

Director General, Information, Public Relations, Languages & Culture, K Makarand Pandurang informed that a Coffee Table Book/ Booklet on One-year achievements of the state government shall also be launched by the Chief Minister on the occasion. Commissioner & Secretary, Housing for All, Mohammed Shayin, Commissioner & Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal, Additional Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Dr. Saket Kumar, Director General, Urban Local Bodies, Pankaj, Special Secretary, Personnel, Training and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Aditya Dahiya, and other senior officers were present in the meeting while the Deputy Commissioners joined the meeting via videoconferencing.

Abetment to suicide case registered in Rohtak ASI 'suicide' incident

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 16

The Haryana Police has registered an abetment to suicide case in connection with the death of ASI Sandeep Kumar Lathar based on the note and video he left behind, a senior police official said on Thursday.

Kumar, who was posted in the cyber cell in Rohtak, allegedly shot himself dead on Tuesday. He left behind a 'final note' that levelled corruption allegations against the late IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, who also served in the same district.

In a six-minute video, the ASI also referred to Inspector General (IG) Puran Kumar's wife, senior Haryana bureaucrat Amneet Kumar. He has also alleged that during the then IG's tenure, transfers of employees posted at the IGP office were made keeping caste in consideration.

IPS Puran Kumar's family could not be immediately contacted for their comments.The FIR, which lists abetment of suicide and criminal conspiracy, was registered on Wednesday after a complaint by Sandeep Kumar's wife.

After the postmortem examination was conducted by a board of doctors in PGIMS Hospital, Rohtak, Sandeep's mortal remains were taken in a police vehicle to his native town in Jind district's Julana. Many motorcycle-borne youths carrying the Tricolour escorted the bedecked police vehicle.

The last rites were held in the presence of a large number of people, including those from his village, and political leaders cutting across party lines.

Haryana Ministers Krishan Lal Panwar, Ranbir Gangwa, Mahipal Dhanda, Shruti Choudhry, state BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli, Congress MP Deepender Hooda, and Congress MLA Vinesh Phogat were among those who paid their last respects.Minister Shruti Choudhry, while speaking to reporters, said on behalf of the government and the administration, that she wants to assure that justice will be served in the case and action will be taken. The chief minister visited the family (of the ASI in Rohtak) on Wednesday, she said."We stand with the family," she said.

State DGP OP Singh, who was present at the cremation, consoled Sandeep's family, including his children.

ASI Sandeep's minor son, struggling to hold back his tears, said he was always proud of his father and added he would fulfil all his dreams. The deceased cop's daughter, who also spoke briefly with reporters in Julana, said, "My father gave his life in the fight against corruption, he is a martyr... I have faith that Haryana police and the government will support us."

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has assured the ASI's wife a job and that the studies of his children would be taken care of, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said after visiting the grieving family in Rohtak on Thursday. PTI

Hry DGP pays tribute to martyred police personnel



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16

Director General of Police (DGP) of Haryana, OP Singh, paid tribute to martyred police personnel by laying a wreath at the Police Memorial in Madhuban, Karnal, on Thursday. The Guard of Honour presented arms as a mark of respect. The DGP said, "A great police force always remembers its martyrs, its predecessors, and police families." DGP Singh clarified his initial priorities regarding the welfare and work culture of the police force. He stated that the Officers' Wives Association (OWA) will be strengthened to create a supportive, positive, and stress-relieving environment among police families. "The effort will be to improve the family environment, and the OWA should act as a 'shock absorber'in the stressful life of the police," he said. He mentioned that about 70,000 police personnel are working in the Haryana Police, and including their families, this number goes up to approximately four to five lakhs. "Our endeavor is to improve the living environment of police personnel—housing, facilities, counseling, and the support system will be organized," the DGP stated.

Approval accorded to connect Ambala Cantonment Industrial Area Pump House to power hotline: Anil Vij

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16

Haryana's Energy, Transport, and Labour Minister Anil Vij said that approval has been accorded to connect the pump house in Ambala Cantonment Industrial Area to a power hotline to ensure an uninterrupted electricity supply. The pump house will be connected with hotline shortly.

The Minister further informed that from November 15, the desilting and deepening work of the Tangri River will resume to enhance water flow and prevent flooding during the rainy season.

Chairing a joint review meeting with officials from various departments in Ambala Cantonment, Vij directed officers to expedite all ongoing development projects and ensure timely completion.

Highlighting key infrastructure priorities, Vij said that the tender for the Industrial Area boundary wall will be cleared in the upcoming High Power Purchase Committee meeting, after which the construction will commence to protect the area from waterlogging.

During the meeting, the Minister instructed the Irrigation Department to start desilting of the Tangri River from Chandpura to Kot Kachua by November 15, ensuring better drainage of rainwater. He also ordered the construction of three causeways on the Tangri River to begin and finish at the earliest. Additionally, instructions were given to install a water-lifting pump near Ramgarh Majra village to divert water into the Tangri River.

Haryana reviews Yamuna cleanliness measures ahead of Chhath Puja

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 16

Haryana is accelerating its commitment to a clean and safe Yamuna River ahead of the auspicious Chhath Puja festival. Following a high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi today, inter-departmental efforts have intensified, focusing on upgraded infrastructure, stringent pollution control and a sustained drive for ecological balance. The state's proactive measures aim to ensure a pristine and secure environment for the thousands of devotees who will perform rituals along the river and its tributaries.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of round-the-clock monitoring of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) across the Yamuna catchment area. He directed all Executive Engineers to personally oversee the functioning of these plants up to October 28, 2025, ensuring that no breakdown occurs and that all systems operate within prescribed environmental standards. Junior Engineers and Sub-Divisional Engineers have been deputed for continuous supervision, while the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has been instructed to form special flying squads to conduct surprise inspections during odd hours. He directed officials to finalize the complete list of STPs and CETPs, including those under construction, and to prepare a future action plan while ensuring strict adherence to project completion timelines.

Chief Secretary reaffirmed the state government's commitment to maintaining a clean and pollution-free Yamuna through inter-departmental coordination and strict monitoring. He stated that a clean river system is both an environmental necessity and a social responsibility, adding that Chhath Puja provides an occasion to renew collective efforts towards protecting nature and ensuring ecological balance.Rastogi instructed departments including PHED, HSVP, HSIIDC, GMDA, ULBD, and HSPCB to identify industries with the potential to discharge pollutants into the river or its drains and to maintain strict vigil over their operations. He directed that any manipulation of operational or monitoring data must be addressed immediately and firmly. The Chief Secretary also reviewed preparations to ensure a clean Yamuna during Chhath Puja celebrations.

HIMACHAL/J&K

Sunny weather across Himachal, clear skies expected till Diwali; tourist inflow increases

DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 16

Most parts of Himachal Pradesh witnessed bright sunshine on Thursday morning, with pleasant weather prevailing across the hills for the past one week. The clear skies and mild temperatures have drawn tourists from across the country, bringing renewed activity to popular hill stations.According to the meteorological department, the weather in the state is expected to remain dry and clear till Diwali. During this period, both day and night temperatures are likely to stay close to normal. Currently, the state's average minimum temperature is 0.6°C above normal, while the maximum temperature remains within the normal range.During the past 24 hours, a slight drop in maximum temperatures was recorded in Shimla, Kalpa and Reckong Peo. Reckong Peo's maximum temperature fell by 3.4°C to 24.0°C, while Kalpa recorded a decline of 3.0°C to 20.8°C. Shimla's temperature dropped by 1.4°C, settling at 21.0°C.

The state's highest maximum temperature was recorded in Una at 31.7°C, followed closely by Hamirpur at 31.2°C and Bilaspur at 29.8°C. In the hill stations, Shimla recorded a maximum temperature of 21.0°C and a minimum of 11.4°C, while Dharamsala registered 26.1°C and 11.4°C, respectively. Kalpa in Kinnaur remained among the cooler areas with a high of 20.8°C and a low of 5.5°C. Manali recorded a maximum of 22.0°C and a minimum of 7.9°C. PTI

Not a single promise fulfilled in 365 days: BJP castigates Omar Abdullah

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16



The BJP on Thursday castigated J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as his government completed its first year in office, saying that he (Omar Abdullah) has not fulfilled a single promise which the National Conference (NC) had mentioned in their election manifesto.

"Omar Abdullah has forgotten all the promises he made in his manifesto. It has been a full year since his government came to power, and not one commitment made to the people has been honoured," Tarun Chugh told IANS.

Chugh added that 20 per cent of his tenure has already passed, while he had promised to provide employment to lakhs of youth and assured that the Youth Employment Act would be introduced within three months.

"Instead of reducing unemployment, the queues for jobs are only getting longer. Your government has completely failed to deliver on employment," he added.

Chugh further claimed that all sections of society, including farmers and the poor, are deeply dissatisfied with the performance of the government.

"When will these promises be fulfilled? Poor families are unhappy. Whatever you promised remains unfulfilled. People are burdened by high electricity rates. The government has failed on all fronts. It feels as though there is no functioning government at all. The entire Abdullah administration is operating like an inexperienced, trial-run government. Jammu and Kashmir is still waiting for the promises in your manifesto to become reality. Not a single one has been delivered in the past 365 days," Chugh said. IANS

Two held with posters of banned terror outfit in J&K's Baramulla

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16

The J&K Police said on Thursday that they have arrested two persons with posters of the banned terrorist outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF), during checking in Budran Magam area of Baramulla district.

Police said that the two persons were first detained during a check at 'Naka' (Checkpost) in Budran Magam, and posters belonging to the banned organisation were found in their possession.

"The two had over 18 posters of the banned organisation," said the officials.

The duo was identified as Muzamil Ahmad Bhat and Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar -- both residents of Aripanthan Magam.

"A case has been registered and further investigation has been taken up," police said.

The J&K Police and the security forces have been carrying out aggressive anti-terrorist operations in the hinterland in the union territory against terrorists, their overground workers, sympathisers, drug smugglers/peddlers and those engaged in hawala money rackets.

In its revised strategy, the security forces are carrying out these operations in a coordinated manner to dismantle the complete ecosystem of terror in Jammu and Kashmir instead of merely focusing on the gun-wielding terrorists.

The Army guards the 740-km-long Line of Control (LoC) and the Border Security Force (BSF) guards the 240-km-long International Border in Jammu and Kashmir.

The LoC is situated in Baramulla, Kupwara, and Bandipora districts of the Valley and in parts of Jammu district, while the International Border is situated in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts of Jammu division.

On Wednesday, police in Srinagar district raided 18 locations belonging to terror sympathisers/associates in the city as part of continuing efforts to make the Valley terror-free.

Together with these operations, police are also attaching the properties of terrorists or those who created such assets from terrorism.

Such properties are attached by the police after obtaining proper permissions from the courts of law. Earlier, the police busted a major drug racket in Kashmir and confiscated 325 kg of contraband. IANS

Police in J&K's Budgam bust drug racket, recover 325 kg contraband

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16



Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district said on Thursday that they have busted a major drug racket in the Chadoora area and recovered 325 kg of contraband substances.

A police statement said, "Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking, Budgam Police have intensified their crackdown on narcotics and recovered a huge quantity of contraband substances in the Chadoora area."

Acting on specific information, Chadoora police station received a tip-off regarding three individuals -- Ghulam Rasool Wani, Mohd Altaf Wani and Gh. Nabi Wani (sons of Ghulam Mohd Wani), residents of Chitru Dangerpora -- who had allegedly concealed a large quantity of 'charas (hashish)'-like substance in their residential house. PTI

Centre approves ₹47 crore for municipal service centres

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 16

Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Vikramaditya Singh today said that the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had approved a grant of Rs 47.37 crore for setting up Municipal Shared Service Centres in Himachal Pradesh. He added that the funds had been approved as the result of the initiative and consistent efforts of the state government.

The minister said that these centres would help overcome major challenges such as a shortage of manpower, limited financial resources and the lack of technical support faced by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). "The state government is working to strengthen urban governance, promote digital service delivery and ensure efficient municipal administration to the people of the state. For this purpose, 15 Municipal Shared Service Centres will be established to serve 74 ULBs as per the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission," he added.

Vikramaditya said that these centres would act as one-stop facilitation hubs and offer citizens easy, transparent and uniform access to various municipal services such as the issuance of birth and death certificates, trade licences, pet registration, property tax payment, garbage bill collection and grievance redress similar to the functioning of Passport Seva Kendras.

He said that these centres would also serve as centralised units for accounting, payroll management and vendor payments for the members of the ULBs. "They will further provide doorstep services like tax and bill collection in smaller towns, ensuring convenience and efficiency for the public," he added. PTI

NEWSBRIEFS

Another police personnel shot dead while protecting polio team

ISLAMABAD: Another police constable, who was deployed for the security of polio vaccination team, was shot dead after unidentified assailants opened fire in the Kaahi area of Nizampur in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday, marking the second such incident in last three days, local media reported. Police identified the constable as Maqsood (35), a resident of Kheshgi. Police spokesperson said that the incident happened when female health workers were administering polio drops to children in a house, leading Pakistani daily Express Tribune reported. . **IANS**

Chittagong University suspends poll results amid allegations of voting irregularities

DHAKA: Bangladesh's Chittagong University on Thursday suspended the student union election results of two halls following allegations of voting irregularities and post-election unrest, shortly after the radical Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir, claimed victory, local media reported. The Shibir-backed candidates won key posts, including vice-president, general secretary, and 22 other positions in the Chittagong University Central Students' Union election (CUCSU). Election Commission member-secretary AKM Ariful Haque said that the results of Atish Dipankar Srigyan Hall and Suhrawardy Hall at Chittagong University would be recounted on Thursday afternoon and published later, without providing details on the reason for the recount, Bangladesh's leading newspaper, The Daily Star, reported. **IANS**

Police investigating 2 shooting and fire incidents in Sydney's western suburbs

SYDNEY: Sydney police are investigating two shooting and fire incidents that occurred in the city's western suburbs in the early hours of Thursday.Police in the state of New South Wales (NSW) said in a statement that emergency services were called to reports of a fire in Cabramatta, 26 km west of central Sydney, at around 12:45 a.m. local time on Thursday, Xinhua News Agency reported. On arrival at the scene, officers found a house and vehicle both alight. Both fires were extinguished, but the house and car sustained significant damage. Police officers were told that a number of gunshots had been heard, and subsequently found bullet casings at the scene. **IANS**

Pakistani forces forcibly disappear three civilians in Balochistan

QUETTA: Several human rights organisations on Wednesday raised grave concerns after three Baloch civilians were forcibly disappeared by Pakistani forces in Balochistan. The incident underscores the ongoing cycle of persecution amid an escalating wave of enforced disappearances across the province. Paank, the Baloch National Movement's Human Rights Department, mentioned that on September 30, Pakistan's Frontier Corps (FC) personnel forcibly disappeared two residents from Zehri Bhapaw region of Khuzdar district in Balochistan. **IANS**

US judge blocks Trump administration from firing federal workers during government shutdown

CALIFORNIA, OCTOBER 16



A US federal judge has temporarily barred the Trump administration from dismissing federal employees amid the ongoing government shutdown.

"The activities that are being undertaken here are contrary to the laws," Susan Yvonne Illston, judge of the US District Court for the Northern District of California, said on Wednesday (local time) when she issued the temporary restraining order.

The injunction came a few days after the administration sent reduction-in-force notices to over 4,000 federal workers. Two major unions representing government employees petitioned to halt the layoffs, reports Xinhua news agency.

Illston stated that the administration had "taken advantage of the lapse in government spending and government functioning," expressing confidence that the unions could prove the government's actions were unlawful.

The Trump administration had warned that it intended to cut jobs during the shutdown, and US President Donald Trump repeatedly claimed that the reductions targeted

"Democrat agencies" or programs.

Earlier, White House budget director Russell Vought said he expected that "north of 10,000" federal positions would be cut because of the shutdown.

Illston's order was issued on the 15th day of the shutdown, just before the Senate once again failed -- for the ninth time -- to pass a temporary funding bill that would reopen the government.

Democracy Forward, an advocacy organisation representing the unions, welcomed the judge's order.

The organisation's CEO, Skye Perryman, said the president seems to think his government shutdown is distracting people from the harmful and lawless actions of his administration, but the American people are holding him accountable, including in the courts. **IANS**

Trump says he has authorised CIA to conduct covert operations in Venezuela

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 16

US President Donald Trump has said he has authorised the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to conduct covert operations in Venezuela, a move that was decried by Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Wednesday (local time), Trump accused Caracas of releasing prisoners and mental patients to illegally cross into the United States and of smuggling large volumes of narcotics. **IANS**

Norway to provide more support for Ukraine via NATO initiative

OSLO, OCTOBER 16



Norway aims to provide 2 billion Norwegian kroner (198 million US dollars) to a NATO-coordinated aid package for Ukraine, the Norwegian government said in a press release.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said the Nordic country is joining a group of European countries to fund a package that will secure defence equipment for Ukraine, reports Xinhua news agency.

Several European countries are coordinating contributions under the new US-led initiative -- Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List (PURL) -- a program through which NATO allies fund military assistance for Ukraine drawn directly from the US weapon stockpiles.

Norway has previously contributed 1.5 billion Norwegian kroner to an earlier PURL package. The PURL initiative was officially launched on July 14 by US President Donald Trump and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte. (1 Norwegian krone = 0.099 US dollar)Earlier, on October 13, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with visiting European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas to discuss EU support for Ukraine, according to the presidential press service.

The two sides addressed recent Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure and the steps needed to strengthen the country's energy resilience. Kallas noted that European specialists are currently assessing the type of assistance Ukraine requires to restore its energy system.

The meeting also covered defence support for Ukraine, the use of frozen Russian assets, and new EU sanctions against Russia.

During a press conference after the talks with Kallas, Zelensky announced plans to meet US President Donald Trump in Washington on Friday, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported. **IANS**

Pakistan orders Afghan migrants to leave Quetta within one week

KABUL, OCTOBER 16



The Pakistani authorities on Thursday ordered Afghan migrants to leave their homes and shops in Quetta within a week, warning action against those who stay there illegally.

Local media reports quoted Deputy Commissioner Mansoor Ahmed as saying that homeowners and shopkeepers who rent their properties to Afghan nationals have been directed to clear them within seven days. Local officials said enforcement teams will start inspecting the properties after the deadline expires, leading Afghan news agency Khaama Press reported.Pakistani authorities have warned property owners of fines and arrests if they do not follow the order. The action has been taken as part of an ongoing crackdown on Afghan migrants who do not have legal documents to stay in Pakistan.

Pakistani authorities' order comes after violent clashes erupted between Pakistani forces and Taliban fighters along the Spin Boldak border crossing on Wednesday. Later in the day, Pakistan and Afghanistan announced that both countries have agreed to a 48-hour ceasefire, effective 5.30 PM Kabul time Wednesday. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said that the ceasefire has been reached after a request made by the Pakistani side.

Rights groups have said that the action against Afghan migrants coincides with increased political and military tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, resulting in rising deportations and harassment.

Meanwhile, Afghan refugees in Pakistan have said that police harassment, arrests and evictions have increased after escalating border tensions between the two nations, causing fear and uncertainty among thousands of displaced families.

Speaking to Radio Azadi, Rahimullah, a former Afghan army officer living in Rawalpindi with his family, said that life has become difficult after clashes erupted between forces of two nations at the border. He said police in Pakistan has warned property owners not to rent houses to Afghans without valid visas, Afghanistan's leading news agency Khaama Press reported on Wednesday.

"Last night my landlord told me to vacate the house because we don't have visas." Ramiullah said, "Police patrols have increased, and landlords are forcing Afghans out everywhere."

Videos that have surfaced on social media, reportedly from Quetta, show Pakistani police personnel deploying trucks to arrest Afghan migrants. Residents in Hazara Town said that police were carrying out door-to-door searches, inspecting shops and homes and arresting people who do not have legal documents.

Tayeba Hussaini, a resident of Quetta, said the situation was "worse than what is seen online." She said that authorities had blocked roads and were arresting any person who is suspected of being an undocumented Afghan, Khaama Press reported, citing Radio Azadi.

Afghan refugees have requested Pakistani authorities and the United Nations to stop the pressure and extend their visa. Many feared about deportation or detention if they do not present valid documents. **IANS**

Israeli defence minister orders military to prepare plan to resume assault in Gaza if ceasefire collapses

TEL AVIV, OCTOBER 16



Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz has warned that if Hamas does not demilitarise and return all bodies of hostages it holds, Israel will return to fighting.

The threat came on the sixth day of a fragile ceasefire, as Hamas handed over the remains of two more hostages on Wednesday (local time) and said they were the last bodies in its custody.

In a statement, Katz said: "If Hamas refuses to comply with the agreement, Israel, in coordination with the United States, will return to fighting and act to achieve the absolute defeat of Hamas, alter the situation in Gaza and attain all the objectives of the war."

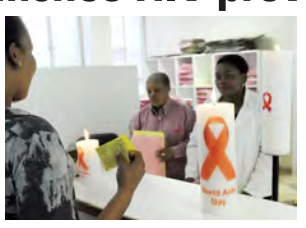
In a meeting earlier on Wednesday with the chief of staff and senior military officers, Katz instructed the military to prepare "a comprehensive plan to defeat Hamas" should Israel decide to resume its campaign in Gaza. He said the plan was to be drafted should Hamas "refuse to implement (US President Donald) Trump's plan and fighting needs to be renewed."

Katz added that, under Trump's plan,

Hamas is required to return all bodies of deceased hostages in its custody and disarm, reports Xinhua news agency. **IANS**

South Africa launches HIV prevention injection

JOHANNESBURG, OCTOBER 16



South Africa has taken a bold step in the fight against HIV/AIDS with the introduction of a groundbreaking long-acting injectable drug, Lenacapavir, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi has announced.Speaking at an event held in Johannesburg, Motsoaledi described the rollout of Lenacapavir as a "pivotal moment" for the country, noting that the injection would significantly strengthen South Africa's HIV prevention strategy.

He highlighted the progress the country has made over the past two decades in combating some of the highest HIV infection rates in the world, with about eight million people currently living with the virus.

He said this new development further strengthens the ongoing fight and builds on years of progress in prevention and treatment, reports Xinhua news agency."South Africa has secured an initial allocation of Lenacapavir through a generous Global Fund grant, but this will only cover a fraction of the total need in the first couple of years.

Specifically, the Global Fund's catalytic investment of about 29 million US dollars will provide approximately 456,000 Lenacapavir initiations over two years, translating into 912,000 doses," Motsoaledi noted.According to the minister, 149,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in 2023, with women and adolescent girls remaining the most affected.

He noted that the injection, administered twice a year, has the potential to address persistent challenges in HIV prevention and is likely to improve adherence among high-risk groups. **IANS**

Lula says Brazil, US to hold meeting to discuss Trump's new tariffs

RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 16

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has said that Brazil and the United States will hold their formal bilateral meeting on Thursday to discuss additional tariffs imposed by Washington on Brazilian products. The meeting on Wednesday (local time) follows a virtual conversation earlier this month between Lula and US President Donald Trump."Tomorrow we'll have the negotiation talks," Lula said during an event in Rio de Janeiro.Instead of chemistry, what emerged between us was petrochemistry," he said, referring to Trump's previous comment about their "excellent chemistry" after a brief encounter at the UN General Assembly in September.Finance Minister Fernando Haddad said Brazil will present strong economic arguments to reverse the 50 per cent tariff imposed by the United States on nearly 4,000 Brazilian products since August, reports Xinhua news agency.

Earlier on October 9, Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira held a phone conversation with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to discuss strengthening economic ties between the two countries. **IANS**

Slovenia warns of fragile Gaza ceasefire, calls for sustained peace efforts

LJUBLJANA, OCTOBER 16

Slovenian Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon said that the current ceasefire in Gaza remains fragile and warned of complex challenges ahead in implementing the next phase of the peace plan.

Speaking before the parliamentary Foreign Policy Committee, Fajon voiced concern over the "fragile situation on the ground," noting that humanitarian aid entering the war-torn Gaza Strip remains insufficient.She said a number of key issues still need to be resolved, including questions of governance and reconstruction in Gaza, reports Xinhua news agency.

"Slovenia remains active and committed to finding a political solution that would establish a permanent ceasefire in the Middle East and peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians," Fajon said.

She emphasised that efforts should include the establishment of a Palestinian state in line with the two-state solution, highlighting the importance of the United Nations in building a stable political framework for Palestinian governance, as well as the European Union's (EU) role in supporting the process.

Meanwhile, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz warned on Wednesday that if Hamas does not demilitarise and return all bodies of hostages it holds, Israel will return to fighting.The threat came on the sixth day of a fragile ceasefire, as Hamas handed over the remains of two more hostages and said they were the last bodies in its custody.

In a statement, Katz said: "If Hamas refuses to comply with the agreement, Israel, in coordination with the United States, will return to fighting and act to achieve the absolute defeat of Hamas, alter the situation in Gaza and attain all the objectives of the war." **IANS**

Russian gas deliveries to Budapest hit new record: Hungarian FM

BUDAPEST, OCTOBER 16

Russian natural gas deliveries to Hungary have reached a new record this year, exceeding 6 billion cubic metres so far, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said in a post on Facebook. He said the volume amounts to more than 21 million cubic meters per day and is "critical for Hungary's energy security."

Szijjarto reiterated that while Hungary supports energy diversification through multiple sources and routes, it opposes shutting down "well-functioning and reliable supply lines."

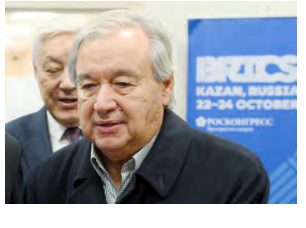
The European Union is pushing ahead with a strategy to phase out its dependence on Russian energy.

In June, the European Commission adopted a legislative proposal to gradually end imports of Russian gas and oil by the end of 2027, reports Xinhua news agency.Hungary and Slovakia have expressed strong reservations about the plan, warning that rapid cuts could endanger their energy security and economic stability.

Meanwhile, on the other hand, Norway aims to provide 2 billion Norwegian kroner (198 million US dollars) to a NATO-coordinated aid package for Ukraine, the Norwegian government has announced. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said the Nordic country is joining a group of European countries to fund a package that will secure defence equipment for Ukraine, reports Xinhua news agency.Several European countries are coordinating contributions under the new US-led initiative -- Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List (PURL) -- a program through which NATO allies fund military assistance for Ukraine drawn directly from the US weapon stockpiles. **IANS**

UN humanitarian action on brink of collapse, warns Guterres

EL FASHER, OCTOBER 16



The United Nations' humanitarian action is on the brink of collapse, with needs higher than ever and funding for the UN system's humanitarian operations shrinking, according to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

In his remarks to the UN General Assembly on the UN80 Initiative on Wednesday (local time), Guterres said: "Now is the time for bold, systemic change, building on the Humanitarian Reset: to deliver faster, at lower cost and with greater reliability to the millions of people whose lives depend on us in moments of crisis."With this goal in mind, the UN chief said, the United Nations has established a New Humanitarian Compact between UN humanitarian agencies -- a six-point blueprint to deliver better, restore trust in multilateral action and maximise the impact of every dollar."The Compact will bring the UN system together in a new Collaborative Humanitarian Diplomacy Initiative -- fostering coordinated negotiation and unified messaging, so that we speak and act as one for those in greatest need," he said.

Guterres highlighted the measures to be taken, including cutting coordination bureaucracy by simplifying humanitarian response plans, meetings and structures; integrating the supply chains of the principal humanitarian agencies, enabling more cost-effective procurement, pooled freight and shared logistics at global and country levels; and proposing to scale up the use of common services, from office space to fleets and security arrangements."Everything that is specific to the activity of an agency should be developed by the agency, but everything that is common should be done together with a larger increase of efficiency and a meaningful reduction of costs," he said. **IANS**

lifestyle



PARINEETI
shares her tip for staying hydrated during pregnancy

Parineeti Chopra, who is expecting her first child, shared how she stays hydrated during pregnancy.

Taking to her Instagram stories, the mom-to-be shared a candid video of herself where she is seen drinking lemon water. Clad in comfy white outfit, Parineet could be seen sitting on a couch, sipping lemon water while recording herself. She captioned the clip simply, "Nimbu pani peete huyi ladki." The Kesari actress also made a wink looking at the camera with lemon water in her hand. The text on the click read, "Cheers Bye."

Parineeti also dropped her other candid videos. In one of then, she could be seen making a goofy face while recording herself. The actress captioned it, "Bina matlab ki story dekh lo friends."

Earlier, Parineeti Chopra had given a glimpse into her cravings for Chinese food. She posted an image of vegetable rice with Chilli Paneer. Alongside the image, she wrote, "Ghar ka healthy Chinese food. No bad stuff!!!."

Meanwhile, the 'Ishaqzaade' actress recently marked a special milestone by celebrating her first Karwa Chauth with husband Raghav Chadha. Parineeti observed the traditional fast for her husband, whom she lovingly referred to as the love of her life. The photos offered a peek into their intimate celebration, including a sweet moment where Parineeti performed the customary ritual of viewing her husband through a sieve while Raghav held the pooja thali. Another candid snapshot captured the couple seated together, sharing a heartfelt moment that perfectly captured the warmth and significance of their first Karwa Chauth as soon-to-be parents.

Parineeti captioned the post, "My chaand, the love of my life.' Happy Karwa Chauth."

For the unversed, Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha announced in August that they are expecting their first child. The couple had tied the knot in a private ceremony in Udaipur, Rajasthan, in September 2023, surrounded by close family, friends, and notable political figures. Before making their relationship official, the duo had reportedly been dating for several months. **IANS**



Esha wishes 'mamma' Hema Malini on b'day: Dream Girl of the nation

On Hema Malini's 77th birthday on Thursday, actress Esha Deol penned a note for her "mamma" and called the veteran actress-politician the "Dream Girl of the nation."

Esha took to Instagram to share two photographs with her mother. In one of the images, she is seen planting a peck on her mother's cheek.

"Happy birthday to my Queen my mamma & The Dream Girl of the nation .... We love you (sic)," Esha wrote as the caption.

Hema Malini, who is one of the most successful leading actresses of Indian cinema, made her acting debut in 1963 with the Tamil film Idhu Sathiyam. She made her Hindi debut with Sapno Saudagar in 1968.

She was labelled as the "Dream Girl" after featuring in the 1977 film of the same name. Over a journey spanning more than six decades, Hema has featured in movies such as Seeta Aur Geeta, Tere Mere Sapne, Babul Ki Galiyaan, Haath Ki Safai, Dharmatma, Dillagi, and Sholay.

The actress was last seen in the 2020 film Shimla Mirchi, a romantic drama directed by Ramesh Sippy, starring Hema Malini, Rajkummar Rao, and Rakul Preet Singh.

On the personal front, Hema met her husband Dharmendra on the sets of Tum Haseen Main Jawaan in 1970. The film marked the beginning of their love story. They later married in 1980. The star couple have two children, Esha and Ahana Deol Vohra.

Talking about Esha, the actress was last seen onscreen in the film Tumko Meri Kasam, directed by Vikram Bhatt and inspired by the life of Dr. Ajay Murdia, the founder of Indira IVF. The film also features Anupam Kher, Ishwak Singh, and Adah Sharma.

Esha made her acting debut in the romantic thriller Koi Mere Dil Se Poochhe in 2002. She was later seen in films such as Aayutha Ezhuthu, Dhoom, Dus, Kaal, and the comedy No Entry. **IANS**

Farah
enjoys thrilling adventure at Niagara Falls during her Toronto trip



Filmmaker-dancer Farah Khan is making the most of her time in Toronto. She recently shared a video of herself indulging in some adventure sports at the breathtaking Niagara Falls.

Calling it a "must-visit" experience, Farah expressed her awe at the stunning new attraction by @niagaraparks, encouraging everyone to "fall in love" with the magical destination. On Thursday, the filmmaker took to her Instagram handle to share a video in which she can be seen enjoying adventure sports while soaking in the serene beauty around Niagara Falls.

Dressed casually and brimming with excitement, Farah appeared to be having a wonderful time as she experienced the thrill and tranquility of one of the world's most iconic natural wonders. Sharing her video, she wrote, "When in Toronto.. Niagara Falls is a must!! Be ready to be awed! @niagaraparks has a new attraction which is just magical! Cm "fall" in love @niagaracruises." Khan also added Ed Sheeran and Arijit Singh's trending song "Sapphire" as the background score for the music.

A few days ago, the 'Main Hoon Na' director attended the Diwali Festival of Lights celebrations in Toronto, where she received immense love and warmth from the local community. Expressing her gratitude, Farah shared her happiness and pride at being invited to launch the fireworks during the festivities.

Posting her photos, she wrote, "The most awesome #diwalifestivaloflights in Toronto! Got so much love n warmth from the community here! Kudos @rinkushahsuchak & @vrshah145 n their hardworking team for putting up this mammoth event! So happy n honored to launch the fireworks here thank u @alpareena for making my outfits."

Meanwhile, Farah Khan has expanded her creative horizon by venturing into the world of blogging and social media. **IANS**



Jennifer Lopez reveals
if she has ever been 'truly loved'

> "And they gave me what they had. They gave me all of it, every time. All the rings, all the things I could ever want. The houses, the rings, the marriage. All of it. But. Part of the issue was 'I didn't love myself' at the time".

Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez is opening up on her experience with true love. The 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' actress recently engaged with a wide-ranging conversation.

JLo spoke about love and relationships, and did give full credit to her former partners in terms of fulfillment of her materialistic needs. However, their emotions weren't quite right there in her perception, reports 'People' magazine. She appeared on 'Howard Stern Show', Stern, 71, asked JLo, 56, "Do you think you've truly been loved?"

After a pause, she replied, "No", adding that she has, though, experienced truly loving someone else. "What I learned, it's not that I'm not lovable, it's that they're not capable. They don't have it in them".

She went on to say, "And they gave me what they had. They gave me all of it, every time. All the rings, all the things I could ever want. The houses, the rings, the marriage. All of it. But. Part of the issue was 'I didn't love myself' at the time". As per 'People', JLo has been married and divorced four times, most recently with Ben Affleck. She shares two kids, 17-year-old twins Max and Emme, with ex-husband Marc Anthony.

"When I got divorced this last time, it was the best thing that ever happened to me. Because it really made me journey into, I mean, I had a religious coach, I had a therapist, a couple's therapist, an individual therapist, I had a coach to understand addiction. I had everything. I was like, 'I'm gonna f****** figure this s*** out if it kills me'".

She came to the understanding that "the core of the thing is you, it's nobody else". **IANS**

Julia Roberts says her daughter was inspired to give up her phone



Hollywood star Julia Roberts has talked about how the 1986 classic Stand by Me significantly impacted her daughter, Hazel, when she was younger.

Stand By Me, a coming-of-age movie directed by Rob Reiner, starring Jerry O'Connell, Wil Wheaton, River Phoenix, and Corey Feldman, is about a group of friends in 1959 who go in search of a dead body.

In an interview with The New York Times promoting her latest film, After the Hunt, Roberts said: "I think people don't realize how much they miss talking."

The actress and husband Danny Moder share 20-year-old twins Hazel and Phinnaeus as well as 18-year-old son Henry Daniel. **IANS**

NEWSBRIEFS

Amazon Pay launches UPI circle

CHANDIGARH: Amazon Pay announced multiple innovations at the Global Fintech Festival 2025 – UPI Circle extended to anyone in the family to do instant UPI payments, biometric authentication and an expansion of UPI payments to trusted smart devices.UPI Circle now enables primary UPI account holders to securely add family members and trusted contacts to pay instantly with UPI but with preset spending limits. Each added member would have their own UPI id or QR code, but don't need to operate bank accounts and instead can get access to fixed fund amounts approved by primary account holders. **BPE**

Two air conditioning designs receive honours at Red Dot Design Concept Awards 2025

CHANDIGARH: The Hitachi air conditioning design concepts 'airCloset' and 'airHive' earned recognition for integrating air conditioning into interior design elements. These two Hitachi air conditioning design concepts won the Red Dot Design Concept Awards 2025, including 'Best of the Best' award for 'airCloset' and Design Concept Award for 'airHive.' Rather than leaving HVAC idle between cycles, these award-winning concepts weave air conditioning into furniture and architectural features, keeping spaces functional and comfortable all year. **BPE**

Kotak Securities Founder and Non-Executive Director wishes customers and investors a very happy and prosperous Diwali

CHANDIGARH: In this Diwali message for Kotak Securities customers and investors, he shares what to expect from Samvat 2082. Samvat 2081 was a challenging year that gave muted returns to equity investors. Indian trendline of saver to investor continues at pace with significant flows into mutual funds and equities. Time for Indians to get out of comfort, convenience and complacency zones to build an India that is ready to take on challenges of the future. **BPE**

Autumn's favourite returns: Costa Coffee brings back the Maple Hazel Menu to India

LUDHIANA: After last year's incredible response, Costa Coffee, the coffee brand under The Coca-Cola Company, is bringing back its much-loved Maple Hazel Menu to India this autumn. This seasonal favourite has become a cozy indulgence, blending the comforting richness of hazelnut with the golden notes of maple, capturing the essence of autumn in every cup. Celebrating the spirit of autumn, Costa Coffee invites coffee lovers to savour three irresistible creations: the Maple Hazel Hot Latte, Iced Latte, and Frappe. **BPE**

Anoushka Shankar's 30-year celebration tour comes to India

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

Boost for 'Make in India, Make for World' vision as GRSE lays keel of first export MPV for Germany

KOLKATA, OCTOBER 16



In a step that aligns with the government's "Make in India, Make For the World" initiative, defence shipyard Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd laid the keel for the first vessel of Multipurpose Vessel (MPV) project being executed by it for Germany's Carsten Rehder Schiffsmakler and Reederei GmbH Co. KG in Kolkata on Thursday.

This project marks GRSE's first major export order for MPVs, highlighting the shipyard's expanding footprint in the global commercial shipbuilding market.

Cdr Shantanu Bose, IN (Retd), director (shipbuilding), GRSE, was present at the occasion where Jonas Meinhard, managing director of Carsten Rehder, was the chief guest.

"This milestone marks the beginning of a significant collaboration, combining innovation, precision, and craftsmanship to deliver a modern series of high-performance Multi Purpose Vessels under the CORAL 7500 DWT MPV series, a collaborative project between GRSE and Carsten Rehder, Germany," GRSE said in a statement.

The initial contract for four vessels was signed on June 22, 2024, followed by subsequent agreements bringing the total order to twelve vessels. The final contracts, including for the ninth to twelfth vessels, were signed on September 19, 2025.

Each MPV is designed with an overall length of 120 metres and a beam of 17 metres, with a draught of 5.85 metres.

With a capacity to carry 7,500 metric tonnes of cargo, these vessels are equipped with a single, large cargo hold designed for bulk, general and project cargoes.

An innovative feature is the capability to carry containers on hatch covers and multiple large windmill blades on deck – enhancing flexibility in cargo handling.

The project is being developed in close collaboration with German firms, including F.H. Bertling, ForestWave Navigation/ Schulte; Bruns, and Delft Shipping. Technical design expertise has been provided by M/s SEDS, in partnership with GRSE, and these ships shall be certified by the classification society DNV. **IANS**

70 pc Indian employers intend to hire freshers during festive period: Report

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16



As India enters the festive season, companies across sectors are increasing their hiring efforts as 70 per cent of employers have indicated strong intent to hire freshers during the festive period, a report said on Thursday. The hiring is not limited only to traditional frontline and delivery roles, but also to digitally enabled seasonal positions."Tech startups and e-commerce firms lead this surge with 88 per cent fresher hiring intent, underscoring that entry-level roles now demand digital readiness," TeamLease said in its report.Companies are considering digital skills as the core requirement for employability. Nearly 75.9 per cent of employers now mandate technical proficiency even for seasonal roles, the report noted.

Workers proficient in digital platforms, inventory systems, and AI-based order management are more likely to secure repeat contracts."Festive hiring is no longer about just filling seats; it's about finding talent that can navigate digital tools, platforms, and AI-enabled systems. The festive season creates unique spikes in demand, and workers with digital skills are best positioned to capitalise on these opportunities," said Shantanu Rooj, Founder and CEO, TeamLease EdTech.

Meanwhile, demand for gig and short-term workers is rising, driven by sectors like e-commerce, logistics, and customer support.

According to the report, tier 2 and 3 cities are seeing the fastest growth in digitally-enabled hiring. Beyond traditional festive jobs, employers are also hiring for prompt engineers, process automation analysts, and data marketing executives to manage AI-driven customer engagement and festive trend analysis, the report highlighted.

Additionally, two out of three festive gig workers view short-term roles as a pathway to permanent employment.Companies are investing in short-term training programs focused on E-commerce platform operation, AI tool literacy, customer service automation and digital process optimisation.The surge in digitally skilled festive hiring signals a permanent evolution in India's workforce structure. As technology reshapes even temporary employment, digital proficiency is no longer a differentiator; it's a baseline, the report said. **IANS**

Airbus vows deeper partnership with S Korea's aerospace sector

SEOUL, OCTOBER 16



European aerospace giant Airbus SE on Thursday vowed to further strengthen its partnership with South Korea, pledging expanded industrial cooperation and joint efforts for sustainable growth in the fields of aerospace and defence.

At a press conference held in Seoul ahead of the company's participation at the Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (ADEX) 2025 next week, Airbus Korea President Lee Hee-hwan highlighted the company's growing role in South Korea's aerospace ecosystem, reports Yonhap news agency."

Airbus and South Korea have built a trusted partnership over more than 50 years based on innovation and industrial excellence," Lee said. "South Korea is not just a customer but a strategic partner in shaping the future of the aerospace industry."

More than 160 Airbus commercial aircraft, 60 helicopters and 30 military transport planes are currently in service in Korea, according to the company.

At this year's ADEX, Airbus will showcase a wide lineup of systems, including the A350F freighter, the H225M and ACH160 helicopters, as well as the A330 MRTT+ defence platform, among others.

Lee stressed Airbus maintains broad partnerships with South Korea's government and private partners, including Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) Ltd. and Korean Air Co., which supply major components for Airbus' global projects.

He also addressed Airbus' plan to establish a research and training (R&T) center in South Korea, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the company's defence subsidiary and Seoul's industry ministry in May 2024.

"The R&T centre plan is still in the process of being further developed," he said. "Once the plans are more concrete, we aim to communicate them officially in the near future."

Asked about Airbus' competition with Boeing in the Korean market in light of Korean Air's US$36.2 billion deal signed August to purchase 103 Boeing aircraft, Lee underscored Airbus' strong relationship with the South Korean national carrier.

"We have already signed contracts with Korean Air for the latest A320 and A350 aircraft, with a significant number of orders placed," he said.

Lee added, "These models offer exceptional fuel efficiency and reduced carbon emissions. If successfully operated, we believe Airbus will continue to thrive in the South Korean market." **IANS**

Infosys Q2 net profit jumps 13 pc to ₹7,364 crore, announces ₹23 dividend

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 16



India IT bellwether Infosys' consolidated net profit for the second quarter of the current fiscal (Q2 FY26) stood at Rs 7,364 crore, up 13 per cent year-on-year (YoY), as per its exchange filing on Thursday. The IT giant had posted a net profit of Rs 6,506 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago (Q2 FY25).

The company's net profit rose around 5 per cent on a quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) basis, as well as from Rs 6,921 crore in the April-June quarter.Meanwhile, the N.R. Narayan Murthy-founded IT company reported a Rs 3,504 crore YoY rise in its operation from revenue for the July-September quarter at Rs 44,490 crore from Rs 40,986 crore.

The Bengaluru-based company had declared an interim dividend of Rs 23 per share for its investors, and the record date for the same will be October 27.

"The Board, at their meeting held on October 15-16, approved an interim dividend of Rs 23 per equity share, fixed October 27, 2025, as a record date and November 7, 2025, as a payout date," the exchange filing said. **IANS**

IMF chief hails India's 'very significant' reforms, says it 'substantially' fuels global growth

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 16



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Thursday that India has pursued "very significant reforms" in its economy and the country "substantially" contributes to global growth.While addressing a press conference on the sidelines of the annual IMF-World Bank meetings in Washington, Georgieva listed India's reform efforts in multiple sectors."

India is one of the fastest-growing economies, and given its size, it contributes to global growth substantially. India is where it is because it has pursued very significant reforms, tax reform, investing in infrastructure, digital infrastructure, but also road connectivity in the country, and that has injected this growth potential," she added.The IMF on Tuesday raised India's growth projection to 6.6 per cent, an upward swing of 0.2 percentage points, in its latest Global Economic Outlook report.

According to the report, India's strong growth in the first quarter of 2025 is "offsetting" the US tariff increase on its imports to the country.

"In India, growth is projected to be 6.6 per cent in 2025... Compared with the July WEO update, this is an upward revision for 2025, with carryover from a strong first quarter more than offsetting the increase in the US effective tariff rate on imports from India since July," the report said.The Indian economy grew at a faster rate of 7.8 per cent in its April-July quarter, beating all expectations. **IANS**

Equities beat gold in long-term returns, capital protection: Report



NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

Indian equities provided approximately 11.5 per cent annualised returns, compared to gold's returns of about 8–10 per cent, based on various rolling-period analyses from 1990 to 2025, a report said on Thursday.

A study by investment management firm OmniScience Capital revealed that Nifty50 has historically provided better average returns for holding periods of three years or more, along with a significantly higher likelihood of capital protection. The report said that there is a 98.1 per cent likelihood of principal protection in Nifty for holding periods of three years or more, in contrast to an 84 per cent probability for gold during the same timeframe.The firm said that investors must remain invested for approximately seven years to achieve a 99.3 per cent probability of capital protection for gold."Gold's role is best kept as a modest hedge, ideally not exceeding 10–20 per cent of a portfolio," OmniScience Capital President and Chief Portfolio Manager, Ashwini Shami, said.The report cited data showing that gold prices can significantly spike, especially during a macroeconomic crisis, and then crash significantly once the crisis is over. The percentage fall post the crisis ranged from (-) 17 per cent to (-) 44 per cent.Comparing the S&P 500 against global gold prices, the benchmark index returned about 9.4 per cent annually over the last 40 years, against 5 per cent for gold. **IANS**

Bayer launches Mateno More

JALANDHAR: Bayer announced the launch of Mateno More, a breakthrough herbicide designed to empower wheat farmers in India with superior weed control. Formulated with three powerful active ingredients from distinct modes of action, Mateno Moreis the first-of-its-kind three-way mixture in India, offering unmatched efficacy against tough and resistant weeds, including Phalaris minor, Rumex, and Chenopodium. **BPE**

Samsung Electronics ranks 5th in Global Brands for sixth consecutive year

CHANDIGARH: Samsung Electronics on Thursday announced it has been recognized by Interbrand, a global brand consultancy, as the 5th-ranked global brand for the sixth year in a row. Interbrand releases its list of 'Best Global Brands' each year. For this year's list, Samsung recorded a brand value of $90.5 billion, upholding its position as the only Asian company to remain in the global top five since 2020. "Through AI innovation and open collaboration, Samsung has worked to ensure that more customers can experience AI in their daily lives," said Won-Jin Lee, President and Head of Global Marketing Office at Samsung Electronics." **BPE**

Newstone hosts vibrant Diwali Mela - Aangan 2025

SONEPAT: Newstone successfully hosted Aangan 2025 - Diwali Mela Edition on October 12 at Newstone Park, Sector 63, Kundli, Sonepat, creating an unforgettable evening filled with joy, light, and community spirit. The event brought together residents, families, and guests for an afternoon celebrating the essence of Diwali - togetherness, prosperity, and festive harmony. The park was beautifully transformed into a vibrant celebration space - glowing with diyas, colorful decor, and the laughter of families enjoying the festivities together. **BPE**

Make your Diwali extra special with Amazon Grocery's festive selection

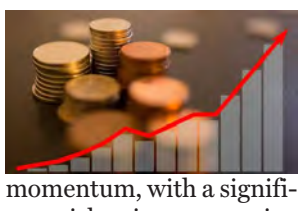
CHANDIGARH: The Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025, which started on September 22, is ushering in a season of joy and abundance for customers across India. Amazon Grocery is seeing strong growth across essentials, festive gifting, and gourmet indulgences, reflecting how customers are blending health-conscious choices with traditional favorites. Premium fruits such as berries and avocados grew 3X and 2X respectively, while nuts have surged 21X, underscoring the rise of premium and wellness-led gifting. **BPE**

Nissan Motor announces expansion of its CNG retrofitment programme

CHANDIGARH: Nissan Motor India on Thursday announced the expansion of its CNG retrofitment program, introducing government-approved CNG rtrofitment for the New Nissan Magnite BR10 EZ-Shift (AMT). Following the strong customer response to the retrofitment program launched earlier this year for the New Nissan Magnite BR10 Manual Transmission, this latest development marks another milestone in Nissan's commitment to accessible, efficient, and customer-centric mobility solutions. **BPE**

Nifty earnings expected to grow 16 pc in FY27: Report

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16



The average earnings from Nifty 50 companies are expected to grow 8 per cent in FY26 and 16 per cent in FY27, driven by policy measures, macro resilience, and a maturing domestic investor base, a report said on Thursday.

As India's markets enter Samvat 2082, the Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) report said that it is positive on BFSI, capital markets, consumption, manufacturing, and digital sectors.The broking firm noted policy measures that increased liquidity and demand, such as a 100-basis-point repo cut, a 150-basis-point CRR reduction, Rs 1 lakh crore in income tax relief, GST 2.0 reforms, and reduced inflation, have improved consumer sentiment."We believe this marks the beginning of a turnaround in India's domestic growth momentum, with a significant pickup in consumption paving the way for a robust revival in the private capex cycle. This, along with the improving earnings trajectory, should lend support to Indian equities," the report said.Motilal Oswal said that these tailwinds support a forecast for a shift from single-digit earnings growth to sustainable double-digit growth in the second half of FY26.

"The underlying fundamentals have strengthened – supported by a 7.8 per cent GDP growth in Q1FY26, easing inflation at 1.5 per cent in September 2025 compared to 5.5 per cent in September 2024, and a supportive policy environment that continues to boost investor confidence," it said. **IANS**

SPORTS

RAVI SHASTRI
"INDIA IS A MASSIVE COUNTRY, NOT EVERYONE GETS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY, NOT EVERYONE CAN MAKE IT. SO WHY STOP A GUY (FROM PLAYING IN BIG BASH LEAGUE) IF HE CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE TEST SIDE, GET A LEVEL C OR LEVEL D CONTRACT?"

Team India arrives in Perth for ODI series against Australia

PERTH, OCTOBER 16





Prominent members of the Indian ODI team, including star batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, arrived here early on Thursday for a three-match series against Australia starting on October 19.

Apart from Kohli, Rohit and captain Shubman Gill, the others to land here after a delayed flight were K L Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, and Nitish Kumar Reddy along with some members of the support staff.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir, spinner Kuldeep Yadav, all-rounder Axar Patel and the rest of the support staff including bowling coach Morne Morkel joined them later in the day, having taken an evening flight from Delhi on Wednesday.

The series will begin here on Sunday before moving to Adelaide (October 23), and Sydney (October 25). It will be followed by a five-match T20 International series starting October 29.

The one-dayers have generated a buzz as it is Rohit and Kohli's first international outing after India's Champions Trophy triumph in March. The future of the two stalwarts has become a subject of intense speculation especially after Gill's elevation to ODI captaincy.

Both of them have already retired from Tests and T20 Internationals but are believed to be keen on continuing at least till the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Gill, who also leads the Test side, has been supportive of the idea in his media interactions since taking over the ODI reins.

"The experience that both of them have and the matches that they have won for India, there are very few players who have won so many matches for India... players who have such skills and qualities with this experience are very few," Gill said.

"There are very few players in the world who have so much skill, quality and experience. So, in that sense, yes," he had stated about the duo's 2027 prospects during a recent Test series win over the West Indies at home. PTI

Kohli, Rohit sweat it out during team's training in Perth

PERTH, OCTOBER 16

Senior stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma hit the ground running soon after their arrival here and spent a considerable time in the nets during the Indian team's first training session ahead of the ODI series against Australia beginning here on Sunday.

All eyes are on Rohit and Kohli, who last played for India in the Champions Trophy in February-March, and are available only in the 50-over format.

Both the former India captains batted for close to 30 minutes in the nets. The Indian team arrived here in two batches over Wednesday and Thursday for the white-ball tour comprising three ODIs and five T20s, starting October 29.

Rohit was also seen having a long chat with head coach Gautam Gambhir after his time in the nets.

Both Kohli and Rohit retired from Tests earlier this year and had called time on their India T20 career after winning the World Cup in Barbados last year.

It could well be the last time that the two ODI greats play Down Under.

Their participation in the 2027 World Cup is also not a given with a lot depending on their form and fitness at the time. However, new captain Shubman Gill has backed the two superstars given their wealth of experience.

Post the net session, Kohli was seen having a chat with bowling coach Morne Morkel which was followed by a light moment with pacer Arshdeep Singh.

The team also has a training session lined up on Friday and Saturday. PTI

Abhishek Sharma, Smriti Mandhana named ICC Player of the Month





DUBAI, OCTOBER 16

Star India openers Abhishek Sharma and Smriti Mandhana on Thursday won the ICC Player of the Month awards for September following their superlative performance in the Asia Cup and women's ODI series against Australia respectively.

Abhishek accumulated 314 runs in seven matches during the period at an average of 44.85 and an outstanding strike-rate of 200.

The 25-year-old, who was adjudged the player of the tournament in the Asia Cup, also achieved the highest rating points ever in the T20I batting rankings.

He won ahead of teammate Kuldeep Yadav and Zimbabwe's Brian Bennett.

"It feels great to win this ICC award and I am happy that it has come for some important matches that I could help win. I am proud to be part of a team that can pull off victories from the most difficult of situations. Our recent track record in T20Is reflects our outstanding team culture and positive mindset," Abhishek said.

Mandhana, on the other hand, was outstanding in the home ODI series against Australia, scoring 58, 117 and 125 in the three matches.

The Indian women's team vice-captain scored 308 runs in four ODIs during the period at an average of 77 and a strike rate of 135.68.

Mandhana, who is in the midst of India's campaign in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, struck the fastest century by an India batter during the Australia series when she reached the three-figure mark off just 50 deliveries in the third match.

South Africa's Tazmin Brits and Pakistan's Sidra Amin were the others in the running for the award.

"A recognition like this pushes me to keep growing and evolving as a player. My aim has always been to deliver my best and win matches for the team," Mandhana said. PTI

'My life turned on its head the day Yuvraj left'

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 16



Former cricketer Yograj Singh has opened up about the emotional turmoil he faced after his son Yuvraj Singh and ex-wife Shabnam walked out of his life, saying that moment changed him forever.

Speaking to Untold Punjab, Yograj admitted that his life spiraled out of control after his family left.

'I am a sinner, I have made many mistakes in my life. I have been suffering all along, but the day Yuvi and his mother left, my life turned on its head. But it was destined to happen. I feel that I was trained by God,' he said.

He recalled the difficult days that followed, when he was completely alone. 'There were days when I had no food, it was raining, I had nowhere to go. Nobody cared for me, everyone had turned their back. People thought I wouldn't survive,' Yograj said, adding that his faith kept him going.

'I didn't have 5 rupees in my pocket when I was offered Rs 5 lakh for Bhaag Milkha Bhaag.'

Yograj also revealed that he was in jail when Yuvraj made his debut for India, but he had always been determined to turn his son into a legend.

In a separate interview with SMTV, Yograj spoke of his isolation and the sacrifices he made for his son's cricketing journey.

'Everything fell apart because of my burning desire for vengeance,' he said, claiming he had been wronged in his own career and wanted to take revenge through Yuvraj's success. 'I have no sons or daughters; God is my only family now,' Yograj said added. AGENCIES

Competing in overseas leagues will provide Indian players with terrific exposure: Shastri

SYDNEY, OCTOBER 16



Former India head coach Ravi Shastri feels more Indian players should be allowed to participate in foreign leagues, saying that playing alongside international stars overseas would give youngsters "terrific" exposure and broaden their cricketing horizons.

At present, the BCCI bars active Indian players from featuring in overseas T20 leagues. Indian cricketers can only play abroad after retiring from all forms of domestic and international cricket and securing a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the board.

Seasoned off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin recently became the first high-profile Indian cricketer to join the BBL, signing with Sydney Thunder for the upcoming season.

"India is a massive country, not everyone gets an opportunity to play, not everyone can make it. So why stop a guy (from playing in Big Bash League) if he can't make it to the Test side, get a level C or level D contract?" Shastri said on the Willow Talk podcast.

"That exposure will help him when he comes back like the IPL has helped so many young players as they rub shoulders with top class players," he added.

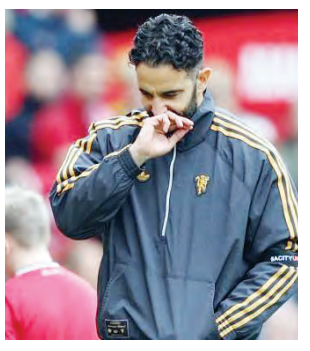
The 63-year-old, who coached India from 2017 and 2021, feels besides sharing the dressing room with an array international cricketers, the players will also learn a lot from the games' legends, who may be a part of the coaching staff.

"They learn to handle pressure. Additionally, they get to rub shoulders with big international stars like (Ricky) Ponting and (Stephen) Fleming and international players," he added.

"It's an education - and for me, there's no better education than going overseas. That exposure is terrific, not just in cricketing terms but in understanding different cultures and methods. You learn so many things - a West Indian training method will be different from an Australian one," he added. PTI

Under-fire Amorim faces stern Anfield test as EPL resumes

LIVERPOOL, OCTOBER 16



Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim would have enjoyed some relative calm during the international break after backing from club co-owner Jim Ratcliffe but will find himself in the Premier League maelstrom once again at Liverpool on Sunday.

Ratcliffe suggested that the under-pressure Amorim should be given the full three years of his contract to turn around United's fortunes despite scant evidence so far suggesting the Portuguese is up to the task.

Victory against the out-of-form reigning champions would mean back-to-back Premier League wins for the first time since Amorim took over nearly a year ago.

A meltdown in the Anfield cauldron, however, would call into question the faith of Ratcliffe who appointed former Sporting coach Amorim in the wake of Erik ten Hag's sacking but who has been rewarded with only 10 wins in 34 Premier League games.

Ratcliffe claimed Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta had a similarly bad start before turning them into consistent title contenders a comparison that raised eyebrows.

"I understand the sentiment but if you go through the facts, I don't think it's the right person to draw a comparison with," United's former multiple title-winning defender Rio Ferdinand said on his podcast Rio Ferdinand Presents. "With Amorim, you look at him and there isn't as much consistency or positives that are coming out of it. I just want to see some consistency of results coming through."

Last season United managed a creditable 2-2 draw at Liverpool -- a rare positive in a season of mediocrity.

Amorim was backed heavily in the summer and while there have been signs of an improvement, they are 10th in the table and still struggling to gain any momentum.

While new signings Bryan Mbeumo and Benjamin Sesko have slotted in well, Matheus Cunha is yet to make the impact that was expected after his arrival from Wolverhampton Wanderers and he is yet to score or assist in the Premier League.

"I'm trying as much as possible to adapt, to learn... It's only been two months, but it feels like I've been here for a long time because of the club's current situation," Cunha said while on international duty with Brazil. He is not the only big-money signing struggling to get up to speed with Liverpool's Florian Wirtz also yet to shine.

The 22-year-old playmaker, who cost an upfront 100 million pounds ($134 million) from Bayer Leverkusen, also has no goals and no assists so far in the Premier League and did not even make the starting line-up in the away defeat to Chelsea.

Wirtz's form will be a worry for Liverpool manager Arne Slot who, after back-to-back Premier League defeats and a Champions League loss sandwiched in between, is experiencing his worst slump since taking over at Anfield.

Liverpool now trail Arsenal by a point and certainly need some inspiration from a player who registered 57 goals and 65 assists in 197 appearances for Leverkusen.

Arsenal are away at Fulham in Saturday's early evening game when victory would allow them to open a four-point gap over Liverpool, although they might not start that game at the top. AGENCIES

World No 1 faces backlash for playing lucrative event

PARIS, OCTOBER 16



World number one Carlos Alcaraz has defended his decision to play in the lucrative Six Kings Slam exhibition event in Saudi Arabia after previously saying he would consider skipping ATP Tour events to prioritise his health due to a crowded schedule.

The men's and women's circuits, which run across 11 months with extended formats at several tournaments, have come under fresh scrutiny during the 'Asian swing', where extreme heat and humidity contributed to a spate of injuries and withdrawals.

The Professional Tennis Players' Association filed a lawsuit against the sport's governing bodies in March, calling the scheduling situation "unsustainable".

After winning the Tokyo title last month despite playing with an ankle injury, Alcaraz withdrew from the next event in Shanghai, saying he needed time to recover.

His decision to play in the Six Kings Slam, which offers a reported $1.5 million in appearance money with a winner's cheque of $6 million, stoked plenty of criticism from fans.

"It's a different format, different situation playing exhibitions than official tournaments, 15-16 days in row, having such a high focus and demanding physically," six-time Grand Slam winner Alcaraz said.

> **"It's a different format, different situation playing exhibitions than official tournaments, 15-16 days in row, having such a high focus and demanding physically."**

"We're just having fun for one or two days and playing some tennis, and that's great, and why we choose the exhibitions."

Last year's champion Jannik Sinner is also playing in the Riyadh exhibition event following the world number two's early exit in Shanghai due to cramp.

"I understand (the criticism), but sometimes people don't understand us, our opinions," Alcaraz added. "It's not really demanding mentally (compared to) when we're having such long events like two weeks or two and a half weeks."

Alcaraz, who received a bye to the semi-finals and takes on Taylor Fritz later on Thursday, said his ankle had still not fully recovered. "I don't feel 100% and the doubts are there when I'm moving on court, but it has improved a lot and I'm going to compete and perform well in the Six Kings Slam," he said. AGENCIES

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