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CHANDIGARH > FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025 | RNI.No. PUNENG/2018/76070 | VOLUME 8, ISSUE 52 | ₹3.00

INDIAN DOCTORS IN STANFORD LIST OF WORLD'S TOP 2 PC SCIENTISTS A PROUD MOMENT: MINISTER P06

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$8 billion package to rejuvenate India's maritime ecosystem is a signal of ambition: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday highlighted that the country's growing and resilient industrial base with the 'Make in India' impetus and efforts to modernise, mechanise and digitise ports, along the busy east-west trade route, have provided the country with a unique advantage.

The Prime Minister, in a post on X social media platform, referred to an article by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal which states that the government's $8 billion package to rejuvenate India's shipbuilding and maritime ecosystem is not a routine budget line, but a signal of ambition."

The minister has underlined that the shipping industry once dismissed as a laggard in the energy transition, is now confronting a point of inflexion. Heeding to the call for climate action, global momentum to tighten emissions standards have gathered speed, while financiers are also redirecting capital towards zero-carbon vessels and fuels, and technology is advancing faster. In this swirl of change, India stands at a rare confluence of opportunity and capability.

He refers to this as "a quiet revolution gathering momentum across the world's oceans" in the article titled: 'India can lead the global shift to green shipping.'

Sonowal further states that the PM Modi government has worked towards building a solid base for renewable energy which has in turn positioned India with one of lowest renewable energy costs globally.

A growing and resilient industrial base with 'Make in India' impetus, and efforts to modernise, mechanise and digitise ports along the busy east-west trade route have provided the country with unique advantage — moving from a position of whether our maritime sector can join the global green maritime transition meaningfully, to whether we can lead it decisively.

The government's recent approval of Rs 69,725 crore ($8 billion) package to reimagine, revive and rejuvenate India's shipbuilding and maritime ecosystem is not a routine budget line, but a signal of ambition. **PTI**

Modi to attend India-ASEAN summit virtually; Jaishankar to travel to Malaysia for East Asia summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not travel to Kuala Lumpur for annual ASEAN meetings due to scheduling issues and he will join India's annual summit with the 10-nation grouping virtually. Following a phone conversation with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Modi said he was looking forward to joining the ASEAN-India summit virtually, and to further deepening comprehensive strategic partnership between the two sides. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent PM Modi at the 20th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on October 27, according to an official statement. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners. Apart from the ASEAN member states, East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Russia.

Around 61.01 lakh MT procured in Punjab, payment worth ₹13,073.07 crore made to farmers: CM Mann

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Bassi Pathana/ Morinda, October 23



In wake of the massive damage caused to the paddy crops due to the floods in the state, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday urged the Government of India (GOI) to give relaxation in the uniform specifications for Paddy procurement.

The Chief Minister, who inspected the ongoing procurement operations in the local grain market, said that the farmers of the state have suffered huge loss due to the flood fury in the state. He said that in wake of loss suffered by the food growers due to such inclement weather conditions the Government of India should give relaxation in uniform specifications for Paddy procurement because the moisture content, damaged and discoloured grains quantity in paddy has increased. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that he has already requested the Union government in this regard to facilitate the farmers of the state as preliminary findings indicate damage and discolouration of paddy in several affected areas due to the unprecedented floods.

The Chief Minister further said that despite massive devastation caused by floods in the state, Punjab is still expected to contribute 170 LMT of paddy to the national pool. He said that elaborate arrangements have been made in Mandis to ensure that every grain produced through the hard work and dedication of Punjabi farmers is purchased in a smooth and hassle free manner. Bhagwant Singh Mann informed that the Punjab government has notified 1,822 regular purchase centers for procurement of paddy in KMS 2025–26, and that all these notified mandis have been duly allotted by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, Punjab.

The Chief Minister revealed that till today, 63.49 lakh MT of paddy had arrived in the mandis, out of which 61.01 lakh MT had already been purchased. He said that, in line with the state government's norm to ensure lifting within 72 hours of procurement, an impressive 91.80 pc lifting had been achieved. Bhagwant Singh Mann further mentioned that payments totaling Rs 13073.07 crore had already been made to farmers for the procured grains.

The Chief Minister said that due to the strenuous efforts made by the state government the procurement operation in the mandis has been very smooth and hassle free. He said that every effort is being made to facilitate the farmers in selling their produce so that they do not face any sort of inconvenience in the mandis.

Tejashwi named as INDIA bloc's CM candidate for Bihar polls

PATNA, OCTOBER 23

The opposition INDIA bloc on Thursday declared RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav its chief ministerial candidate for the Bihar assembly polls, in what is being seen as a last-ditch effort to put an end to squabbles and project unity ahead of the elections.

Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot, who has been in Patna since Wednesday to resolve differences with the RJD, stated that the decision had the approval of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi. Addressing a crowded press conference here, Gehlot also said Vikassheel Insan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahni and leaders from other sections of society will be deputy CMs if the INDIA bloc comes to power in the state, "keeping in mind the complex social structure of Bihar".

"We have decided, after consultations with our national president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, besides all coalition partners who are here, to name Tejashwi Yadav as our chief ministerial candidate," Gehlot said.

Sahani, a 45-year-old former Bollywood set designer, entered politics in 2014 when he campaigned for the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, only to allege, later, that the party had promised to grant Scheduled Castes status to his community but failed to fulfil the same. He founded VIP in 2015, contested the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in alliance with the Congress-RJD combine, but returned to the NDA a year later, alleging that Tejashwi Yadav had "backstabbed" him in a seat-sharing deal. **PTI**

Defence Ministry gives nod for buying military hardware worth ₹79,000 cr



NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

The Defence Acquisition Council, at a meeting on Thursday under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, approved various proposals of the Army, Navy and Air Force for purchasing military hardware worth a total amount of around Rs 79,000 crore.

For the army, Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was accorded for the procurement of Nag Missile System (Tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS), Ground-Based Mobile ELINT System (GBMES), and High Mobility Vehicles (HMVs) with Material Handling Crane, according to an official statement issued after the meeting at the South Block here.

The procurement of the tracked NAMIS will enhance the army's capability of neutralising the enemy's combat vehicles, bunkers and other field fortifications, whereas GBMES will provide round-the-clock electronic intelligence of enemy emitters. The induction of HMVs will significantly improve logistic support to the forces in diverse geographical terrains, the statement said.

For the navy, AoN was granted for the procurement of Landing Platform Docks (LPD), 30mm Naval Surface Gun (NSG), Advanced Light-Weight Torpedoes (ALWT), Electro-Optical Infra-Red Search and Track System and Smart Ammunition for 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount.

The procurement of the LPDs will help the Indian Navy to undertake amphibious operations along with the army and the air force.

The integrated sea capability provided by the LPDs will also help the Indian Navy to undertake peacekeeping operations, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, etc.

The induction of ALWT, which is indigenously developed by Naval Science & Technological Laboratory, DRDO, is capable of targeting conventional, nuclear and midget submarines. **PTI**

Gaganyaan mission: 90 pc development work completed, says ISRO chief Narayanan

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 23

The Gaganyaan mission is progressing steadily with nearly 90 per cent of the development work being completed, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said on Thursday. The Gaganyaan mission is India's first human spaceflight mission under development.

"The Gaganyaan mission is going very well. In fact, when you talk about the Gaganyaan mission, a lot of technology development has to take place, you are aware — the rocket has to be human-rated, the orbital module has to be developed, and the environmental control safety system has to be developed. Then coming to the crew escape system, parachute system and then, of course, human-centric products," Narayanan said while responding to a question about the progress of the mission.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the promotional activities for the upcoming Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2025), scheduled to be held from November 3 to 5 in New Delhi.

He said that approximately 90 per cent of the development work has been completed.

"Now three uncrewed missions have to be accomplished before going for the crewed mission and we are working towards it. In the first uncrewed mission, Vyommitra is going to fly and we are working towards that to accomplish the crewed mission by the beginning of 2027," he added. **PTI**

President Murmu delights Varkala students with surprise stop on way to Sivagiri Mutt

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 23



President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday brought an unexpected moment of joy to a group of students from Varkala Model Higher Secondary School when her convoy suddenly stopped and she stepped out to meet them on her way to the Sivagiri Mutt.

Murmu was en route to the ashram to inaugurate the centenary observance of Sree Narayana Guru's Mahasamadhi when she spotted the students waiting by the roadside near the helipad.

The children and their teachers, who had gathered hoping for a brief glimpse of the President, were thrilled as she walked up with a warm smile and exchanged greetings.

NCC cadets from the school stood at attention in uniform to salute her.

In a video that went viral on social media, a student can be heard saying he had just spotted the President inside her car — moments before the convoy halted right in front of them.

Murmu stepped out, walked towards the students, and accepted the marigold flowers they had cultivated in the school garden. **PTI**

US announces new sanctions against Russia's two biggest oil companies

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 23



Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced new sanctions Wednesday against Russia's two biggest oil companies and blasted Moscow's refusal to end its "senseless war" as U.S.-led efforts to end the war floundered and the Ukrainian president sought more foreign military help.

The sanctions against Rosneft and Lukoil, as well as dozens of subsidiaries, followed months of bipartisan pressure on President Donald Trump to hit Russia with harder sanctions on its oil industry.

"Now is the time to stop the killing and for an immediate ceasefire," Bessent said in a statement. Given Russian President Vladimir Putin's "refusal to end this senseless war, Treasury is sanctioning Russia's two largest oil companies that fund the Kremlin's war machine."

Bessent said the Treasury Department was prepared to take further action if necessary to support Trump's effort to end the war. "We encourage our allies to join us in and adhere to these sanctions."

Bessent made the comments as NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte was in Washington for talks with Trump. The military alliance has been coordinating deliveries of weapons to Ukraine, many of them purchased from the United States by Canada and European countries. **PTI**

Govt initiates process to appoint new CJI; Justice Surya Kant next in line

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

The government on Thursday initiated the process to appoint the next chief justice of India as incumbent B R Gavai demits office on November 23, sources said.

The letter asking Justice Gavai to name his successor is set to be delivered either this evening or on Friday, people aware of the procedure to appoint Supreme Court and high court judges told PTI.

According to the memorandum of procedure, a set of documents which guide the appointment, transfer and elevation of SC and HC judges states that appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the seniormost judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office.

The Union law minister would, "at the appropriate time", seek the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of his successor.

Conventionally, the letter is sent a month before the incumbent CJI retires on attaining the age of 65 years. **PTI**

MC Phagwara's property tax office to remain open on weekends till Oct 31

ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 23



In a move aimed at facilitating residents seeking to benefit from the One Time Settlement (OTS) Policy–2025 for property tax, the Municipal Corporation (MC) Phagwara has announced that its Property Tax Office will remain open on weekends till October 31.

Sharing the details, Dr Akshita Gupta, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Phagwara, said that the Punjab government, through the Department of Local Government, has provided significant relief to property owners by offering a 50 pc exemption on penalty and interest to those who clear their pending property tax dues in full by October 31.

She added that the initiative, issued under the authority of the Governor of Punjab, aims to ease the financial burden on residents while also helping urban local bodies improve revenue recovery.

Mayor Ram Pal Uppal welcomed the state government's decision and urged residents to take full advantage of the scheme.

"Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Aam Aadmi Party government has been continuously working for the welfare and convenience of citizens. I appeal to all residents of Phagwara who have pending property tax arrears to make use of this opportunity and deposit their dues by October 31 at the Municipal Corporation office," he said.

PSHRC issues notice to MC Ludhiana over poor road conditions

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 23



President of Model Town Welfare Society, Ludhiana, has raised serious concerns over the deteriorating condition of city roads under the Smart City project.

He stated that roads have become unsafe and full of potholes, causing frequent accidents involving pedestrians and two-wheelers. Despite complaints, the situation remains hazardous.

Daljeet Singh had filed a formal complaint regarding this issue with the Punjab State Human Rights Commission (PSHRC) on 13 September 2023, attaching photographs showing the poor condition of the roads.

Acting on this complaint, the Municipal Corporation Ludhiana (MCL) Commissioner was issued a notice on 3 October 2025 by PSHRC, directing submission of a detailed report before the next hearing scheduled for 19 December 2025.

The case has been registered under Complaint No. 8626/10/2025. The notice was issued under the supervision of Chairperson Justice Sant Prakash and Justice Gurdev Singh, Member, PSHRC.

Daljeet Singh urged the authorities to take immediate steps to repair the damaged roads and ensure the safety of commuters.

Chhath Puja preparations begin amid poor canal conditions in Phagwara and nearby areas

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 23



As the auspicious festival of Chhath Puja approaches beginning on October 25 and concluding on October 28 fervent preparations are underway across Punjab, especially in regions with large migrant populations from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The four-day festival, celebrated on the sixth day after Diwali, holds deep religious and cultural significance for devotees who worship both the setting and rising sun, seeking divine blessings for prosperity, fertility, and family well-being.

Over the past decade, the steady migration of labourers from eastern states to Punjab's industrial and agricultural hubs has transformed the region's cultural landscape. With an estimated 45,000 devotees in Phagwara alone, and nearly ten times that number participating in neighbouring towns such as Ludhiana, the celebration of Chhath Puja has grown from small, private observances into grand, community-wide events.

Traditionally, the rituals of Chhath Puja are performed along the banks of rivers, ponds, and canals. However, a visit by media to several canal sites across Phagwara, Goraya, Banga, Nawanshahr, Hadiabad, and Nakodar revealed worrying conditions. Many canals lay dry, while others were choked with garbage and debris. The foul odour and unsanitary surroundings made several sites unsuitable for worship.

"A person cannot even stand near the canal in Phagwara because of the stench and the filth dumped by people," lamented Shanti, a migrant devotee from Bihar.

Adding to the concern, several canal stretches were found encroached upon, with temporary structures and waste deposits occupying irrigation department land—despite repeated government announcements to remove illegal encroachments from canal and irrigation zones. When contacted, Phagwara Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Akshita Gupta assured that the administration was taking prompt steps to address these issues.

"Adequate arrangements for cleaning the canals and releasing water will be made well before the commencement of Chhath Puja celebrations," she said. Meanwhile, local community groups such as the Chhath Puja Sewa Samiti have approached former Chief Parliamentary Secretary Som Parkash, who has taken the initiative to fill canals by installing submersible pumps to ensure that devotees have access to clean water for performing rituals.

SDM directs officials to intensify drive against stubble burning



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 23

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Phagwara Jashanjit Singh chaired a meeting with cluster officers from various departments and police officials to review and strengthen measures aimed at curbing stubble burning in the Phagwara subdivision.

The meeting, held at the SDM office, was attended by Tehsildar Phagwara, representatives of the Block Development and Panchayat Office (BDPO), Junior Engineer (JE), officials from the Block Water Supply and Sanitation Department, the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, and the Agriculture Officer. The discussions centered on coordinated efforts to sensitize farmers about the environmental hazards of burning paddy residue and to ensure strict enforcement of government directives.

During the deliberations, SDM Jashanjit Singh directed officers to make widespread public announcements in villages to create awareness among farmers regarding the ban on stubble burning.

He emphasized that continuous awareness drives are essential to ensure compliance and to prevent damage to soil health and air quality.

PAU organises training on 'Natural Farming' for extension scientists

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 23



Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) successfully organised a specialized training programme on "Natural Farming" for its extension scientists under the aegis of Directorate of Extension Education. The training aimed to equip the scientists with the latest knowledge and practical techniques in sustainable, non-chemical agriculture to effectively disseminate these practices to the farming community.

The training was organised under the guidance of Dr MS Bhullar, Director of Extension Education. Dr Bhullar stated the importance of shifting towards sustainable farming models in Punjab, stating, "Natural Farming is not just an alternative; it is the path forward for ecological and economic sustainability. Our extension scientists must become the torchbearers of this mission, ensuring every farmer understands its benefits".

The training was presided over by Dr GPS Sodhi, Additional Director of Extension Education, who highlighted the critical role of extension scientists in promoting environmentally sound and cost-effective farming models like natural farming. He stressed the need for thorough understanding and effective communication of these principles to ensure wider adoption across the state. The proceedings were coordinated by Dr SS Walia, Director, School of Organic Farming, who provided an overview of the school's research and outreach efforts in natural farming. He motivated the participants to act as agents of change in promoting a healthier farming ecosystem.

Dr AS Sidhu, Senior Agronomist, delivered a detailed lecture on the principles and practices of natural farming, focusing on soil health, crop management and the preparation of natural farming inputs.

Dr Subash Singh, Principal Entomologist, addressed the crucial topic of natural farming approaches to pest management, emphasizing the role of biological control agents and non-chemical interventions.

Dr Kuldeep Singh Bhullar, Fruit Scientist, focused on the application of natural farming techniques in horticulture, covering practices specific to fruit crops for improved yield and quality without synthetic inputs.

Man killed in clash between two groups over old enmity

RAMAN CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, October 23

A man was killed over an old enmity at Boparai Khurd village here on late Monday night. The incident left several persons injured. The Lopoke police have arrested one person, identified as Kashmir Singh, of the village while nearly a dozen persons were booked on charges of murder and attempt to murder and under the Arms act.

The deceased was identified as Hari Singh (65) while the injured included Harjinder Singh, Satwant Singh, Lakhbir Singh and Harpreet Singh. On the statement of victim's son Jasbir Singh, the police have booked Ranjit Singh, his brother Rachhpal Singh, Ajmer Singh, Gurtaz Singh, Bikramjit Singh, Ajit Singh, Kashmir Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Gurlal Singh and Gurkamal Singh, all residents of Boparai Khurd village. All the accused live in the neighbourhood of the victim.

In his complaint to the police, Jasbir stated that at around 9.30 pm on Monday, his two cousins, brother and father were sitting near a flour mill. They were to return home after closing the shop when the accused armed with blunt and sharp-edged weapons arrived on the scene and started abusing them. They shouted not to leave the victims alive.

District Language Office Kapurthala reviews implementation of Punjabi signboard rules

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Kapurthala, October 23



In line with the Punjab government's continued efforts to strengthen the prominence of the Punjabi language in public life, a meeting was convened on Thursday under the leadership of District Language Officer, Kapurthala, Jaspreet Kaur, at Guru Nanak District Library, Kapurthala. The meeting aimed to ensure the effective implementation of government directives mandating that all public and private shops, as well as commercial establishments across the state, display their signboards primarily in Punjabi (Gurmukhi script).

According to the government order issued by the Department of Higher Education and Languages, Punjab, the names of establishments must appear first in Punjabi on the upper portion of the signboard. Other languages may be used only below the Punjabi text, ensuring that Gurmukhi script remains the most prominent.

During the meeting, representatives of the Kapurthala Vyapar Mandal (Traders' Association) including District President Yash Mahajan, City President Vikram Arora, Vice President Girish Bhasin, Secretaries Vinay Jain and Inderpal Singh Bhatia, along with members Karan Mahajan, Gaurav Kanda, and Bohar Singh, participated actively.

Addressing the gathering, District Language Officer Jaspreet Kaur emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting the Punjabi language as a cultural and linguistic heritage. She highlighted that the initiative not only honors the identity of Punjab but also aligns with state policy aimed at ensuring linguistic pride and inclusivity. During the session, Kanwar Iqbal Singh assured the District Language Officer, on behalf of the Vyapar Mandal, that all traders in Kapurthala would comply with the directive and update their signboards in Punjabi within the next two months.

Profit with Purpose: A Call for Young Entrepreneurs When I think about the future, I don't just see myself chasing money, I see myself chasing meaning. The world is full of problems we cannot ignore, and our generation understands this better than anyone. Climate change, poverty, lack of education, these are not issues we can leave for someone else to solve. That is why business today must be more than just profit; it must stand for something. We already have inspiring examples to look up to, like Muhammad Yunus, who gave small loans to women in villages so they could build a life of dignity, or Dr. Verghese Kurien, who made India self-sufficient in milk and transformed the lives of farmers. They remind us that entrepreneurship with purpose is not just an idea—it is a movement with the power to change millions of lives. What excites me most is that our generation already thinks differently. We support brands that care for the planet, and we dream of careers that offer both stability and impact. Even investors are now seeking ideas that matter, which makes this the right moment for young people to step forward. As a 17-year-old, I believe success should never be measured only by what we earn but also by how many lives we uplift along the way. If we choose to build businesses with purpose, we are not just creating companies—we are shaping a better tomorrow. And that call is ours to answer. By Sukhman Kaur , 12 Commerce , Sacred heart Convent School

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Billionaire entrepreneur Dr Arokiaswamy Velumani inspires LPU students with his life journey

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 23



Dr Arokiaswamy Velumani, the renowned Indian entrepreneur and billionaire with a net worth of over Rs 5,000 crore, addressed students at Lovely Professional University (LPU), sharing his remarkable journey from a modest background to building a global enterprise. Dr Velumani was welcomed to the campus by Dr Loviraj Gupta, Pro Vice-Chancellor of LPU, and Dr Sorabh Lakhanpal, Executive Dean of the Division of Student Welfare.

Dr Velumani began his talk with a candid and light-hearted recollection of his academic journey. He shared that he had initially enrolled in a B.Com programme simply to obtain a degree, without any particular goal in mind. A month into the course, a mentor questioned his choice and advised him to pursue science instead, even going so far as to pay his admission fees to make the switch possible. "If not for him, I don't think I would have been standing here today speaking to you," he reflected, acknowledging the life-changing role of that intervention.

He spoke about growing up with limited means but emphasized that he never hesitated to take risks. Recounting his early job hunt, he shared how repeated rejections from employers seeking "experience" led him to a pivotal vow. "I decided that if I ever started my own company, I would only hire freshers, and I did exactly that. All 25,000 of my employees were freshers," he stated, underscoring his deep-seated belief in nurturing young talent.

RPF reunites lost painting with blind travellers for border heroes

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 23



In a touching tale of integrity and swift action, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel at Ferozepur Cantonment Railway Station recovered a precious painting lost by visually impaired travellers from Pune's Prerana Association for the Blind, which is working to uplift blind people in the mainstream of society.

The group—comprising two visually impaired members, Rafik Kacchi and Santosh Parit, along with escorts Santosh Parit and Akshata Birajdar who had all the way come from Pune to celebrate Diwali with the brave jawans at Fazilka, had accidentally left the artwork in the B5 coach of the Punjab Mail en route to Fazilka. The painting was a heartfelt gift intended for brave jawans at the Fazilka Siddiqui Border, symbolising gratitude to India's border guardians.

Upon discovering the loss in Fazilka, the travellers quickly reached out to Harish Monga, a management member of the Home for the Blind in Ferozepur, who alerted the RPF. Sub-Inspector Pardeep, assisted by Constables Parveen and Vishnu, promptly located the painting in the coach and arranged its dispatch via the evening train to reunite it with its owners.

Harjot Bains and Deepak Bali extend invite to Jathedar Giani Kulwant Singh Ji for Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's 350th martyrdom day

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Nanded, October 23



Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, along with Tourism and Cultural Affairs department's Advisor Deepak Bali, paid obeisance at Takht Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib in Nanded, Maharashtra, followed by a visit to Giani Kulwant Singh Ji, Jathedar of the Takht Sahib.

During the meeting, the Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains with utmost reverence formally invited the Jathedar to attend the 350th Martyrdom Day ceremonies of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji. The historic commemorative ceremonies scheduled from November 23rd to 25th at Sri Anandpur Sahib.

In a gesture of esteem, the management of the Takht Sahib honoured Harjot Singh Bains with the ceremonial tying of a Dastar (Turban) and presented him with a Siropa (robe of honor), acknowledging his humble visit.

Overwhelmed with devotion and honour, Harjot Singh Bains stated, "To stand on this pious land where Dasmesh Pita Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji walked is a blessing in itself. To be honoured here, at the very Takht where my own Dastar Bandi was performed, is a profoundly emotional and humbling experience. It feels like a divine circle, connecting my personal journey with my duty to be a part of the commemorative ceremonies of the supreme sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji. This is not merely an invitation, but a heartfelt appeal from the soul of Punjab to the Takht Sahib's Jathedar."

Harjot Singh Bains apprised Giani Kulwant Singh ji that over 1 crore Sangat from across the globe are expected to attend 350th Martyrdom Day ceremonies of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib ji at Sri Anandpur Sahib.

Cheema and Kataruchak invite Odisha CM to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's 350th martyrdom commemoration

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23



The Punjab government on Thursday reached out to Odisha in a spirit of shared national heritage, as Punjab's Finance Minister, Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema, and Food and Supplies Minister, Lal Chand Kataruchak, paid a special visit to Bhubaneswar to meet with the Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi.

The primary purpose of the high-level visit was to formally extend an invitation to Chief Minister Majhi for the grand events being organized in Punjab to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of 'Hind Di Chadar' Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the Ninth Sikh Guru.

During the cordial meeting held at the Odisha Chief Minister's office, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema presented the formal invitation and provided an overview of the scale and significance of the commemorative programs.

Advocate Cheema highlighted that the events are intended to be a national tribute to the Guru's unparalleled sacrifice for religious freedom and human rights. "The martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji is a pivotal moment in the history of India, epitomizing the defense of fundamental human values," said Minister Cheema while adding, "As the sacrifices of the 'Hind Di Chadar' (The Shield of Hind) are a national legacy that transcends all religious and regional boundaries, we are profoundly honoured to welcome Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to the commemoration of this historic anniversary."

Cabinet Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak further emphasized the importance of inter-state participation, stating, "We received a warm reception from Chief Minister Majhi. The spirit of this visit is to underscore the unified tribute that the nation must pay to the Guru Sahib. His message of courage, secularism, and universal brotherhood resonates strongly across all states, including the rich cultural landscape of Odisha."

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed his deep respect for the sacrifice of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji and acknowledged the significance of the 350th anniversary.

Sanjeev Arora helps Pathankot family bring home mortal remains of kin who died in Romania

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 23

Punjab's Minister for NRI Affairs, Sanjeev Arora, has extended crucial assistance to a grieving family from Pathankot in repatriating the mortal remains of their 32-year-old relative, Kuldeep Kumar, who passed away earlier this month in Timisoara, Romania.

Kuldeep Kumar, a resident of Sujanpur in Pathankot district, was employed at S.C Stareto SRL in Timisoara. His family was informed of his death on October 3 by one of his colleagues, Shamsher Singh, who also worked in Romania. In a letter to the authorities, Kuldeep's brother, Hira Singh, sought government help to bring back the body to India.

Following the family's plea, Punjab's Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Lal Chand Kataruchak, forwarded the request to Minister Sanjeev Arora, who promptly wrote to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Embassy of India in Bucharest, urging assistance to facilitate the repatriation.

In his official communication, Minister Arora stated, "The family is in profound grief and urgently seeks the return of his mortal remains to India for the performance of his last rites."

The minister further requested the Indian mission to "coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the High Commission of Romania in New Delhi to extend all possible assistance to the grieving family during this critical hour."

Following his appeal, the Embassy of India in Bucharest confirmed that it was in "constant touch with the family members and Romanian authorities" and was taking necessary steps to expedite the repatriation. Sitesh Kumar, Second Secretary (Consular) at the Embassy, assured that efforts were underway to complete the formalities at the earliest.

Ministers Sanjeev Arora and Gurmeet Singh Khudian invite Goa CM to 350th martyrdom anniversary events of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23



Industries and Commerce, Investment Promotion, Power and NRI Affairs Minister Punjab Sanjeev Arora and Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian, on Thursday met with Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in Goa to extend a formal invitation for the upcoming events commemorating the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji (Shaheedi Purab).

During the meeting, Cabinet Ministers shared reverence for the sacrifices made by the Ninth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, who is widely revered as 'Hind Di Chadar' for his selfless sacrifice to protect religious freedom and human rights.

The Cabinet Ministers Sanjeev Arora and Gurmeet Singh Khudian personally handed over the invitation to the Chief Minister Goa, outlining the series of grand commemorative events being organized by the Punjab Government. These events are scheduled to take place at various historically significant locations, with the primary focus on observance the life, teachings, and unparalleled sacrifice of the Guru.

Cabinet Ministers said that these events will be organised to remember Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib ji supreme sacrifice to protect the freedom of human and secular values. He said that Guru Tegh Bahadur's Ji martyrdom is not just a part of Sikh history, it is a message of freedom, tolerance and justice for all of humanity.

Cross-border narcotics smuggling module busted in Amritsar; drug kingpin held with 5 kg heroin

N.P.S. CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, October 23



In an intelligence based operation amidst the ongoing anti-drugs Yudh Nashian Virudh campaign launched on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Commissionerate Police has busted a cross-border narcotics smuggling module with the arrest of a drug kingpin and recovered 5.025 kg Heroin from his possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Thursday.

The arrested accused has been identified as Rajpal Singh (25), a resident of Majid Building in Chheharta, Amritsar. The accused has a criminal history with cases under sections of NDPS Act and Arms Act registered against him.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that arrested accused was operating a cross border network linked to a Pakistan-based handler and using the Dera Baba Nanak sector to retrieve drone-dropped drug consignments from across the border. Further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages in this case to expose the full nexus.

Sharing operational details, Commissioner of Police (CP) Amritsar Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said that during the follow-up investigations of backward and forward linkages in the case wherein a drug peddler Lucky was arrested with 3 kg heorin in August 2025, police teams have found involvement of Rajpal Singh, leading to his nomination in the FIR. Subsequently, on October 19, the police police teams arrested Rajpal Singh, and upon his disclosure and identification, recovered an additional 5.025 kg heroin.

The CP said that accused Rajpal was using bags filled with clothes to conceal the drug consignments and transporting them via buses to various bus stands, including Jalandhar and Ludhiana, to deliver them safely. More arrests and recoveries are likely in coming days, he said.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 151 dated 07-08-2025 had already been registered under Sections 21-B, 21-C, 27-A and 29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Chheharta in Amritsar.

CBI conducts second round of searches at suspended DIG's residence; cash, valuables seized



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

The CBI on Thursday carried out a second round of searches at the residence of suspended Punjab Deputy Inspector General of Police (Ropar Range) Harcharan Singh Bhullar — arrested on bribery charges last week — resulting in seizure of cash and valuables, officials said.

The fresh operation at Bhullar's Sector 40 residence came amid reports that he was not cooperating with the agency, they said. During the raid, the CBI searched for the CCTV camera footage, besides assessing the value of the premises, they said.

Bhullar was arrested on October 16 for allegedly accepting Rs 8 lakh in a bribe from a scrap dealer as "sewa pani". Subsequent searches resulted in the seizure of cash worth Rs 7.5 crore, besides gold jewellery weighing 2.5 kg. In addition, 26 luxury watches, including those from Rolex and Rado brands, documents pertaining to more than 50 immovable properties held in the names of family members and suspected benami entities, locker keys and details of multiple bank accounts and four firearms, along with 100 live cartridges, were also seized during the search operation.

YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH

On day 236, Punjab Police nab 95 drug smugglers with 685 gm heroin

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 236th day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 339 locations on Thursday leading to the arrest of 95 drug smugglers after registration of 75 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 33,802in 236 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 685 grams heroin, 93 kg poppy husk, 1245 intoxicant tablets/capsules and Rs 14,760 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 1000 police personnel, under the supervision of 59 gazetted officers have conducted 339 raids across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 343 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 29 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

FIRING AT JEWELLARY SHOP

Man, son held after brief exchange of fire in Hoshiarpur; pistol recovered

DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, October 23

In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Punjab, in a joint operation with Hoshiarpur Police, apprehended Krishan Gopal, a resident of Village Baincha in Hoshiarpur, along with his son Keshav in connection with the targeted shooting took place at Jewellery shop in Hoshiarpur, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Thursday. The Police teams have recovered .32 caliber pistol along with live cartridges from their possession and also impounded their motorcycle, which they were riding.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that the arrested duo were involved in a targeted shooting at Ganpati Jewellers, Hoshiarpur, took place on October 18, 2025, when two assailants on motorcycles opened fire on the premises. Following the attack, the shop owner received a threatening call from an unknown foreign number, demanding Rs 20 lakh in extortion, he said.

A case FIR no. 170 was registered under sections 336, 324(4) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and section 25 of the Arms Act at Police Station Mahilpur in Hoshiarpur.

Fabricated video deliberately created to defame Punjab CM: AAP MP

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 23



Punjab AAP Member of Parliament Malvinder Singh Kang on Thursday condemned the circulation of a fabricated video that was deliberately created to malign and defame Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Kang told the media here that this was the "BJP-orchestrated campaign of character assassination" and warned that those behind the conspiracy would be held to account.

He said the video was produced with the sole intention of how to defame our beloved Chief Minister and carrying out character assassination.

He said that the fake clip went viral and that the biggest role in amplifying the video was played by leaders across the BJP's national and Punjab leadership, including office-bearers and national spokespersons.

Kang named the originator of the campaign as Jagman Samra, who lives in Canada, and noted that after directions from a Mohali court, a first information report (FIR) was registered against him.

"Facebook itself has deleted Jagman Samra's account and the fake video following legal directions," Kang said, pointing to clear and immediate action that proves the video's fraudulent nature.

Turning to the social media network that spread the clip, the Member of Parliament alleged a coordinated ecosystem of BJP-linked accounts. **AGENCIES**

Newly-appointed Senior Vice-Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and 10 members of PSWC assume office



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

Newly appointed Senior Vice-Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and 10 members of Punjab State Women Commission assumed office on Thursday. Disclosing this information, Chairperson of Punjab State Women Commission Raj Lali Gill said that Rupinder Kaur Gill from Bathinda has assumed office as Senior Vice-Chairperson and Geeta Gill from Ajnala has assumed office as Vice-Chairperson on Thursday.

She said that along with this, 10 members also took office on Thursday, including Navjot Kaur from Hoshiarpur, Krishna Devi from Jalandhar, Jaswinder Kaur from Bathinda, Ajinderpal Kaur from Ludhiana, Swaranjit Kaur from Mohali, Sunita Rani from Bathinda, Sukhbir Kaur from Amritsar, Rekha Mani Sharma from Pathankot, Virpal Kaur Chahal from Patiala and Amrit Puri from Ludhiana .

On this occasion, the Chairperson of the Commission, Raj Lali Gill, congratulated the newly appointed Senior Vice Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and members and asked them to work with full commitment to ensure the welfare of the women of the state.

Major step towards making City Beautiful a carbon-free city with addition of 328 electric buses

■ KATARIA EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO KHATTAR FOR THE E-BUSES



A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

The approval of 328 additional electric buses under the PM-e-Bus Service Scheme by the Government of India marks a significant milestone in Chandigarh's journey towards becoming a carbon-free city. With this, the total number of e-buses approved for the city has increased to 428.

The Governor of Punjab and Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, stated that this major approval is the outcome of sustained efforts by the Chandigarh Administration and continuous engagement with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to transition the city's bus fleet to electric mobility.

Kataria emphasized that it is crucial to convert Chandigarh's entire bus fleet to electric buses in a phased manner so that the 'City Beautiful' can soon become a carbon-free city. He further informed that the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, responded positively to this initiative to promote clean transportation and reduce environmental pollution, approving Chandigarh's additional demand under the scheme.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude to Khattar for his prompt and considerate action, Governor Kataria said that this decision will greatly strengthen Chandigarh's public transport system, ensuring better connectivity, enhanced passenger convenience, and improved environmental sustainability. He added that the allocation of 428 e-buses represents a decisive step towards transforming Chandigarh into a model green city with a modern and eco-friendly transport network.

The Governor also appreciated the proactive cooperation extended by the Ministry and Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) in expediting the issuance of the Letters of Confirmation of Quantity (LOQ) and Letters of Award (LOA) for the previously approved 100 e-buses, enabling the timely implementation of the project.

Governor Kataria reiterated that the Chandigarh Administration remains committed to expanding the city's clean transportation infrastructure in line with the vision of sustainable urban development.

UT CS stresses need for enhanced coordination among departments

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23



The Chief Secretary, UT Chandigarh, H. Rajesh Prasad, convened a meeting on Thursday with all Secretaries of the Chandigarh Administration to discuss various inter-departmental issues and review the progress of key administrative initiatives.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for enhanced coordination among departments to effectively prioritize and resolve inter-departmental matters.

Prasad stressed that the public grievance mechanism must be made more robust and citizen-centric. He instructed that a dedicated Public Grievance Portal for the Chandigarh Administration be developed and made operational at the earliest to ensure prompt resolution of public issues.He also directed that the Administrator's Public Grievance format be adopted uniformly by all departments to streamline grievance redressal.

Highlighting the importance of digital governance, the Chief Secretary directed that the e-Office system be implemented in all offices in letter and spirit from 1st November 2025. He stated that all physical files should be discontinued and every official must transition fully to e-Office by the designated date. He reiterated that the Administration must move towards becoming paperless, transparent, and efficient in all its operations.

The Chief Secretary also urged officers to submit clear cut and well-defined proposals in accordance with established rules and procedures, while ensuring that public interest remains a top priority in administrative decision-making. He emphasized that justice, fairness, transparency and efficiency will be guiding principles for every officer and must ensure timely and effective delivery of public services.

Reviewing the implementation of flagship schemes, Shri Prasad directed that all Schemes of Government of India must be implemented in such a way that benefits reach every eligible beneficiary without delay.

Discussing the condition of city roads, he instructed the Engineering Department to expedite ongoing works and complete them at the earliest.

On the issue of parking, he directed the Municipal Corporation to prepare a comprehensive proposal to effectively address parking challenges in the city.

City Mayor holds key interaction with residents of Sector 35-A



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

In a significant step toward strengthening citizen engagement and ensuring prompt redressal of civic issues, Mayor of Chandigarh, Harpreet Kaur Babla, held an interactive meeting with the residents of Harmony Homes, Sector 35-A, at House No. 353, today evening.

The meeting witnessed enthusiastic participation from the residents, who shared their concerns, suggestions, and aspirations regarding basic amenities and civic infrastructure in the sector. Issues discussed included water supply, sanitation, street lighting, waste management, and other municipal services.

Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla gave a patient hearing to the residents and assured them of swift action on matters pertaining to the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh. She further committed to taking up non-MCC-related concerns with the Chandigarh Administration for timely resolution.

To ensure immediate follow-up, the Mayor also instructed concerned MCC officials to address sector-specific issues on priority and coordinate directly with the local residents' welfare association.

In a unique moment during the meeting, residents expressed their desire for the Mayor's tenure to be at least 2.5 years, emphasizing that such continuity would allow for more effective implementation and long-term solutions to persistent civic issues.

Harpreet Kaur Babla appreciated the proactive involvement of the residents and reiterated that citizen participation is key to building a responsive and efficient urban governance system. She encouraged continued dialogue between the community and municipal authorities to create a cleaner, greener, and more liveable Chandigarh.

76 High Court advocates designated 'senior'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has designated 76 advocates as Senior Advocates, including at least five women. The process was initiated over a year ago.

The decision, taken by the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court, marks one of the largest designations in recent years, recognising advocates for their standing, professional eminence and distinction in advocacy.

In all, 210 advocates had applied for the distinction under the High Court of Punjab and Haryana (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules. Initially, 64 candidates were cleared for designation following interaction, but 12 more names were added after intense deliberations during the Full Court meeting, With the latest designations, the number of Senior Advocates practising before the High Court has crossed 300.

The previous round of designations was carried out in 2021, when 19 advocates were conferred the status.

Five-day 'Global Programme of Neurodegeneration' concludes at PU

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

Panjab University (PU) hosted a five-day course titled "Molecular Insights of Neurodegeneration Pathways and Its Drug Development Strategies" under the initiative Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN).

The programme included 35 participants primarily Masters and Research scholars from across the country working on various aspects of neurological conditions. The course was organised in collaboration with PU-IIT Ropar Regional Accelerator for Holistic Innovations (PI-RAHI) Foundation, Northern Region S&T Cluster and Chandigarh Region Innovation & Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC).

GIAN is a flagship program of the Ministry of Education, Govt of India to enhance higher education by inviting distinguished foreign faculty to Indian institutions. The course explored the molecular and cellular mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's Disease that are major health concern.

Prof. Allen Kaasik from University of Tartu, Estonia gave insights into molecular pathways in various neurodegenerative diseases such as Wolfram syndrome and other neurological disorders He engaged the participants on prospective drug development strategies and studies involving endoplasmic reticulum and mitochondria. He also focused on several biomedical imaging techniques and showcased several innovative and latest images of axonal transport.

The key processes such as endoplasmic reticulum stress, mitochondrial dysfunctions and autophagy were covered along with drug development strategies targeting these pathways. The participants were exposed to advanced imaging techniques and proteomics will be introduced as tools for identifying therapeutic targets.

Dr.Tanzeer Kaur from the Department of Biophysics and the course coordinator also gave insights in design and development of novel chemical chaperones, animal behavioural analysis and in silico drug designing. Prof. Rajat Sandhir from the Department of Biochemistry and the course coordinator discussed identifying therapeutic molecules for Parkinson's disease and applications of flow cytometry in neurodegenerative diseases. Moreover, hands on tutorials provided the participants with essential skills for novel drug development.

The other faculty members namely, Dr.Neelima Dhingra from University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (UIPS) and Dr. Ashutosh Rai from Biochemistry department shared their expertise related to drug design and applications of proteomics in neurodegenerative diseases respectively.

The inaugural ceremony of the course had distinguished guests; Dr.Neelima Mishra, Director, National Institute of Biologicals, Noida along with Prof. Yojana Rawat, Dean University Instructions and Prof. Meenakshi Goyal, Director, Research and Development Cell. Dr.Neelima Mishra encouraged the participants to gain maximum knowledge from the workshop and appreciated the university in promoting such collaborative research.

PU architect honoured with 'First Friday Forum Award' for creative excellence

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh, Architect Ar. Inder Gulati has been conferred with the First Friday Forum (FFF) Award for Creative Excellence.

Ar. Inder Gulati was honoured during the Forum's Annual Oration-cum-Awards Giving Function held at the Chandigarh College of Architecture. The First Friday Forum (FFF) was founded by Dr. S.S. Bhatti, former Principal of Chandigarh College of Architecture. Established in 1999, the Forum serves as a creative platform promoting interaction among professionals from diverse fields to enhance the aesthetic quality of the built environment.

The honour acknowledged his outstanding contribution to the University's architectural and infrastructural development, particularly in advancing sustainable design, heritage conservation, and innovation in campus planning.

The award citation mentioned Ar. Gulati's distinguished professional experience and his commitment to architectural excellence that has significantly enriched PU's built environment. His design ethos, balancing modern functionality with contextual sensitivity, has served as a model of architectural leadership within institutional spaces.

Mohali to host 69th Inter-District School Games from Oct 25 to 27

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, October 23

The 69th Inter-District School Games (Shooting) for Under-14, Under-17, and Under-19 Boys and Girls are being organized from October 25 to October 27, 2025 at the Government Shooting Range, Phase-6, SAS Nagar.

Giving the details, District Education Officer (Secondary) Dr. Ginni Dugal said that teams from 23 districts across Punjab are participating in the event, with around 600 players showcasing their talent and sporting spirit.

These games aim to promote a healthy sense of competition among students while fostering discipline, concentration, and self-confidence through sports, she further added.

UIAMS allocates new rooms for clubs, cells and specialized labs

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

The University Institute of Applied Management Sciences (UIAMS), Panjab University (PU) on Thursday conducted the formal handing over of newly developed rooms in its building, ensuring appropriate allocation for various student clubs, academic cells, and specialised facilities. The allocation includes dedicated spaces for the ECRC, Alumni Resource Cell, Sports Room, TEDx Room, Placement Cell and First Aid Room, along with labs for Capital Markets, Business Analytics, and IT & Telecom. Additionally, specific rooms have been designated for presentations, group discussions, and interviews, providing enhanced facilities for industry interactions and campus placements.

The upgraded infrastructure also includes arrangements for hosting industry experts, academicians, and company professionals who regularly visit the institute for placements, internships, and mentorship programs.

The ceremony took place in the presence of the Panjab University Student Council representatives, including Vice President Ashmeet Singh, Secretary Abhishek Dagar, and Joint Secretary Mohit Mandrena. The administrative staff and faculty members of UIAMS facilitated the process and guided the allocation exercise.

Panjab University hosts IIPA Regional Prelude Conference on Public Policy and Administration

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

The Department of Public Administration, Panjab University, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Punjab and Chandigarh Regional Branch, hosted the Prelude Conference 2025 on the national theme "Emerging Trends in Public Policy and Public Administration" at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Every year, IIPA's regional and local branches across the country hold such prelude conferences to deliberate upon a common national theme of the Annual Conference held at the IIPA Headquarters, New Delhi, contributing valuable insight. The event began with welcome remarks by Dr. Bhawna Gupta, Chairperson of the Department, followed by the presentation of the theme paper by Prof. Ramanjit Kaur Johal, Hon. Secretary of the Regional Branch. Prof. B.S. Ghuman, Chairperson, presided over the event.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Balwinderjit Singh S/o Ranjit Singh R/o Vill. Dangon, Ludhiana have changed my minor son's name from Sehraj Singh to Singh Sehraj

I Rajeev Bansal S/o Hari Karishan Bansal R/o 48, Partap Colony, Model Gram, Ludhiana have changed my name to Rajiv Bansal

I Bhanu Bansal D/o Rajiv Bansal R/o 48, Partap Colony, Model Gram, Ludhiana have changed my name to Bhanu

I Amit Kumar Singh S/o Jai Narayan Singh R/o 259, St. No. 3, Gagan Nagar, Giaspura, Ludhiana have changed my minor daughter's name from Akansha to Akansha Singh

I Shefali Walia W/o Rajinder Singh Dhaliwal R/o Prem Basti, Gali No.10, Sangrur have changed my name to Shefali Dhaliwal

I Nirmal Singh S/O Chamkaur Singh Vpo Chhiniwal Kalan Tehsil And District Barnala Changed My Name To Nirmal Singh Badohal

I, Puja Rani W/o Sat paul R/o H No 1488,St No 2, Atal Nagar, Rahon Road, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana Have Changed My Name from Puja Rani To Puja Rani Sund.

I, hitherto known as Neeraj S/o Roshan Lal residing at Village Bhulewal Rathan, PO. Parsowal, Tehsil Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Neeraj Singh.

I hitherto known as SWARANJIT W/o BAHADUR SINGH Residing at Village Ghumiala, Rampur Jhanjowal, District Hoshiarpur , Punjab-144530, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SATWINDER KAUR

I, Shweta Ravindra Dive D/o Ravindra Dive Now W/o Amandeep Singh R/o H.no-768, Palm Garden, Bilga, Sahnewal, Ludhiana have changed my name after marriage Shweta Singh.

I, Santosh Brar W/o Chand Singh R/o H.No. 5, Ward No. 2, Shahid Bhagat Singh Colony, Jalandhar (Holder of Indian Passport No. K 2407649) declare that my name wrongly written as Santosh Brarh in my Passport, but my actual name is Santosh Brar. Please Note.

I hitherto known as SUKHWINDER KAUR HUNJHAN W/o GURMAIL SINGH residing at H.No.167, Firni to School Wali Sadak, Nahal Khote, Tehsil Moga, District Moga, Punjab-142001, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUKHWINDER KAUR

I, Meena Rani W/o Preet Harpal Mahenia R/o Ajit Nagar, Wazir Bhullar, PO. & Tehsil Beas, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Meena Rani to Meena Rani Mahenia after marriage. All concerned please note.

I, Ravinder Singh Chawla S/o Satnam Singh R/o H.no 1339/70 B, St.no 1, Passi Nagar, Pakhowal Road (Ludhiana) Have changed my name from Ravinder Singh Chawla to Ravinder Singh.

I hitherto known as GURMEL SINGH S/o Hakam Singh residing at Village Nahal Khote, Tehsil Moga, District Moga, Punjab-142001, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GURMAIL SINGH

I Vinod Chawla W/o Parakash Chand, R/o H.no. 1868, Islam Ganj Kot Alamgir, (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name to Veena Devi.

I,Alka Singla W/o Ashok Kumar R/o H.no:-34,St.no:-3,Near PWD Rest House Atma Ram Colony Nabha (Patiala) Have Changed My Name to Alka Jindal.

Kanwaljit Singh, son of Jagtar Singh, resident of Village Bapla, Tehsil Ahmedgarh, District Malerkotla, has changed his name to Kamaljit Singh.

I, ARMY NO 15570887X, RANK HAV SHELAR JEETENDRA SITARAM UNIT 119 ASLT ENGR REGT C/O 56 APO, RESIDENT OF GANGAVE NASHIK, MAHARASHTRA PIN 423101 That, I have changed my name from SHELAR JEETENDRA SITARAM to SHELAR JITENDRA SITARAM.Vide Affidavit Number IN PB85393344580323X, Dated 23 October 2025, before Distt Court Patiala.

I, Gursevak Singh s/o Gurcharan Singh r/o Plot No. 46, Gulmohar Colony Khandoli, (Patiala) have changed my name Singh Gursevak.

I, Monika W/o Sh. Vijay Kumar R/o Patran Road, Golden City Colony, Dirba, Distt. Sangrur have changed my name to Monika Rani.

I Simerjit Kaur d/o Army No. JC278810Y Sub Manjit Singh r/o VPO Tajpur, Tehsil Raikot, Distt Ludhiana (Punjab) PIN 141109 have changed my name from Simerjit Karu to Simarjit Kaur.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Ajaib Kaur W/o Karnail Singh R/o #327 Anand Nagar A Patiala have declare that in my son's Gurjant Singh passport my name is wrongly mentioned as Ajaib Singh,but my correct name is Ajaib Kaur.

I, Kapil Kumar Berry S/o Rajinder Lal Berry R/o H.No. 26/1, Arya Street, Lahori Gate, Patiala, declare that my son Nitin Kumar and his wife Divya Ghai are beyond my control and fight with me and my family. I, Evict them from all my moveable/ immoveable properties. Whoever deals with them will be himself/ herself responsible, I or my family will not be responsible.

I, Gurdial Singh S/o late Jaswant Singh R/o Harigarh, district Sangrur, declare that my son Satgur Singh is out of my control. I disinherited them from my movable and immovable property. Whoever deals with him will be responsible. I and my family will not be held responsible.

I, Sukhjiwan Singh Biring S/o Sukhminder Singh R/o House No. 71-A, VPO Narangwal, Tehsil Ludhiana West, District Ludhiana (Punjab)–141203, declare that Sukhjiwan Singh and Sukhjiwan Singh Biring both are one and the same person and belongs to me.

I Rohitpal Singh S/o Jaspal Singh R/O VPO Hoshiarpur Tehsil and District Hoshiarpur Punjab have declared that on my marksheet of class tenth the name of my father is written as Rajpal Singh but my father's real and correct name is Jaspal Singh.All concerned note it.

ਅਸੀ ਰਤਨਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਬੱਚਣ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਰਤਨਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਬਡਾਲੀ ਆਲਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਤੇ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਤਿਹਗੜ੍ਹ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਅਸੀ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਸਾਡੀ ਲੜਕੀ ਜਤਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਸਾਡੇ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਅਸੀ ਉਸਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ- ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਮੈਂ ਅਮਿਤ ਅਸ਼ਤਾ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਰਕਸ਼ ਪਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ 446 ਸੀ, ਰਤਨ ਨਗਰ ਦਾ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਹਾਂ । ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਘਰ ਦੀ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੀ ਮਿਤੀ 07/03/2025 ਨੂੰ ਗੁੰਮ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਚਮਨ ਲਾਲ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਅਮਰਨਾਥ ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰਬਰ 4495 ਮਿਤੀ 20/08/88 ਦਰਜ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਕਤ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ ਮਿਲਣ ਤਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਨੰਬਰ 8872214421 ਤੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ। ਮੈਨੇਜਰ ਫਸ਼ਭ 9888926114.

ਅਸੀਂ, ਜਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਦਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਦਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮਲੂਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਤੇ ਡਾਕ. ਟੁਟੋਮਜਾਰਾ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਗੜ੍ਹਸ਼ੰਕਰ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਹੁਸ਼ਿਆਰਪੁਰ, ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਸਾਡਾ ਲੜਕਾ 'ਪਰਮਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ' ਅਤੇ ਨੂੰਹ 'ਕਿਰਨ ਬਾਲਾ' ਜੋ ਸਾਡੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋ ਬਾਹਰ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਾਰੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ। ਹੁਣ ਸਾਡਾ ਤੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਸਬੰਧ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਕਿਸੇ ਕਿਸਮ ਦਾ ਤਾਲੁਕ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰੇਗਾ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਸਾਰੇ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਮੈਂ,ਨਰਿੰਦਰ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਗੁਪਤਾ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਲੇਟ ਜਗਨ ਨਾਥ ਗੁਪਤਾ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ:-10064/82, ਕਰਤਾਰ ਐਵੇਨਿਊ, ਹੈਬੋਵਾਲ ਕਲਾਂ,ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਵੈਭਵ ਗੁਪਤਾ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਹਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ (ਹਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਬਰੈਮਪਟਨ ਕੈਨੇਡਾ) ਮੇਰੇ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਮੈਂ, ਮਨਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਸ. ਨਿਰੰਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੱਢਾ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ **B-IX-733/19, New Santokh Pura, Jalandhar, Punjab** ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੀ ਲੜਕੀ ਰਜਵੰਤ ਕੌਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਨ ਮਰਜੀ ਕਰਦੀ 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। ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

ਮੈਂ, ਜੋਗਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਲੇਟ ਸ਼ੀ ਹਰਬੰਸ ਲਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਮਿੱਠੜਾ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਫਿਲੌਰ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਜਲੰਧਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਹਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਨੂੰਹ ਮਨੀਸ਼ਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਨ ਮਰਜੀ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੈਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ ਵਾ ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

LOST AND FOUND

I Paramjit Singh S/o Harnek Singh R/o Opp. SDM office, Tapa, District Barnala declare that one of my old registry bearing deed number 2019-20/88/1/1648, dated 24/12/2019, which was in favor of Sunil Kumar Garg son of Amrit Lal resident of Tapa, has been lost from me on 05-08-2025 at opp. SDM office, Tapa. A report of its loss has been filed on 23/10/2025 at Police Station, Tapa, District Barnala. The DDR number of which is 640676/2025. If anyone finds this registry, please inform me on my above mobile number 9417123577.

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Ludhiana Police solve murder case, arrest accused with weapons

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 23



Acting under the directions of Commissioner of Police Ludhiana, Swapan Sharma, IPS, and under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Investigation) Harpal Singh, Additional DCP (Investigation) Amandeep Singh Brar, and Assistant Commissioner of Police (Detective) Harshpreet Singh, a Ludhiana police team led by Inspector Avtar Singh, Incharge CIA Staff Ludhiana, and SI Bhupinder Singh, SHO Police Station Moti Nagar, successfully solved a major murder case by arresting one accused along with weapons used in the crime.

On October 2, 2025, during a religious event (Jagran) in Mohalla Fauji Colony, Gali No. 1, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Moti Nagar, a fight broke out during which several individuals opened fire, leading to the death of a man identified as Ram Prashad's son. Following the incident, a case (FIR No. 172 dated October 3, 2025) was registered under sections 103(2), 190, 191(3) of the BNS and 25 Arms Act.

Commissionerate Police Ludhiana has launched efforts to apprehend other accused persons involved in the murder case.

During investigation on October 18, 2025, based on the statement of complainant Ramji Prashad, the police named Vishal Thakur, son of Kameshwar Thakur, resident of House No. 437, Gali No. 3, New Mayapuri, near Basti Chowk, Ludhiana, as an accused, adding section 61(2) BNS to the case.

After intensive investigation, the police team arrested accused Vishal Thakur and recovered one .32 bore country-made pistol, two magazines, 15 live cartridges, and one country-made .315 bore pistol from his possession. The accused has been remanded to police custody till October 23, 2025, and further interrogation is underway.

Commissionerate Police Ludhiana has launched efforts to apprehend other accused persons involved in the murder case.

Govt to build 3,117 model playgrounds in villages with ₹966 crore investment

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Khanna, October 23



Cabinet Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond on Thursday announced that the Punjab government will build 3,117 'model playgrounds' across villages in all 23 districts of the state at a cost of Rs 966 crore.

In a press conference, the Minister detailed that the playgrounds will be constructed in the following districts: Amritsar (194), Barnala (94), Bathinda (186), Faridkot (91), Fatehgarh Sahib (93), Fazilka (123), Ferozepur (121), Gurdaspur (198), Hoshiarpur (202), Jalandhar (168), Kapurthala (107), Ludhiana (257), Malerkotla (57), Mansa (119), Moga (144), Pathankot (58), Patiala (191), Rupnagar (73), Sangrur (186), SAS Nagar (Mohali) (89), Muktsar Sahib (134), Tarn Taran (138), and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar (94). These playgrounds are set to be completed within the next six months.

In Khanna, the Minister stated that out of the 67 villages in the Khanna constituency, 30 will receive 'Model Playgrounds.' These include villages like Bhadla Ucha (2.15 acres), Boothgarh (1.54 acres), Goh (1.45 acres), Malkpur (1.50 acres), Manakmajra (1.85 acres), Sahibpura (1.30 acres), Bhumaddi (1.75 acres), Chakohi (1.85 acres), Ikolahi (1.31 acres), Kamma (0.95 acres), Dahiru (2.50 acres), Faizgarh (1.50 acres), Kishanpur (1.65 acres), Panjrukha (1.00 acre), Turmari (0.35 acres), Beevipura (2.89 acres), Ganduan (1.95 acres), Kaurhi (0.5 acres), Kishangarh (1.90 acres), Lalheri (1.13 acres), Libra (1.65 acres), Mahindipur (1.50 acres), Jaspalon (2.50 acres), Fatehpur (0.75 acres), Rajewal (1.65 acres), Rohno Khurd (1.80 acres), Isru (4.00 acres), Nasrali (4.10 acres), and Khatra (2.50 acres). These playgrounds will have facilities for various sports such as basketball, volleyball, hockey, and cricket, and will be fully equipped with open gyms.

Sond emphasized that the project will play a significant role in keeping youth away from drugs by providing them with proper spaces to engage in sports and constructive activities. He added that the government will ensure every village has a beautiful playground. He described the project as a gift to future generations from the Punjab government.

Election Observers review preparations for Tarn Taran assembly by-election 2025



INDER PAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, October 23

General Observer Pushpa Satyani, Police Observer Shinei S, IPS and Expenditure Observer Manzarul Hasan, IRAS, appointed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the Tarn Taran Assembly By-Election 2025, held a review meeting today with the nodal officers of various teams constituted for the by-election. The meeting took place at the District Administrative Complex, Tarn Taran.

On the occasion, District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Rahul, IAS, Senior Superintendent of Police Dr Ravjot Kaur Grewal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Rajdeep Singh Brar, Returning Officer Gurmeet Singh, Assistant Commissioner Karanveer Singh, Dr Amandeep Singh, and Election Tehsildar Arminderpal Singh, along with other district officials, were present.

During the meeting, District Election Officer Rahul briefed the Observer Sahiban in detail about the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the by-election in the Tarn Taran Vidhan Sabha constituency.

He informed that there are 1,93,742 registered voters in the constituency, including 1,01,494 men, 92,240 women, and 1,356 service voters. A total of 222 polling booths have been established across 114 polling locations.

'Taruf-e-ECE' Fresher's Party organised

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Bathinda, October 23

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), Giani Zail Singh Campus College of Engineering & Technology (GZSCCET), Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPTU), Bathinda, organized a vibrant fresher's party titled "Taruf-e-ECE" to welcome newly admitted students with enthusiasm and joy.

The event witnessed colorful cultural performances, fun-filled competitions, and the announcement of title winners. Preeti Sharma was crowned Miss Fresher, Derik won the title of Mr. Fresher, Jasveer was adjudged Mr. Handsome, and Aradhya was titled Miss Gorgeous. Their lively performances and confidence added charm to the celebration.

Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, MRSPTU, appreciated the department's efforts, highlighting that such events play a key role in developing students' confidence, creativity, and communication skills. He encouraged students to actively participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities for their overall growth.

Dr. Gurinder Pal Singh Brar, Registrar, MRSPTU, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour and distributed prizes to the winners of various events. Prof. (Dr.) Sanjiv Kumar Aggarwal, Campus Director, GZSCCET, extended his best wishes to the newcomers and congratulated the ECE Department for successfully organizing the function.

Earlier, Dr. Neeraj Gill, Head, Department of ECE, extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries, faculty, and students, appreciating the collective enthusiasm of the ECE fraternity.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Sukhjinder Singh, Assistant Professor, ECE, who acknowledged the sincere efforts of students, coordinators, and faculty members in making the event a success.

The cultural segment featured impressive performances including solo dances by Preeti Sharma, Rimplejeet Kaur, Manjot Kaur, Aradhya Sharma, Simranjeet Kaur, and Vani; duet dances by Rajwinder & Ishpreet, Sukhjeet & Amandeep, and Jasika & Ramandeep; and a group dance by Aradhya, Derik, and Kamlesh that received thunderous applause.

Society for Public Welfare demands immediate action against 17 illegal constructions in Ludhiana Zone-C

GURKIRPAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 23

The Society for Public Welfare and Awareness, headed by its President Simratpal Singh Kalsi, has submitted a formal representation to the Governor of Punjab, Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, and senior officials of the Department of Local Government, seeking urgent legal action against 17 illegal constructions in Municipal Corporation Ludhiana Zone-C.

In the memorandum addressed to multiple state and central authorities, including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, New Delhi, the society has alleged gross violations of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1976 and Building Bylaws, 2018, claiming that unauthorized constructions are being carried out without mandatory approvals and building permits.



Kalsi stated that these constructions have exceeded permissible Floor Area Ratios (FAR), encroached upon public land, and failed to comply with essential safety norms, thereby posing serious threats to public safety and urban planning. He further alleged that the ongoing illegal activity reflects municipal negligence and possible complicity of certain officials, warranting action under the Anti-Corruption Act and relevant service rules.

The representation highlighted the adverse impacts of such violations, including risks of structural collapse, strain on civic infrastructure, congestion due to loss of public spaces, and significant revenue loss to the government through unpaid taxes and penalties. The society has urged the authorities to: Conduct an immediate inspection and initiate legal proceedings against the offenders. Demolish the unauthorized structures and impose heavy penalties.

Gold chain snatched from woman in Phagwara; locals demand swift police action

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 23

A woman identified as Rupinder Kaur became the victim of a snatching incident in Model Town, Phagwara, on Wednesday afternoon, when an unidentified motorcyclist allegedly snatched her gold chain and fled the scene. According to available information, Rupinder Kaur was riding an Activa scooter with her aunt when the incident occurred. The assailant, described as a young man on a motorcycle, reportedly approached from behind and snatched her gold chain before speeding away.

The victim and her aunt, taken by surprise, were unable to note down the motorcycle's registration number. The matter was promptly reported to the local police. However, as of Thursday, no formal First Information Report (FIR) had been registered in connection with the case. The delay in lodging the FIR has sparked concern among local residents, who have urged the authorities to take swift and concrete action to curb such street crimes. Residents of Model Town have expressed growing unease over the increasing incidents of snatching and theft in the area. They have called for enhanced police patrolling and stricter enforcement to ensure the safety of women and senior citizens, who are often targeted in such crimes.

CM Facilitation Centre organises camp for Labour Card Registration

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Dhuri, October 23



The Chief Minister Facilitation Centre, established under the visionary leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to ensure effective, transparent, and citizen-friendly governance, is providing immense benefits to the people. A special camp was organised here on Thursday for labour workers to facilitate the issuance of Labour Cards, which witnessed an enthusiastic response from a large number of beneficiaries.

A labour worker who came to fill his Labour Card application shared that the initiative launched by the Punjab Government has been a great relief for individuals who are less educated or not familiar with computers and online processes. He added that at the Chief Minister's Facilitation Centre, trained professionals fill out application forms for various government services, sparing common citizens the inconvenience of visiting multiple offices.

Chairman Punjab Small Scale Industries and Export Corporation Dalvir Singh Dhillon, and Chairman of the Dhuri Market Committee Rajwant Singh Ghulli, said that the Chief Minister's Facilitation Centre was dedicated to the public by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann in May this year and has since been serving a large number of citizens daily.

Agri Dept intensifies village outreach to curb stubble burning



HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 23

Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ferozepur, Deepsikha Sharma, various teams of the Agriculture Department have been visiting villages across the district to encourage farmers to refrain from burning paddy stubble and to adopt eco-friendly stubble management practices.

As part of this campaign, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Block Mamdot, facilitated coordination between farmer Sanjeev Kumar of village Karmah who owns around 40 acres of farmland—and a baler owner to ensure proper baling of stubble. Meetings were also organized in villages Gatti Chak Jadid and Dona Telu Mall, where farmers were sensitized about the harmful effects of stubble burning and informed about alternative methods.

Inspired by the department's awareness efforts, farmer Chiman Singh from village Dulleke Nathuwala managed stubble over 1.5 acres of land using a Super Seeder and prepared his field for garlic sowing. Similar awareness meetings were held with farmers from villages Betu Kadim and Savai ke Bhokhri.

District Health Society reviews progress of National Health Programmes in Hoshiarpur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, October 23



In line with the directions of Deputy Commissioner Aashika Jain, a key meeting of the District Health Society was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) Nikas Kumar at the Ashok Chakra Meeting Hall in the District Administrative Complex, Hoshiarpur.

The meeting was attended by Civil Surgeon Dr Balveer Kumar, all District Programme Officers, Senior Medical Officers (SMOs), and other officials and staff of the Health Department. The session included a detailed review of various ongoing national health programmes and schemes, followed by the issuance of necessary directives for their effective implementation.

At the outset, Civil Surgeon Dr Balveer Kumar presented an overview of the health initiatives being implemented across the district.

ADC Nikas Kumar instructed officials to ensure timely registration of pregnant women with 100 pc coverage at the block level. He also directed SMOs to conduct weekly review meetings and emphasized the need to provide special care for high-risk pregnancies. Strengthening and streamlining delivery services in government hospitals was another key point of discussion.

The ADC issued special instructions to SMOs in blocks where the sex ratio remains low, directing them to identify causes and implement corrective measures. He further stressed the importance of achieving 100 pc immunization targets and maintaining regular online updates of all health records.

Director General Safety of Railway Board visits Rail Coach Factory praises safety and technological advancements

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 23



Director General (Safety) of the Railway Board Hari Shankar Verma on Thursday visited the Rail Coach Factory (RCF) in Kapurthala, underscoring the organization's commitment to safety, quality, and technological innovation in coach manufacturing. On arrival, he was welcomed by Ravi Kumar, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer, along with senior officials of RCF.

During his visit, Verma held a comprehensive meeting with Principal Heads of Departments and senior officers to discuss critical issues related to coach safety, production efficiency, and the introduction of new coach models in the current fiscal year. The Design Department presented a detailed briefing on measures undertaken to improve coach wiring and other safety protocols, reflecting RCF's proactive approach toward minimizing risks and enhancing passenger safety.

Verma then conducted an extensive inspection of the workshops, observing the manufacturing processes of various types of coaches, including both AC and non-AC models.

Railway sets record with ₹25.06 lakh ticket checking revenue from 3,348 passengers in single day

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 23

In a remarkable achievement, the Ferozepur Division of Indian Railways has set a new record by collecting Rs 25.06 lakh in ticket checking revenue in a single day on October 22 the highest ever in the division's history.

Under the leadership of Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar and Additional Divisional Railway Manager Nitin Garg, coordinated and well-planned efforts led to this milestone. During the special ticket checking drive across various stations and trains, 3,348 passengers were found traveling without tickets or with irregular travel documents, resulting in total revenue recovery of Rs 25.06 lakh through penalties.

Previously, the division's highest single-day revenue from ticket checking was Rs 24.5 lakh, recorded in 2022.

Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar commended the collective efforts of the ticket checking staff, crediting the accomplishment to their dedication, teamwork, and coordination. He added that regular awareness campaigns are being conducted to encourage passengers to travel with valid tickets and maintain cleanliness in trains and stations.

bright Punjab Express

Reforming Agniveer scheme

After launching the Agniveer scheme to infuse new blood into the armed forces, the Government of India is now thinking of ways and means to make it more attractive to the public at large. One of the proposals under consideration is to raise the Agniveer retention rate from the current 25 per cent to up to 75 per cent. This is among the proposals being discussed by the Army Commanders Conference at Jaisalmer. Other proposals include measures to enhance jointness among the three services and review the implementation of Mission Sudarshan Chakra.

The first batch of Agniveers will complete their four-year tenure next year and, therefore, their retention is on the agenda. This is the first Army Commanders Conference since Operation Sindoor in May. The conference serves as a platform for the Army's senior leadership to review the overall security situation and deliberate on key operational priorities to address emerging challenges.

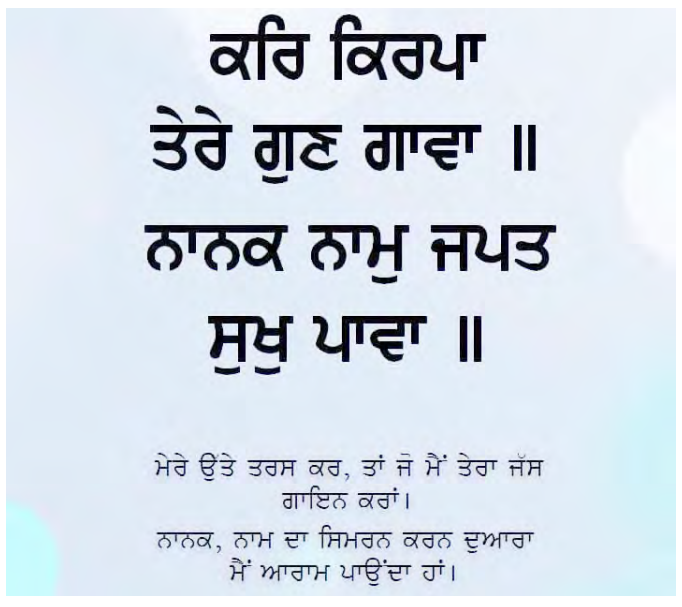
Similarly, with the increasing strength of veterans, options to gainfully use their experience and expertise are being considered. At present, veterans are engaged in limited roles such as those under the Army Welfare Education Society and the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) polyclinics, but broader participation across formations is being considered. Personnel and welfare-related issues of serving troops are also expected to feature in the discussions.

Measures under discussion to improve integration include the standardisation of equipment, common supply chains for logistics and procurement, combined training at all levels, more cross-postings and exposure across services, and greater social interaction among personnel – all steps aimed at paving the way for the creation of theatre commands. Some of these initiatives were also discussed at the Combined Commanders Conference in Kolkata last month, which was attended by the Prime Minister. At that meeting, the government announced the formation of three joint military stations and the merger of the education branches of the Army, Navy, and Air Force into a single Tri-Services Education Corps – key steps towards deeper integration.

This is the first conference of Army Commanders since Operation Sindoor in May. It serves as a platform for the Army's senior leadership to review the overall security situation and deliberate on key operational priorities to address emerging challenges. The Combined Commanders' Conference took place in Kolkata last month. It will also review operational preparedness, including the repair and replacement of damaged equipment, emergency procurement of critical stores, and ammunition stocking for various weapon systems.

The implementation of Mission Sudarshan Chakra, which involves coordination with other services and multiple stakeholders, will also be discussed.The Jaisalmer meeting marks the second phase of the second Army Commanders Conference this year; the first phase was held in Delhi earlier this month.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



Govt launches training modules for effective management of chemical emergencies



The Union government has launched key training modules to equip public health professionals and responders with the necessary knowledge and skills for the timely and effective management of chemical incidents.

The modules, which are a step towards enhanced preparedness, were launched by Punya Salila Srivastava, the Secretary of Health and Family Welfare, along with key senior officials from various line ministries at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

"Chemical emergencies pose a significant and evolving threat to public health, environmental safety, and societal stability, underscoring the need for strengthened national preparedness and response mechanisms," said the Ministry of Health.

"In the present fast-growing industrial economy, updating and keeping oneself prepared for any such emergencies is of paramount importance," it added.

The specialised training modules, divided into three parts, were developed by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), in collaboration with NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) and with technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO India).

Module 1 includes preparedness, surveillance, and response for public health management of chemical emergencies.

Module 2 elaborates pre-hospital management of chemical emergencies, including the identification and assessment of chemical hazards, patient triage and decontamination, and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment.

Module 3 details medical management of chemical emergencies. It is designed to cover a wide range of topics related to the medical management of chemical emergencies, including in-hospital patient triage, hospital decontamination, the initial assessment and management, and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment.

As India is rapidly emerging as a major global hub for industrial and technological development, it is increasing the risk of exposure to chemical hazards.

Uncontrolled releases of such substances can have serious implications for public health and the environment, potentially resulting in chemical emergencies. These chemical emergencies have a profound impact on human health, often resulting in casualties, long-term consequences, and damage to property and the environment.

In such a scenario, "these modules aim to equip public health professionals, healthcare workers, emergency responders, and policymakers with the necessary knowledge, skills, and operational tools for timely and effective management of chemical incidents," the Ministry said.

Strengthening chemical emergency management also supports core capacities under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), contributing to both national and global health security, the Ministry said. IANS

Indian doctors in Stanford list of world's top 2 pc scientists a proud moment: Minister



The rising number of Indian doctors in 'Stanford University 2025 list of world's top 2 per cent scientist' is a proud moment for the country, said Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday.

Taking to social media platform X, Goyal said the feat reflects the country's growing expertise in medical research.

The list, released recently, includes 14 orthopaedicians, 41 paediatricians and over 6,000 faculty members from across the country's top-ranked institutes.

"A proud moment for Indian doctors," said Goyal in a post on .

The scientists have been recognised "for their pioneering research, clinical achievements transformational impact in the field", the Minister said.

"This distinction stands as a testament to India's growing expertise in medical research and the unwavering commitment of its scientific community to innovation and global excellence," he added.

Goyal also mentioned "Dr. Arun Mullaji, a dear friend and renowned orthopaedician".

A whopping 6,239 Indian faculty featured in the list under the single-year category. In 2024 alone, 3,372 were acknowledged in the career-long category in the report.

Among those featured in the global list for the single-year ranking, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) contributed the largest share with 755 researchers, followed by over 330 from the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), and 117 from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore.

A total of 80 researchers from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), with a significant 56 hailing from AIIMS New Delhi, earned a place in the prestigious list.

Stanford University's 2025 database of the top-cited scientists provides standardised information on citations, h-index, co-authorship adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions and a composite indicator (c-score).

The selection is based on the top 100,000 scientists by c-score (with and without self-citations) or a 2 per cent or above percentile rank in the sub-field. IANS

Over 80 pc women believe more female tech leaders can improve workplace culture: Report

More than 80 per cent of women believe more female leaders can improve workplace culture in the technology sector, according to a report on Thursday. The Women in Tech Report by Acronis, a cybersecurity and data protection company, uncovered gender gap perceptions in career development and leadership opportunities



More than 80 per cent of women believe more female leaders can improve workplace culture in the technology sector, according to a report on Thursday.

The Women in Tech Report by Acronis, a cybersecurity and data protection company, uncovered gender gap perceptions in career development and leadership opportunities.

It showed striking differences in how men and women perceive career opportunities, workplace challenges, and barriers to advancement in the technology sector.

The report showed that 82 per cent of women believe increasing female leadership would positively impact workplace culture. However, only 74 per cent of men agree with it.

The 2025 survey highlights a consistent perception gap between men and women on the state of career opportunities in technology.

While men generally view the industry as more equitable, women report significant barriers tied to bias, work-life balance, and leadership opportunities.

Only 60 per cent of women believed men and women have equal access to career development and growth, compared to 75 per cent of men. Over 60 per cent of women said work-life balance challenges significantly impact career progression for women, while only 49 per cent of men agree.

More than 40 per cent of women cited bias and stereotypes as the main barrier for females starting cybersecurity careers, compared to 33 per cent of men.

"Our new survey findings shine a spotlight on just how differently men and women experience working in the tech industry," said Alona Geckler, SVP Business Operations and Chief of Staff at Acronis.

"Closing the gender gap requires more than good intentions. Organisations must recognise these disparities and design programs that expand leadership opportunities, confront bias head-on, and create environments where work-life balance doesn't present any barriers that may potentially derail women's careers," Geckler added.

The report is based on a global survey of more than 650 IT professionals across eight countries -- the US, UK, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Italy, Singapore, and Japan. 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

Asked to convert for marriage, Bengaluru girl lodges police complaint against lover

BENGALURU: A girl on Thursday filed a police complaint against her lover and his family, who allegedly forced her to convert to Islam for marriage. The case was reported at the HSR Layout police station in Bengaluru, and a complaint has been registered against Mohammad Ishaq. According to police, the victim and Mohammad Ishaq came into contact through Instagram on October 17, 2024. After interacting for some time, they entered into a relationship. On October 30, 2024, they met at a mall in the Thanisandra locality of Bengaluru. The accused promised the victim that he would speak to her parents and marry her. The victim in her complaint said that Ishaq booked a room in Dasarahalli and allegedly sexually exploited her. **IANS**

Kerala looks to boost local liquor production

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala Excise Minister M. B. Rajesh on Thursday called for a significant increase in local liquor production, highlighting the potential to not only meet domestic demand but also explore export opportunities. The minister, however, acknowledged that local opposition may arise but stressed that such concerns should not impede progress. Despite the presence of nine distilleries in the state, no liquor is being produced by them, he noted. "The state has the capacity to produce its own liquor, yet some vested interests are actively opposing local production," he said. Concerns over water availability have also been cited, but Rajesh questioned their validity, pointing out that Kerala's water situation is not markedly different from neighbouring Karnataka. **IANS**

Over 125 injured by carbide guns; many face permanent blindness

BHOPAL, OCTOBER 23



What should have been a night of lights and joy turned into a nightmare for families across Bhopal and surrounding districts this Diwali, as makeshift "carbide guns" – marketed as cheap festive toys – caused severe injuries to more than 125 people, including children and the elderly.

According to doctors, the number may be higher, around 200.

Nearly 20 cases were reported from Gwalior, Indore (four), Sagar (three), and Bhopal (36).

Most cases have come up in clinics or private hospitals.

Patients are not only from Bhopal but also from Seoni Malwa, Hoshangabad, Sehore, and Narsinghpur, overwhelming eye wards. Hospitals reported a surge in cases, with over 70 per cent involving corneal damage, leading to permanent vision loss for several victims.

The devices, priced around Rs 200 and made from plastic pipes, gas lighters, and calcium carbide, explode violently upon ignition, hurling shrapnel-like fragments into eyes, faces, and bodies.

At Hamidia Hospital, one of Bhopal's largest government facilities, doctors treated around 40 patients on Diwali night alone.

Kavita Kumar, Head of the Ophthalmology Department, described the carbide gun as a "deadly explosive" rather than a toy, as it produces acetylene gas, which ignites with a spark through an "ignitor".

"The blast scatters plastic shards like pellets, causing deep corneal ulcers and burns," she explained.

According to a private hospital doctor, in emergency cases, a corneal transplant is required with urgent tissue replacement, which is a costly procedure, and recovery could take months.

So far, across Madhya Pradesh, over 125 children were hospitalised with similar injuries, and at least 14 have lost their eyesight permanently, according to reports citing state health officials.

Bhopal Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Manish Sharma confirmed over 60 hospitalisations in the city, primarily children aged 8-14, with more than 150 injury reports the day after Diwali – many of whom were discharged after first aid.

Despite Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's October 18 directive to district authorities to ban the sales of carbide guns, the devices were rampant in markets, fuelled by social media trends glamourising them as Diwali stunts. **IANS**

BJP's ally TMP observes 24-hour shutdown over eight demands in Tripura

AGARTALA, OCTOBER 23



Normal life was affected in Tripura on Thursday after the ruling BJP's ally, the Tipra Motha Party (TMP)-affiliated civil society, called a 24-hour shutdown in support of its eight-point demands, including the deportation of illegal migrants.

A senior police official said that to make the shutdown successful, picketers organised sit-in demonstrations at more than 52 key locations across the state and in two places along the railway tracks in West Tripura and Khowai districts.

"There is no report of any untoward incident from anywhere in the state. The situation is quite under the control of the police and administration," the official said, adding that large contingents of security forces, including the Tripura State Rifles (TSR) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), were deployed across the state.

Though attendance of employees and officers in most government offices and banks across Tripura was almost normal, private offices, shops, markets, and business establishments in many places remained closed. Movement of public vehicles on most highways, including National Highway-8, the surface lifeline of Tripura, came to a halt as bandh supporters blockaded roads at several points.

The Tiprasa Civil Society (TCS), led by TMP MLA Ranjit Debbarma, called the 24-hour shutdown on Thursday to highlight its eight-point charter of demands.

The demands include the immediate implementation of the Tiprasa Accord, identification and deportation of all illegal immigrants, setting up of detention camps in each district for illegal immigrants, holding of elections to the Village Committees under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), and introduction of the Inner Line Permit system to prevent infiltration. **IANS**

Telangana IAS officer takes voluntary retirement after tiff with Excise Minister

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 23



Senior Telangana IAS officer Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi has taken voluntary retirement after differences with Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao over high-security liquor hologram tenders.

Rizvi, who was Principal Secretary, Commercial Tax and Excise, took voluntary retirement on Wednesday. Known for his integrity, the officer cited personal reasons for seeking voluntary retirement.

The state government notified the same and placed M. Raghunandan Rao, Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, in the full additional charge as Secretary, Revenue (Commercial Taxes & Excise) Department.

A letter written by Jupally Krishna Rao to the Chief Secretary on Wednesday, urging him to reject Rizvi's application for voluntary retirement in view of the alleged "grave misconduct", surfaced on Thursday.

The minister cited the earlier letter written by him, disclosing what he called acts of the IAS officer constituting grave misconduct and those attracting criminal liability. "It is learnt that the above Member of Indian Administrative Service has applied for Voluntary Retirement from service. In view of the alleged grave misconduct, please take steps to ensure that the said VR Application is rejects (sic) and not approved by the competent authority," reads the letter.

Krishna Rao had accused Rizvi of deliberately delaying the tender process for high-security holograms affixed to sealed liquor bottles. The IAS officer has thus allowed an old vendor to continue.

The hologram carried a barcode and an IT-based tracking system that helps in preventing illegal liquor trade, counterfeit bottles and excise tax evasion. The Excise Department, with the help of the hologram, can trace every bottle from the distillery to the retail outlet.

The Excise Minister claimed that he had been writing to the IAS officer since August last year to speed up the process of tenders. **IANS**

Bihar polls: BJP's booth-level push to retain migrant voters post-Chhath Puja

PATNA, OCTOBER 23

With the Bihar Assembly elections set to take place in two phases on November 6 and 11, just days after the Chhath Puja festival, the BJP faces a crucial challenge -- convincing lakhs of migrant workers to stay back and cast their votes before returning to their workplaces across India and abroad.

According to official data, over 48 lakh Biharis return home for the Chhath festivities every year, including 45.78 lakh domestic migrants and 2.17 lakh people working overseas.

However, many are reluctant to remain an extra week or more until polling day, fearing financial losses over missing work.

To tackle this, the BJP has launched an intensive booth-level campaign aimed at ensuring maximum voter retention. Within 48 hours of Chhath's conclusion, party workers have been directed to conduct door-to-door visits, persuading returning migrants and their families to stay until the elections conclude.

"Staying back after Chhath is a tough call for many workers due to their jobs, but we're trying to help from explaining the importance of voting to even reaching out to employers if needed. It's not just about votes, it's about encouraging participation in democracy," said a BJP source.

> 'Staying back after Chhath is a tough call for many workers due to their jobs, but we're trying to help from explaining the importance of voting to even reaching out to employers if needed. It's not just about votes, it's about encouraging participation in democracy'

The party's local units have also been tasked with offering logistical support, including transport and assistance in coordinating smooth return journeys after the polls.

Acknowledging that migrant voters can be decisive in closely contested constituencies, the BJP has mobilised its organisational network from the Panna Pramukh system to booth workers and district-level leaders to establish personal connections with these voters.

Districts with the highest concentration of migrant-origin voters include East Champaran (6.14 lakh), Patna (5.68 lakh), Siwan (5.48 lakh), Muzaffarpur (4.31 lakh), and Darbhanga (4.3 lakh).

Most of these constituencies go to the polls in the first phase, making the retention of migrants a critical electoral factor. **IANS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mahesh Kumar S/o Vasudev Nigam R/o Aman Nagar, St.No. 8, Near DMW Workshop, Patiala, 7986002696, 9888401643 have purchased a plot of land measuring 128.88 sq. yards from Smt. Kiranjit Kaur W/o Sh. Kesho Pal Singh S/o Sh. Labh Singh, 1/2 share, and Smt. Maninder Kaur W/o Sh. Bhupinder Singh S/o Sh. Labh Singh, 1/2 share, R/o H.No. 110/4, Aman Nagar, opposite DMW Workshop, Patiala, vide deed No. 2022-23/11/1/16732 dated 06-03-2023. The original registration deed of the plot, No. 817 dated 13.04.2011, which was in the name of Kiranjit Kaur and Maninder Kaur, which they had given to me while getting the registration verified in Patiala, has gone missing from me somewhere in Patiala on 09.10.2025. If anyone finds it, please contact me at my above address.

DELHI/NCR

₹9.17 crore rebate availed by 3,635 consumers under water amnesty scheme: Delhi CM

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday announced that a rebate of Rs 9.17 crore has been availed by 3,635 consumers under the Delhi Jal Board's Water Amnesty Scheme.

The Chief Minister said in a post on X that under the Amnesty scheme, Rs 6.56 crore dues have been paid by water consumers.

On October 14, CM Gupta launched the 'Late Payment Surcharge Waiver Scheme' and the 'Unauthorised Connection Regularisation Scheme' that offered a waiver of the late payment surcharge for domestic water consumers up to 100 per cent.

The surcharge waiver on the payment of outstanding bills is available till January 31, 2026.

"Both these schemes have brought significant relief to the residents of Delhi and will make the water management system more public-friendly and transparent," she said, at the time of sharing details of these two public-oriented schemes. **IANS**

Delhi Police eliminate 'sigma gang'; kingpin carried reward of ₹25,000

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23



Hours after executing one of the biggest crackdowns on the inter-state crime, the Delhi Police made some startling disclosures about the Bihar gangsters' intention and motive to disrupt the upcoming Assembly elections and also how the four criminals found a 'safe haven' in the capital.

Addressing a press conference, Surendra Kumar, Joint CP of Delhi Police Crime Branch, said that the gang of four criminals had been hiding in the national capital for the past several days and were traced and confronted after receiving inputs from Bihar Police about their whereabouts.

He told the press that the Sigma gang's kingpin, Ranjan Pathak, carried a reward of Rs 25,000 and was wanted in at least eight criminal cases.

The four gangsters of the notorious Sigma gang, responsible for some high-profile killings in Bihar, were also plotting to conduct a major criminal operation during the upcoming Assembly elections, the senior cop told the press. According to police, they also committed a murder in Bihar after the election code of conduct came into effect on October 6.

He said that further investigations are underway and the police are interrogating known acquaintances of the accused to dig deep into the gangsters' motive. **IANS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It hereby inform to general public at large that Kashish Ahuja w/o Sunil Ahuja (Purchaser) intends to purchase Plot no.27-C, Property measuring 233.33 Sq.Yds. at Village Barewal Awana, Abaddi Known as South City Block-G, Ludhiana from Sukhwinder Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh (Seller). Further Kashish Ahuja w/o Sunil Ahuja is taking a loan of said property from HDFC Bank Ltd. Kashish Ahuja w/o Sunil Ahuja (Purchaser) has entered into agreement with Sukhwinder Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh (Seller), who are owner on basis of Sale deed Wasika no.2022-23/101/1/12591 dt.15.02.2023. Sukhwinder Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh has stated to HDFC Bank Ltd that following documents in respect of said property has been Lost and not available:Original Sale deed Wasika no.8770 dt.14.07.2008 in favour of Ashish Jain S/o Late Ravinder Kumar Jain.Original G.P.A Wasika no.2738 dt.08.08.2011 executed by Ashish Jain S/o Late Ravinder Kumar Jain in favour of Sohan Bajaj S/o Kartar Chand and Kamal Kishore S/o Kishan Lal.A police report has also been got registered in this respect having details: LR N: 640692/2025 dt.23.10.2025 by Sukhwinder Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh. Through this notice public at Large it is informed that if anybody has objection or claim or right with regard to mortgage or ownership regarding Original Sale deed Wasika no.8770 dt.14.07.2008 and Original G.P.A Wasika no.2738 dt.08.08.2011, then may contact to undersigned and anybody having claim or claiming any prior rights or interest in any manner in this property or has raised loan by Depositing the aforesaid documents to any person/bank /corporation/ financial institution may approach the undersigned and may submit objections within 7 days from the date of this public notice, no claim shall be entertained and Sale deed Shall be registered with office of Sub-Registrar, Ludhiana in favour of borrower/mortgagor i.e. Kashish Ahuja w/o Sunil Ahuja and such claim thereafter shall be deemed to be false, fake, frivolous, fraudulent and baseless claim and shall have no value in the eyes of law. Detail of property:Plot no.27-C, Property measuring 233.33 Sq.Yds. Comprised in Khasra No.78/1, 96, 85, 86, 77/1 Khatta No.1535/1915, 1536/1916, 1589/1689 as per Jamabandi for year 2016-17, Situated at Village Barewal Awana, H.B no.157, Abaddi Known as South City Block-G Teh. & Distt Ludhiana. Boundaries as per under: -East: Road 40' wide Adm.30' West: Road Colony Ajit Villa Adm.30', North: Plot no.27-B Mr. Soni Adm.70',South: Plot no.27-D Mr. Jain Adm.70'.Himanshu Jindal (advocate) Mb: 8968105533/ 9815641509,For and on Behalf of HDFC Bank Ltd,Ludhiana-141001

BEFORE SH. NAVEEN, DANICS
Asstt. Estate Officer,
U.T. Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE



Subject: Transfer of Ownership in respect of RESIDENTIAL House No. 37,SECTOR 19-A, Chandigarh (RP 10921) to the extent of 100.00% share on the basis of Court Decree On Basis of Unregistered Will dated 10/12/2024 .

It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Sh./Smt. SH. K.C. MOHINDROO is the owner/lessee of **RESIDENTIAL House No. 37, SECTOR 19-A, Chandigarh** to the extent of 100.00 % Share.

It has been informed by PANKAJ MOHINDROO that after all the stake holders/legal hiers have entered into has been passed by the Hon'ble Court

Now,PANKAJ MOHINDROO has/have applied for the Transfer of **Ownership** in respect of **RESIDENTIAL House No. 37,SECTOR 19-A , Chandigarh**, to the extent of **100.00 %** Share held by SH. K.C. MOHINDROO in his/her/their favour, on the basis of Court Decree On Basis Of Unregistered Will dated 10/12/2024 . If anybody has any information about any other legal heir(s) of the deceased other than mentioned above, the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh, immediately.

If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicants, he/she/they may furnish the same in writing (supported with affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/Notary)in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiary/ies and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.

Naveen, DANICS,
Assistant Estate Officer,
Exercising the powers of
Estate Officer,
U.T., Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Gagan Arora and Shammi Arora sons of Nirmal Arora, c/o M/s Godavri Knits India, plot no. 47, Bhamian Kalan, Ludhiana, are the owners for an area measuring 500 sq. yards, situated at Village Bhamian Kalan, Ludhiana. We have lost the Previous original lost original Sale Deeds Wasika No. 10712 Dated 14-10-2010, Wasika No. 13076 Dated 12-11-2005 & Wasika No. 3237 Dated 31-05-1996 which a DDR No. 639293/2025 Dated 15/10/2025 has been lodged by Gagan Arora. Now We have applied for a loan from HDFC BANK LTD., LUDHIANA against the said property. If anyone has any objection regarding the said loan, 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Before Sh. Naveen, Danics, Asstt. Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh.

Subject :- Transfer of Ownership in respect of Residential Site No. 208, Sector 11-A, Chandigarh (RP 5298) to the extent of 100.00% share on the basis of Intestate Death of Late Sh. Navdeep Singh Grewal.

It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Sh. Navdeep Singh Grewal is the owner of Residential Site No. 208, Sector 11-A, Chandigarh to the extent of 100.00% Share.

It has been informed by Pawanpreet Singh Grewal, Amarpreet Kaur Grewal, Rajinder Kaur that Sh. Navdeep Singh Grewal expired on 26.02.2024 and they have also intimated the following legal heirs of the deceased owner:- **(1) Amarpreet Kaur Grewal-Daughter, (2) Rajinder Kaur-Wife, (3) Pawanpreet Singh Grewal-Son**

Now, Pawanpreet Singh Grewal, Amarpreet Kaur Grewal, Rajinder Kaur have applied for the Transfer of Ownership in respect of Residential Site No. 208, Sector 11-A, Chandigarh to the extent of 100.00% Share held by Late Sh. Navdeep Singh Grewal in their favour, on the basis of Intestate Death. If anybody has any information about any other legal heir(s) of the deceased other than mentioned above ,the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh, immediately.

If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicants, he/she/they may furnish the same in writing (supported with affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/ Notary) in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiaries and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.

Sh. Naveen, Danics, Assistant Estate Officer,
Exercising the powers of the Estate Officer, U.T. Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

It hereby inform to general public at large that Mohan Kumar (Purchaser) intends to purchase Plot no.21, Property measuring 115-1/2 Sq.Yds village Kuliyewal, Abaddi Rishi Nagar Teh Distt. Ludhiana from Sunil Singh S/o Kulwant Singh (Seller). Further Mohan Kumar is taking a loan of said property from HDFC Bank Ltd. Mohan Kumar (Purchaser) has entered into agreement with Sunil Singh S/o Kulwant Singh (Seller), who is owner on basis of Sale deed Wasika no. 2024-25/106/1/1107 dt. 23.04.2024. Sunil Singh S/o Kulwant Singh has stated to HDFC Bank Ltd that following documents in respect of said property has been Lost and not available: Original Sale deed Wasika no.10402 dt.08.08.2012 executed by Raj Rani w/o Ram Saroop in Favour of Sanjeev Kumar S/o Kundan Lal.Original Sale deed Wasika no.16974 dt.13.12.2017 executed by Sanjeev Kumar S/o Kundan Lal in Favour of Mohan Verma S/o Satpal.A police report has also been got registered in this respect having details: LR N: 640308/2025 dt.21.10.2025 by Sunil Singh S/o Kulwant Singh. Through this notice public at Large it is informed that If anybody has objection or claim or right with regard to mortgage or ownership regarding Original Sale deed Wasika no.10402 dt.08.08.2012 and Original Sale deed Wasika no.16974 dt.13.12.2017, then may contact to undersigned and anybody having claim or claiming any prior rights or interest in any manner in this property or has raised loan by Depositing the aforesaid documents to any person/bank/corporation/ financial institution may approach the undersigned and may submit objections within 7 days from the date of this public notice, no claim shall be entertained and Sale deed Shall be registered with office of Sub-Registrar, Ludhiana in favour of borrower/mortgagor i.e. Mohan Kumar and such claim thereafter shall be deemed to be false, fake, frivolous, fraudulent and baseless claim and shall have no value in the eyes of law. Detail of property:Plot no.21, Property measuring 115-1/2 Sq.Yds, Comprised in Khasra No.22//21, 23//25, 25//5 Khatta no.209/210, Pg. no.374 as Per Jamabandi for Year 2006-07 Situated Village Kuliyewal, H.B no.178, Abaddi Known as Rishi Nagar Teh Distt. Ludhiana. bounded as North: Neighbourer Adm.20' East: Neighbourer Adm.52'South: Street Adm.20' West: Neighbourer Adm.52'.Himanshu Jindal (advocate) Mb: 8968105533/9815641509, For and on Behalf of HDFC Bank Ltd. Ludhiana-141001

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform and seek objections, if any, from general public that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., through its branch office situated at SCO 131-132-133, 2nd Floor, Apra Tower, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana- 141001 is advancing loan against "Schedule Land" to Hardial Gumber S/o Sardari Lal (Proposed Buyer) DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULE LAND Commercial Building 1277(as per ATS) UID no.B003-01389 as Per property Tax form 2025-26, measuring 106 Sq.Yds., Comprised in Khasra No.1076, 1594/1071, 1072 Khatta No.2513/2732, 2514 /2733 as Per Jamabandi for year 2007-08, Situated at Village Taraf Saidan, H.B. No.172, Abaddi known as Bajwa Nagar Street no.1, Tehsil. & Distt. Ludhiana. Bounded as North: Street 20'wide Adm.18' East:Plot no.10 Adm.53' South: Neighbourer Adm.18' West: Plot no.12 Adm.53'Current Owner –Vaneeta Chawla w/o Chander Mohan Chawla.Vaneeta Chawla w/o Chander Mohan Chawla is owner on basis of Sale deed Wasika No.12121 dt.17.12.2014. Further Vaneeta Chawla w/o Chander Mohan Chawla intends to Sell property in favour of Harsharan Singh S/o Apar Singh who further shall mortgage property in favour of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. Further it is stated by Seller that following documents in respect of said property has been Lost and not available:Original Sale deed Wasika no.1307 dt.15.05.1972 in favour of Ram Krishan Sachdev S/o Sai Dita Mal Sachdeva.A police report has also been got registered in this respect having details: SR No. 623620/2025 dt.30.8.2025 by Vaneeta Chawla D/o Ram Parkash (w/o Chander Mohan Chawla). That KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. is willing to finance against the above said schedule land by creating mortgage and charge over the schedule land against the aforesaid facility Therefore any person, In Case any Person, Individual, or HUF, Concern, Company, Society, Institution either Govt. or any other legal entity capable owning and possessing land/property, has any right, title or interest by virtue of sale, agreement, mortgage, lien, or any other mode of title, then such person, individual, HUF, Concern, Company, Trust, Society, Institution either Govt. or Non Govt. or any other legal entity capable owning and possessing land/property may contact and communicate in writing with the undersigned at his office along with documentary Proof of the title of any such objector with Seven days from the date of Publication of this Public Notice, failing which my client shall consider the title of the present owner to be valid, marketable and genuine. No Such Claim of any third person shall be entertained after expiry of 7 days from the publication of said Public Notice 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 and my Client (Kotak Mahindra Bank) shall have First Charge on property to be mortgaged by Hardial Gumber S/o Sardari Lal after registration of Fresh title deed from Vaneeta Chawla w/o Chander Mohan Chawla. Thereafter no disputes complains or objections will be entertained.That Harsharan Singh S/o Apar Singh further state, declare & confirm that he shall neither parted to anybody nor hypothecated/mortgage the schedule land with anybody/bank/financial institutions etc., as security towards any loan/borrowings and that the Mortgagor/s have neither mortgaged nor created any lien/encumbrance on the said property till date.Claims and objections may be sent to: Himanshu Jindal (Advocate), Distt. Courts, Ludhiana.Tel: 0161-5009570, Mobile: 9815641509/8968105533, On Behalf of Kotak Mahindra Bank

दफ्तर सब-रजिस्टरार, लुधियाना (पूरबी)

नोटिस प्रधीन लत्ता बनाम आमजनता

आम जनता नूं इस नोटिस राही सुचित कीता जांदा है कि प्रधीन लत्ता पत्नी विजे कुमार गरग वासी मकान नंबर 120-बी, माडल हाउस, बेबे नानकी रोड, लुधियाना दी वसीअत मानती मिती 22.02.2025 (उहनां दी मेत मिती 12.09.2025) उहनां दे पुत्तर हरश कुमार गरग पुत्तर विजे कुमार गरग वासी मकान नंबर 120-बी, माडल हाउस, बेबे नानकी रोड, लुधियाना दुआरा भारती रजिसटरेशन ऐकट 1908 दी धारा 40(1) अधीन इस दफ्तर विच रजिसटर करन हित पेश कीती है। प्रधीन लत्ता दे कानूनी वारसां जा किसे होर नूं इह वसीअत रजिसटर करन सबंधी जेकर कोई इतराज होवे तां उह इस नोटिस दे अखबार विच प्रकाशन दी मिती तों 15 दिना दे अंदर -अंदर इस दफतर विच असालतन जा वकालतन पेश हो के आपना इतराज लिखती रूप विच पेश करन। दसी मिआद पूरी होन ते किसे इतराज नूं नही विचारिआ जावेगा अते प्रधीन लत्ता वलों कीती गई वाखनी वसीअत, नियमां अनुसार रजिसटरड कर दिती जावेगी। मिती 23.10.2023 नूं मेरे दसखत अते मेहर नाल इह नोटिस जारी होइआ है।

सब रजिसटरार साहिब (पूरबी),
जिला लुधियाना।

NOTICE TO APPEAR/ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF DLM&SFC-LDH

Through this Publication This is for Constructive Notice for respondent **REX GLOBAL LTD G.T ROAD, DHANDARI KALAN, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB-141016** to appear in person or through Authorized representative before the **District level Micro & Small facilitation Council Ludhiana, District Industries Centre, Ludhiana on dated 12.11.2025,** regarding claim reference petition submitted by **RAHUL ENTERPRISES- 65-66-R,, BACKSIDE KULAR CYCLE, INDL AREA-B,, City LUDHIANA 141003,** U/s 18(1) of MSME Act 2006 bearing **Reference no: MSEFC/DIC/10/23/2824.** If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per section 23 & 25 of Arbitration & Conciliation Act and award shall also be passed on the basis of evidence before it.

Member Secretary cum General Manager, District Industries Centre, Industrial Estate, Ludhiana, Ph. No. 0161-2540695, E-mail:dicludhiana5@gmail.com, Ludhiana.msefc@gmail.com

1500–1600 ghats to be prepared for Chhath Puja in Delhi: Praveen Khandelwal

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23



BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal on Thursday visited the Chhath Ghat at the FCI Godowns near Nangia Park in Shakti Nagar, where he participated in a cleanliness drive. During his visit, he said that around 1,500 to 1,600 ghats were being prepared across Delhi for devotees to perform Chhath Puja this year.

Praveen Khandelwal said, "In Delhi, Chhath Puja is celebrated as a grand festival that signifies devotion, purity, and gratitude. Cleanliness and sanctity are essential aspects of this festival."

He added, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, this year we have decided to celebrate Chhath Puja on a grand scale. For this purpose, 1,500–1,600 ghats are being prepared and will be kept clean continuously. We have inspected and cleaned the FCI Godowns Ghat ourselves and assured that cleanliness drives will continue throughout the year."

Chhath Puja is one of the most significant Hindu festivals, primarily observed in Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is also celebrated in parts of Nepal and among Indian communities across the world. Dedicated to the worship of the Sun god and his sister Chhathi Maiya, the festival emphasises purity, gratitude, and the well-being of one's family. **IANS**

Officials must ensure proper implementation of scholar schemes: CM Saini

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said directions have been issued to officers to ensure that no student misses out on receiving scholarship benefits under the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship schemes. The Resident Commissioner at Haryana Bhawan has been instructed to coordinate with officials of the concerned central ministries to obtain information about the schemes being run by them and to keep the state government departments regularly informed. Along with this, school and college principals should also inform students about the schemes and ensure that their scholarship forms are filled online.

The Chief Minister was presiding over a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh, regarding scholarship schemes for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Backward Class (BC) students.

He said that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that no meritorious or needy student discontinues their education due to financial constraints. The Chief Minister directed the officers to make sure that students receive timely information about the scholarship schemes and that there is no negligence in this regard.

He instructed that information boards be installed in every school and college, clearly displaying details of all scholarship schemes so that students do not face any difficulty in filling out forms and completing the application process.

The Chief Minister directed officers to conduct ground monitoring of the schemes and prepare periodic review reports to be submitted to the government. This will help ensure that the state government's 40 percent share is transferred to the students' bank accounts, while the remaining 60 percent share from the central government is directly credited to students' accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

He further said that during student admission and counseling, officials should inform students and their parents that if they fall under the eligibility criteria for any scholarship scheme, they must link the student's bank account with Aadhaar to ensure timely disbursement of scholarship funds.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has placed special emphasis on the skill development of the country's youth so that every young person can become self-reliant and fully utilize their potential.

Lado Lakshmi Yojana: Women to decide how much monthly money they want

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

The state government plans to release the Rs 2,100 installment under the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana on November 1, Haryana Day. Those who wish to receive the first installment on November 1 must apply by October 25.

The Haryana Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana is a women's empowerment scheme launched by the state government on September 25 last. Under this scheme, eligible women will receive financial assistance of Rs 2,100 per month directly into their bank accounts through DBT.

The scheme aims to empower women financially and provide social security. This scheme is only available to women who are 23 years of age or older, have an annual family income of less than Rs 1 lakh, and have or have had a residence in Haryana for at least 15 years. Women who hold government jobs, are income tax payers, or are already receiving benefits from any other social security pension are not eligible.

Applications will be made through an online portal/app, where Aadhaar, residence, bank account, and family details will be required. Face authentication (liveness detection) will be required every month to ensure smooth payment.

Applicants will now have to select how much money they want to receive as a monthly installment, whether Rs 2,100 or less, so they don't miss out on other government benefits. Women who apply by October 25 will be eligible for the installment to be released on November 1.

Individuals with incomes up to Rs 1 lakh receive a Happy Card, while families with incomes up to Rs 180,000 receive a BPL card. Women can receive monthly installments as per their choice.

Haryana IPS officer suicide case: Union Minister Khattar meets Puran Kumar's family



CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 23

Union Minister and former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday met the family members of IPS officer Y. Puran Kumar, who died by suicide earlier this month. Additional Director General of Police Puran Kumar had accused senior officers of the police department of caste-based discrimination and blamed them for being the reason behind him taking the extreme step. He met with IAS officer Amneet P. Kumar, the wife of Puran Kumar, and offered his condolences.

The last rites of Puran Kumar were performed with the consent of his wife, Amneet, on October 15, after a nine-day stalemate over the post-mortem of the senior officer.

The impasse ended with the Haryana government's assurance to the family of a fair and impartial probe, besides a commitment that action would be taken against "erring" officials.

Puran Kumar's family members, his colleagues, comprising O.P. Singh, who has been given the additional charge of Director General of Police by replacing Shatrujeet Kapur, bureaucrats, politicians and scores of sympathisers attended the funeral here. IANS

No Shortage of medical equipment in government healthcare institutions: Arti Singh Rao

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

Haryana Health Minister Arti Singh Rao has stated that the State Government is continuously working to provide better healthcare services to the public. In this direction, efforts are being made to ensure that there is no shortage of medical equipment and machines in any government hospital or healthcare institution in the state.

The Health Minister informed that new equipment and advanced machines are being purchased as per requirement and supplied to institutions from time to time. Recently, new ultrasound machines have been sent to government hospitals in six districts — Panchkula, Narnaul, Panipat, Rewari, Sonipat, and Gurugram. Diagnostic services will soon begin for patients once the installation of these machines is completed.

She said that through Haryana Medical Services Corporation Limited (HMSCL), rates for the procurement of several essential medicines, medical equipment, and machines were recently finalized. Under this, the supply of equipment has now started to various healthcare institutions across the state.

Rao further said the aim of the government is to provide every citizen of the state with quality, affordable, and accessible healthcare services. For this, necessary resources are being strengthened at all levels of the Health Department.

48.44 lakh metric tonnes paddy procured in Haryana

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 23

A total of 8.44 lakh MT of paddy has been procured in Haryana, the state government said on Thursday.

A total of 49.94 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of paddy arrived in procurement centres in the state.

During the kharif procurement season, Rs 9,029.39 crore has been transferred directly to the bank accounts of farmers in the state.

"The government has ensured timely payment of the minimum support price (MSP) to farmers," a spokesperson for the Department



of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs said.

He said the government is ensuring smooth and efficient paddy procurement in all designated grain markets while keeping the interests of farmers as its top priority.

He said HAFED, Warehousing, and Food and Supplies agencies are actively procuring paddy in various districts. Instructions have been issued to the departments concerned to ensure that farmers do not face any inconvenience while selling their crops.

Paddy is being purchased from farmers registered on the 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal. So far, procurement has been completed from 252,693 registered farmers under this system, according to the spokesperson.

The procurement is underway under the MSP policy of the Union government, and payment for the procured crop is directly transferred to the farmers' bank accounts.

The spokesperson has appealed to farmers to bring their paddy to the mandis, only after ensuring that it meets the quality standards prescribed by the Union government, particularly the moisture limit of 17 per cent. PTI

Haryana to go fully paperless: Online deed registration made mandatory from Nov 1

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 23

In a transformative step toward digital governance, Financial Commissioner and Disaster Management, Dr. Sumita Misra said that as per the vision of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the paperless deed registration will become mandatory across all 22 districts of the state from November 1, 2025.

HIMACHAL/J&K

Himachal pollution board flags violations in eco-sensitive Koksar panchayat

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 23

The Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (HPSPCB) has recommended environmental compensation against the Koksar gram panchayat for dumping solid waste near Sissu and along the Chandra river in Lahaul-Spiti district. The recommendation comes in connection with a case pending before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which has now sought strict compliance with the directives of the pollution board.

The NGT has directed the Keylong SDM to submit a detailed compliance report within six weeks and to examine the issue of setting up a material recovery facility (MRF) near the Chandra river. The case of illegal and reckless solid waste dumping in Koksar, an area known for its ecological sensitivity, will be heard on January 16 by the NGT Bench comprising Justice Prakash Shrivastava (Chairperson) and Dr A Senthil Vel (Expert Member). The newly appointed SDM assured the Tribunal that she would ensure compliance with all directives at the earliest.

An inspection conducted by the HPSPCB team from Kullu on September 29 revealed several lapses under the jurisdiction of the Special Area Development Authority (SADA), Keylong. The board observed widespread littering of solid waste opposite the North Portal of the Atal Tunnel, along the highway, and on the banks of the Chandra river, posing a potential threat to water quality. PTI

J&K assembly's autumn session begins with obituary reference to departed leaders

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23



The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly started on Thursday with the House paying homage to former state governor, Satya Pal Malik and six ex-lawmakers.

Before entering the Assembly, MLAs from the ruling National Conference (NC) and Congress staged a silent protest on the Assembly premises, demanding the release of arrested Doda MLA Mehraj Malik.

Malik was detained in September under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for allegedly disturbing peace and law and order in Doda district.

At the start of the Assembly session, NC MLA from Sonawari constituency, Hilal Lone, raised the issue of Malik's arrest. The Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, told him to take his seat, assuring that he would allow him to speak on the issue later.

Urging the members to make maximum use of the nine-day Assembly session, Rather said, "We have limited time, and we should try to make optimum use of it. Several members and leaders passed away between the third and fourth sessions of the Assembly, and the House will pay tributes to them."

The session opened with obituary references to honour former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, who passed away on August 5.

Other former leaders to whom obituary references were included are former Minister Gulchain Singh Charak, former MLA Dina Nath Bhagat, ex-MLCs Ghulam Nabi Shaheen, Ramesh Arora and Sardar Mohammad Akhlaq Khan and former legislator Mohammad Sultan Pandithpori.

On Friday, the House will vote to elect four Rajya Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir. The seats have been vacant since 2021 as the elections to the Assembly were not held until last year.

While three NC candidates, Muhammed Ramzan Chowdhary, Sajad Kichloo and Shami Oberoi have an edge over rivals, the fourth seat will see a close contest between BJP J&K president, Sat Sharma and NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar.

Dar will need support from not only his party members, but also from the opposition PDP, Awami Ittehad Party and AAP to win the fourth seat, on which the BJP has a clear edge with 28 votes against 24 of NC and its alliance partners.

The session is expected to be stormy as issues like restoration of statehood, reservation policy and regularisation of thousands of daily wagers are set to dominate the proceedings.

As the NC government completed one year in office last week, the opposition is also expected to raise the promises made by the ruling party in its manifesto ahead of the J&K polls last year. PTI

J&K govt grants 3-day special casual leave to PM Package employees serving in Kashmir for Diwali celebrations

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

The Jammu and Kashmir government has sanctioned three-day special casual leave for PM package employees/migrant employees and those belonging to Jammu division and serving in the Valley so that these employees can celebrate Diwali with their families, government officials said.

An order issued by the Jammu and Kashmir General Administration Department said that three-day special casual leave is sanctioned for PM package/migrant and employees belonging to Jammu division and posted in different departments in the Valley on October 22 (Wednesday), October 23 (Thursday) and October 24 (Friday) for celebrating Diwali in Jammu.

It must be mentioned that a special employment package called the PM Package was announced for Kashmiri Pandit migrants so that they could serve in the Valley.

PM package employees in Jammu and Kashmir are primarily Kashmiri Pandit government employees recruited under a special package, with developments including the government's assurance of equal benefits and promotions, as well as temporary work-from-home directives in response to security concerns. These employees are receiving benefits comparable to other Jammu and Kashmir government employees and have experienced streamlined career progression through measures like the approval of the promotion scheme in July 2022.

The Jammu and Kashmir government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has also restored the over one-and-a-half century-old tradition of shuttling top government offices between the twin capitals of Jammu and Srinagar on six-monthly basis. PTI

HP shines with cleaner air; AQI drops post-Diwali

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 23

Even as several cities in North India are battling poor to severe air pollution post Diwali, Himachal has seen a significant decline in average Air Quality Index (AQI) on Diwali as compared to last year. Against the average AQI of 140 recorded last year in the state, the average AQI this Diwali dropped to 99, within the 'satisfactory' category.

Out of the 12 stations where the Pollution Control Board monitored air quality on Diwali and during the week leading up to the festival, 10 stations saw a drop in pollution level as compared to last year. Dharamsala and Una were the only two stations where the pollution level went up – Dharamsala saw the AQI level go up from last year's 109 to 120 and Una from 122 to 140.

As per the pollution control board, the AQI varied from 'good' to 'moderate' in the run-up to Diwali and from 'satisfactory' to 'moderate' on Diwali. None of the locations monitored by the board was found under the poor and worse categories.

Shimla, incidentally, recorded the best air quality among the 12 monitored stations, recording an AQI of 57. Last year, the capital had registered an AQI of 66. A week back on October 13, Shimla had an AQI of 19. Manali, too, saw its pollution level decrease this Diwali to 62 from last year's 80. Quite significantly, the industrial towns like Parwanoo, Kala Amb, Baddi, Barotiwala and Nalagarh also recorded a significant decline in the pollution level. PTI

Dharamsala cyber police arrest 3 Rajasthan men in multi-lakh online fraud cases

DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 23

The Cyber Police Station, North Range, Dharamsala, has arrested three alleged fraudsters from Rajasthan in connection with multiple online fraud cases involving lakhs of rupees.

The police also recovered Rs 7.63 lakh in cash from their possession.

The arrests are linked to a Rs 32 lakh fraud on the 'Telegraph' app in 2023, an online fraud of Rs 46 lakh through digital means in 2024, and online task frauds amounting to Rs 24 lakh in 2023 and 2024.

A police team was dispatched to Jodhpur, Rajasthan. With assistance from the Ratanada police station, they arrested Raghu Pratap Singh Chaudhary, Dharamraj and Rakesh. PTI

NC MLAs stage protest outside J&K Assembly demanding release of AAP's Mehraj Malik

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

The National Conference (NC) MLAs on Thursday staged a silent protest outside the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, demanding the release of arrested Doda MLA, Mehraj Malik.

Before entering the Assembly to attend the autumn session, the NC MLAs staged a silent protest, demanding the release of the AAP MLA.



Malik was arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for allegedly posing a threat to peace and law and order in Doda district.

The protesting MLAs carried placards saying 'Free Mehraj Malik', 'Restore Doda's Representation'. They maintained silence for several minutes as a mark of protest before addressing the media.

NC's Chief Spokesperson, Tanvir Sadiq, said that the continued detention of Malik was unjustified and deprived the people of Doda of their rightful voice in the Legislative Assembly. PTI

NEWSBRIEFS

Mahabharata brought to life through music and dance in South Korea's Miryang

SEOUL: Heralding a new chapter of friendship and cultural exchange between India and South Korea, the inland city of Miryang located in the northeastern Gyeongsangnam-do Province, hosted a memorable performance of India's iconic classical dance form Kathakali, on Thursday. "For the first time, Miryang welcomed the timeless beauty of Kathakali at Yoga Culture Town on October 23. A vibrant spectacle of storytelling, rhythm, and expression Kathakali, one of India's most iconic classical dance forms, brought the ancient epic of Mahabharata to life through music and dance," The Embassy of India in South Korea posted on X. IANS

Enhancing interoperability, IAF participates in Spanish air combat training exercise

MADRID: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the multinational air combat exercise Ocean Sky 2025, being hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base in the Canary Islands. The IAF stated that the exercise aims to boost mutual learning, increase interoperability, sharpen air combat skills and bolster defence cooperation with friendly nations. "Exercise Ocean Sky 2025: The Indian Air Force is participating in the multinational air combat exercise hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base, Spain, from October 20–31. IANS

University of Mauritius celebrates Diwali with vibrant people-to-people ties on display

PORT LOUIS: A Diwali celebration was organised by the students of the University of Mauritius, reaffirming the longstanding friendship between India and Mauritius. Indian High Commissioner to Mauritius Anurag Srivastava participated in the event and also extended heartfelt greetings to the people present, reflecting on the festival's deeper meaning. According to the Indian High Commission in Port Louis, addressing the event, Srivastava spoke about the enduring bond between India and Mauritius, calling it "two nations in name, one family in spirit." Emphasising the strong educational ties, the Indian High Commissioner highlighted various opportunities to connect with India, including fully funded scholarships at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels, cultural immersion programmes like the Know India Programme (KIP) and the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card for persons of Indian origin. IANS

India, Oman discuss enhancing defence ties, deepening military training collaboration

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army and Royal Army of Oman held the third Army-to-Army Staff Talks in New Delhi, focusing on enhancing bilateral defence cooperation through expanded joint exercises, expert exchanges in niche domains and deepening training collaboration. The officials of two nations also held talks on capability development, professional military education and new avenues for partnership under the Defence Cooperation Plan 2026. In a post on X, the Indian Army said, "Indian Army Strengthens Defence Cooperation with the Royal Army of Oman. IANS

Trump sanctions two Russian oil companies, hopes Ukraine 'war will be settled'

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 23

For the first time in his second term, US President Donald Trump has imposed new sanctions on Russia, targeting its two largest oil companies, in his latest bid to end the conflict in Ukraine.

The US Treasury Department targeted Russian companies Rosneft and Lukoil, and their subsidiaries, warning that a future action could not be ruled out.

While meeting NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte at the White House, Trump said he hoped that the "war will be settled".

"These are tremendous sanctions. These are very big against their two big oil companies. And we hope that they won't be on for long. We hope that the war will be settled," he added.

Trump also noted his previous conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin had not led to any breakthroughs.

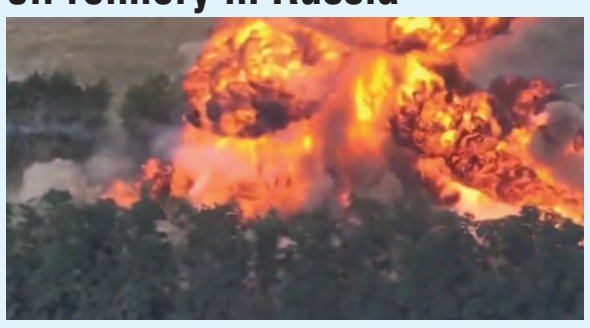
"Every time I speak with Vladimir, I have good conversations, and then they don't go anywhere. They just don't go anywhere. He's fighting a war. He's in a war. It's two very competent sides, and that's the way war is. You never know with war, but I would say that it's time to make a deal," he emphasised. Trump, on Tuesday, cancelled his proposed meeting with Putin in Budapest in Hungary, saying he doesn't "want to have a wasted meeting".

On Wednesday, he said, "it didn't feel right" to him.

"We cancelled the meeting with President Putin. It just didn't feel right to me. It didn't feel like we were going to get to the place we have to get. So, I cancelled it, but we'll do it in the future," he noted.

The decision was taken to cancel the meeting after a phone call between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Monday. IANS

Ukraine strikes military plant, oil refinery in Russia



KYIV, OCTOBER 23

Ukrainian forces conducted strikes on a military plant and an oil refinery in Russia, the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said in a statement.

The strikes hit the Saransk Mechanical Plant in the capital of Mordovia, which reportedly produces anti-personnel engineering ammunition, mine-laying kits, ammunition detonators and initiation nodes, causing explosions, according to the statement released on Wednesday.

The Saransk Mechanical Plant is part of the state-owned Rostec Corporation and manufactures equipment and components for various industries, with a primary focus on mechanical engineering and the defence sector, Xinhua news agency reported.

In 2020, the plant was temporarily shut down for 90 days due to safety violations related to explosive production, according to the Russian business daily Kommersant. IANS

Kabul residents voice concern over increasing prices of firewood, coal

KABUL, OCTOBER 23



Ahead of winter season, a number of Kabul residents have voiced concern over the increasing prices of firewood and coal in local markets, local media reported on Thursday.

They said that prices of coal and firewood have increased despite the weather still being relatively warm, causing problems for families having low-income, Afghanistan's leading media outlet Tolo News reported. Residents of Kabul said that the people cannot afford to buy wood and coal due to its increased price.

"Wood and coal have become very expensive, and people can't afford them. Many are unemployed, and the government should pay attention to this issue and the rising prices," Abdul Kareem, a local resident, was quoted as saying by Tolo News.

"A cart of firewood costs 12,000 Afghanis — and winter hasn't even arrived yet. A sack of coal now costs 1,700 to 1,800 Afghanis. We ask the government to lower the prices," said another Kabul resident Mohammed Saber.

Meanwhile, firewood and coal sellers in Kabul have confirmed the increase in price and have attributed the price hike to increasing transportation costs, taxes, and fuel prices.

Nazirullah, a firewood vendor, has mentioned increased prices of mulberry, walnut wood and firewood. He said, "A cart of firewood from Khost and Paktia is now 12,500 Afghanis. Mulberry and walnut wood costs between 7,500 and 8,000 Afghanis per cart. Compared to last month, the price of oak wood has increased by around 1,500 Afghanis."

According to coal seller Raqib, the price of coal that comes from Dara-e-Suf was previously between 9,400-9,500 Afghanis. However, he stated that the price has now reached 11,700 or even 11,800 Afghanis.

Ajmal Wahidi, head of the Kabul Timber Sellers' Union, said that the price could reduce to around 8000 Afghanis if the government allows the import of Kunar wood. IANS

World Court declares Israel 'obligated' to uphold human rights in Palestine, work with UN

UNITED NATIONS, OCTOBER 23



The World Court has declared that Israel is obligated to uphold international human rights law in the Palestinian territories and work with the UN and other international organisations to provide relief to the people there.

Issued on Wednesday in The Hague at the request of the General Assembly, it is only an advisory opinion, and Israel is not obliged to abide by it; however, it is a victory for the UN.

In the scathing opinion, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as it if formally known, said Israel has "to respect the prohibition on the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare" and must ensure that "the essential supplies of daily life, including food, water, clothing, bedding, shelter, fuel, medical supplies and services" are provided to the people in the Palestine territories.

The UN has said that the people in Gaza are facing the threat of famine and starvation because Israel has restricted relief supplies entering the territory during its military action against Hamas, which launched a terrorist attack against it in 2023.

The court said that Israel was obligated to work with the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides food aid and multifarious services to the Palestinian people. Israel has effectively banned the organisation, accusing its employees of involvement with Hamas.

"While The Hague accuses Israel, it deliberately ignores the war crimes of Hamas and the role of UNRWA, which has long become a breeding ground for terror in Gaza," Israel's Permanent Representative Danny Danon posted on X. Israel's foreign ministry strongly rejected the opinion, calling it "politicisation of International Law, which seeks to produce political outcomes."

The US State Department joined in criticising what it called a "nakedly politicised non-binding 'advisory opinion'." It "unfairly bashes Israel and gives UNRWA a free pass for its deep entanglement with and material support for Hamas terrorism," it added.

However, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the opinion, according to his Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric.

"The Secretary-General strongly urges Israel to comply with its obligations in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations and other humanitarian actors in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in accordance with the Advisory Opinion," he said.

Following the Gaza deal by US President Donald Trump between Israel and Hamas on October 8, Israel is obligated to allow relief supplies into Gaza, and relief trucks have begun delivering relief. IANS

UN chief hopes Israel will abide by ICJ advisory opinion

UNITED NATIONS, OCTOBER 23



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hopes that Israel will abide by the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concerning Israel's responsibilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, a UN Spokesperson said.

Guterres "added that the decision comes at a moment in which we are doing everything we can to boost our humanitarian aid in Gaza, and so the advisory opinion is decisive in order for us to deal with the tragic situation in which the people of Gaza still live," Farhan Haq, Deputy Spokesperson for the UN chief, told a daily briefing on Wednesday.

Earlier on Wednesday, The Hague-based ICJ affirmed that Israel is obligated to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza, including assistance provided by UN agencies. "The State of Israel, as an occupying Power, is required to fulfill its obligations under international humanitarian law," the court said in its legally non-binding advisory opinion.

The advisory opinion stems from a December 2024 request by the UN General Assembly, which asked the world court to clarify Israel's duties as an occupying power under international law and its responsibilities in ensuring unhindered humanitarian access and supporting UN operations and other humanitarian actors in the Palestinian territories, Xinhua news agency reported.

In December, the UN General Assembly asked the ICJ for an opinion on Israel's obligations, as an occupying power and a member of the UN, towards UN agencies and other international organisations operating in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. IANS

Iran not to resume talks unless US abandons 'excessive demands': FM

TEHRAN, OCTOBER 23



Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi has said that Tehran will not return to the negotiating table unless the US abandons "excessive demands" and "unreasonable" requests.

He made the remarks on Wednesday upon arrival in Iran's northeastern city of Mashhad to attend a conference, according to the official news agency IRNA.

Araghchi attributed the suspension of indirect nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington, as well as Iran's discussions with European parties over the 2015 nuclear deal, to what he described as the US insistence on "excessive demands".

"We have always demonstrated that we are committed to diplomatic solutions. However, this does not mean giving up on the Iranian people's rights," he added.

He stressed that it would not be possible to resume negotiations "unless the United States changes its approach and accepts that negotiations must be based on mutual respect and held on an equal footing".

Iran and the US were set for a sixth round of nuclear talks when Israel launched major surprise airstrikes on several areas in Iran, including nuclear and military sites, killing senior commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians, Xinhua news agency reported.

On June 22, US forces joined the attacks by bombing the three Iranian nuclear facilities of Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan. IANS

12 UN staff leave Yemen after Houthi detention

SANAA, OCTOBER 23

Twelve United Nations international staff detained last week by the Houthis in Yemen's capital Sanaa were released and flown out of the country, said a statement from UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg's office.

Three other detained UN employees were also free to move or travel, the statement said on Wednesday.

A UN plane was seen departing Sanaa airport on Wednesday morning, according to an airport employee.

Despite the releases, "53 UN colleagues remain arbitrarily detained by the de-facto authorities (Houthi group)," the statement said, renewing the UN Secretary-General's call for their immediate and unconditional release, Xinhua news agency reported. The statement did not mention whether the phones and laptops were also returned to the UN staffers or not.

Last week, a statement from the UN envoy's office said all belongings of the UN staff were confiscated.

The Houthis raided the UN compound in Sanaa last weekend, holding 20 staff, including 15 foreigners, inside the compound. IANS

North Korea says it tested 2 hypersonic projectiles, successfully hit target

SEOUL, OCTOBER 23



North Korea said Thursday it has successfully tested two hypersonic projectiles, calling them a new "important" weapon system, adding that the "cutting-edge" missiles strengthen the North's war deterrence.

"Two hypersonic projectiles launched from the Ryokpho District, Pyongyang Municipality, toward the northeast direction hit the target point on the tableland of Kwesang Peak in Orang County, North Hamgyong Province," the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The test, conducted the previous day by the Missile Administration, was part of a defence capability development programme aimed at enhancing the sustainability and effectiveness of its strategic deterrence against potential enemies, the KCNA reported.

The previous day, South Korea's military said North Korea fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles northeastward at around 8:10 a.m., which flew about 350 kilometres.

Military sources said the weapons may have been the tactical ballistic missile, known as the Hwasongpho-11-Da-4.5, tested by the North in September last year, adding that the missiles landed inland, not in the East Sea.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was not present at Wednesday's test. Pak Jong-chon, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), and other officials oversaw the launch. IANS

Lassa fever death toll in Nigeria rises to 172

ABUJA, OCTOBER 23

The death toll from the Lassa fever outbreak in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, has risen to 172 since the beginning of this year, public health authorities said.

The Nigeria Center for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) said on Wednesday in its latest update that 924 confirmed cases out of 8,041 suspected cases were reported between January and October across 106 local government areas in 21 of the country's 36 states, Xinhua news agency reported.

The agency said that the case fatality rate stood at 18.6 per cent, higher than the 17 per cent recorded during the same period in 2024.

It attributed the rise in deaths to "late presentation of cases and poor health-seeking behaviour among residents of high-burden communities".

The worst-hit states are Edo, Ebonyi, and Ondo in the south, and Bauchi and Taraba in the north, accounting for more than 90 per cent of all confirmed cases. Ondo alone represents 35 per cent of the total number of confirmed cases, according to the NCDC. It said the predominant age group affected was 21 to 30 years, with a male-to-female ratio of 1:0.8.

The public health agency said poor sanitation, limited awareness in high-burden communities, and delayed treatment continue to exacerbate the outbreak. Health authorities also appealed to Nigerians to adopt preventive measures such as maintaining clean environments, avoiding contact with rodents, and storing food properly to reduce the risk of infection.

They further advised individuals showing symptoms like persistent fever, sore throat, chest pain, or vomiting to report immediately to the nearest health facility for early diagnosis and treatment. IANS

B'desh: Jamaat, NCP demand referendum for July Charter implementation ahead of polls

DHAKA, OCTOBER 23



As political tensions continue to escalate in Bangladesh, radical Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP) called for a referendum to implement the July National Charter ahead of next year's election, local media reported.

Both parties raised the demand during separate meetings with the interim government's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday evening at his official residence in Dhaka.

The latest development comes amid growing conflict with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) proposing to hold the referendum alongside the national elections in February 2026, while Jamaat and NCP argued it should be held before the election.

Addressing reporters following the meeting with Yunus, Jamaat leader Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher said, "We told the chief advisor that all political parties have signed the July Charter. What is needed now is its legal foundation, proper implementation, and necessary reforms before the election"

"BNP agreed to the referendum but complicated matters by insisting it be held on the same day as the election. The referendum is a fundamental issue and has nothing to do with the national election. Jamaat proposes holding the referendum by the end of November, leaving enough time afterwards for the election. IANS

lifestyle



Rakul Preet Singh's new obsession is 'Raat Bhar' from 'De De Pyaar De 2'

Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh has revealed that she is currently obsessed with the new track 'Raat Bhar' from her upcoming film 'De De Pyaar De 2' and a sizzling red dress. Rakul took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of herself looking every-inch-gorgeous in a fiery red outfit with a corset top and thigh high slit skirt. The picture had her newly dropped song "Raat Bhar" playing in the backdrop.

"Obsessing over this outfit and this song," she wrote as the caption. It was on October 22, when the makers of "De De Pyaar De 2" unveiled the film's first song, "Raat Bhar," featuring Rakul and Meezaan Jafri. It captures their chemistry, blending romance and glamour.

Rakul took to her Instagram handle to share the song and wrote, "Turn down the lights, turn up the volume, play it on loop #RaatBhar #RaatBhar Song Out Now! Link In Bio." Sung by Aditya Rikhari and Payal Dev, with soulful music by Payal Dev and Aditya Dev, lyrics have been penned by Kumaar. The song beautifully blends romance with a touch of playful charm, showcasing Rakul and Meezaan's effortless chemistry.

Talking about the song, director Anshul Sharma shared, "We wanted to keep the fun element alive while also showcasing a fresh and innocent bond forming between Meezaan Jafri and Rakul Preet Singh."

"Payal and Aditya Dev instantly got the vibe and delivered the perfect tune for Raat Bhar. Kumaar's lyrics added just the right touch of emotion, while Aditya Rikhari and Payal Dev brought it to life with their soulful voices."

Singer and composer Payal Dev said Raat Bhar is a song that instantly makes the heart smile. "We wanted to keep it light, romantic, and playful, something that stays with you long after you've heard it. We just hope listeners smile, groove, and fall a little in love with the song." "De De Pyaar De 2," directed by Anshul Sharma, is produced by T-Series' Bhushan Kumar & Krishan Kumar, and Luv Films' Luv Ranjan & Ankur Garg.

The film is set to release in cinemas on November 14. **IANS**



Big B shares festive family photo with Aishwarya, Abhishek and others to wish 'Happy Diwali'

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan shared a beautiful family photograph featuring Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan and Aaradhya Bachchan among others, extending heartfelt Diwali greetings to his fans.

Big B took to Instagram, where he shared the picture which also featured his daughter Shweta Bachchan along with Navya Naveli Nanda, Agastya Nanda and Nikhil Nanda.

For the caption, he wrote: "Happy (happy face emoji) + Diwali (diya emoji) = Happy Diwali."

This comes when rumours of the actress' reported separation from husband Abhishek Bachchan, which keeps making rounds. However, the couple keep making public appearances together. The speculations of their separation started when the couple arrived separately at an event in the city.

Earlier this month, the cine icon celebrated his 83rd birthday and Aishwarya sent her best wishes to her father-in-law on her daughter Aaradhya's behalf.

She shared a heartwarming picture of the icon and her daughter.

She wrote in the caption, "Happy Birthday dearest Pa-Dadajiii. Love and God bless always".

On the work front, Amitabh will be narrating the opening scene in Farhan Akhtar-starrer '120 Bahadur', which draws deeply from the true events of the 1962 India-Sino war.

The revelation of Big B lending his voice to the film was made during an episode of the quiz based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. The episode features Farhan and his father, the legendary screenwriter, Javed Akhtar. The two also celebrate Amitabh Bachchan's birthday on the sets of the show.

Farhan then spoke about the Battle of Rezang La and the brave soldiers who fought against 3,000 Chinese forces. Later, Farhan requests Amitabh Bachchan for a favour, to narrate the opening sequence of their film.

He said, "Our film begins with a narrator's voice that explains what exactly happened during Rezang La. If you could please be the narrator for our opening, it would be an honour". '120 Bahadur' has been shot in the breathtaking landscapes of Ladakh, and draws deeply from the true events of the 1962 India-Sino war. Farhan essays the role of Major Shaitan Singh Bhati in the film. The brave Major along with his soldiers of the 13 Kumaon Regiment stood shoulder to shoulder against overwhelming enemy forces. **IANS**



Soha gives a glimpse into her Diwali preps with in-laws

Actress Soha Ali Khan shared a glimpse of her Diwali preparations, turning festive chaos into moments of joy.

She captioned her video, "Diwali prep can be stressful or it can be fun if you get everyone involved, except Oreo, who kept stealing all the diyas, and especially if you have Ankita, our decor fairy for all seasons."

In the heartwarming video, Soha is seen decorating her home with marigold garlands and colourful rangolis, joined by her daughter, Inaya Naomi Kemmu, sister-in-law Kareena Kapoor Khan, mother-in-law Jyoti Khemu, and father-in-law Ravi Kemmu.

The video beautifully captures Soha's hands-on approach to festive decorating, from placing diyas to arranging fresh flowers and setting up traditional decor around her home.

Wearing a vibrant pink ethnic outfit, Soha looks graceful as she leads the preparations with laughter and warmth, from making rangolis with her daughter to setting up the puja space along with her family.

The clip exudes love and unity.

The video also features moments of Soha sharing smiles with her mother-in-law and posing affectionately with her family, reflecting on their 'Hum Saath Saath Hain' moment.

Soha, who comes from a royal Muslim family, has beautifully embraced the traditions of all cultures after marrying actor Kunal Kemmu.

The couple, who tied the knot in 2015, celebrate every festival with equal enthusiasm.

From Eid to Christmas to Diwali, the couple teaches their daughter the importance of respecting and rejoicing in all faiths.

Soha, on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, was seen helping her daughter make an idol of Lord Ganpati with clay.

Both Soha and Kunal were seen immersing the divine into water, making it for an eco-friendly visarjan.

She captioned it as, "A gentle farewell but a lasting blessing. Wishing you all prosperous new beginnings, joy and harmony with nature #ganpatibappa #visarjan." **IANS**



Arjun Kapoor wishes former girlfriend Malaika Arora on b'day: Keep soaring, smiling

On Malaika Arora's 52nd birthday on Wednesday, actor Arjun Kapoor penned a heartfelt note for his former girlfriend and Bollywood diva. Arjun took to Instagram stories, where he shared a picture of the actress soaking in the sun in Paris with the iconic Eiffel Tower in the backdrop.

"Happy Birthday @malaikaaroraofficial Keeping soaring, keep smiling & always keep seeking...(sic)," he wrote as the caption.

Malaika and Arjun dated for almost six years before going their own ways. However the two have always remained on friendly terms. It was last year, when Arjun confirmed that the two have split during the promotion of his film "Singham Again" starring Ajay Devgn.

It all happened when the audience started to take Malaika's name and inquired about her, Arjun light-heartedly said: "Nahi nahi abhi single hun." On the work front, Arjun was last seen in the romantic comedy film Mere Husband Ki Biwi directed by Mudassar Aziz. The film stars Arjun Kapoor, Bhumi Pednekar and Rakul Preet Singh in lead roles.

The film revolves around Ankur, a divorced man, who gets a second chance at love when his college crush, Antara, re-enters his life. However, things get complicated when his amnesiac former wife also returns, causing confusion.

Meanwhile, Malaika's latest work includes the track "Poison Baby" from the horror comedy film "Thamma" starring Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna. On October 13, the diva spoke about the track and said that it's been years since she led a full-blown dance number like this in a movie. Malaika said: "Malaika Arora said, "It's been years since I led a full-blown dance number like this in a film, and stepping into 'Poison Baby' felt electric. The choreography blends moves and expressions, and I wanted the performance to feel dangerous, beautiful, and untamed — all at the same time." **IANS**

Miley Cyrus contributes her new music to upcoming part of 'Avatar'

Singer-songwriter Miley Cyrus is getting generous with her music. The singer is set to contribute a newly recorded song 'Dream as One' to the soundtrack of 'Avatar: Fire and Ash'.

The singer teamed with Andrew Wyatt, Mark Ronson and Simon Franglen for the tune, which will appear in the end credits and on the soundtrack for the third film in James Cameron's franchise, reports 'Variety'.

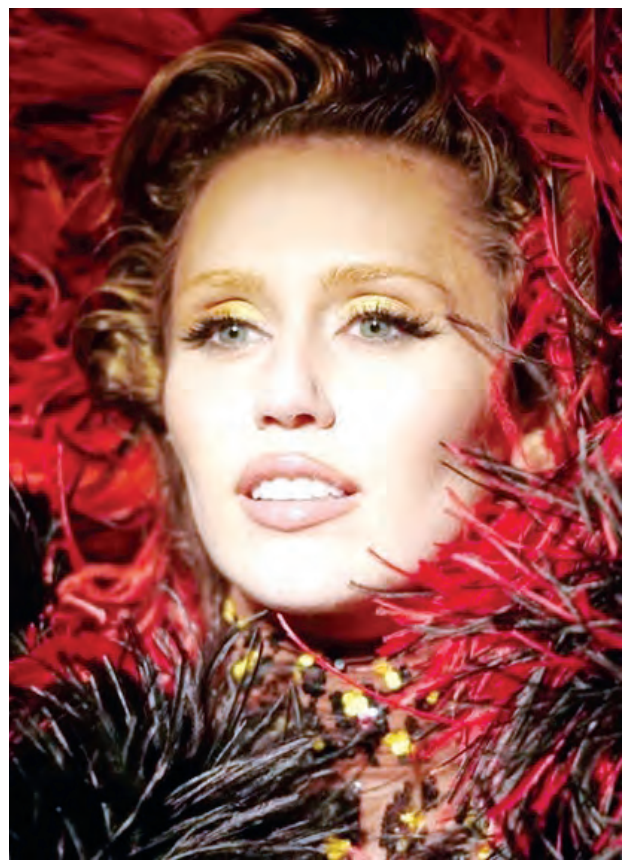
The soundtrack features a score composed by Franglen and will be released on December 12, while 'Dream as One' will be released on November 14.

As per 'Variety', the singer teased a snippet of 'Dream as One' on social media, writing that she's thrilled to provide the film with a new song.

She wrote, "Honoured to support 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' with an original song I've written with Mark Ronson and Andrew Wyatt. Having been personally affected by fire and being rebuilt from the ashes, this project holds profound meaning for me. Thank you, Jim, for the opportunity to turn that experience into musical medicine. The film's themes of unity, healing, and love resonate deeply within my soul, and to be even a small star in the universe the Avatar family has created is truly a dream come true".

'Avatar: Fire and Ash' follows 2022's 'Avatar: The Way of Water' and marks Cameron's return to Pandora. The film stars Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana, as well as Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Oona Chaplin, Cliff Curtis, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Edie Falco, David Thewlis, Jemaine Clement, Giovanni Ribisi, Britain Dalton, Jamie Flatters, Trinity Jo-Li Bliss, Jack Champion, Brendan Cowell, Bailey Bass, Filip Geljo, Duane Evans, Jr., and Kate Winslet.

Miley Cyrus is no stranger to soundtrack contributions, as she previously provided the original tune 'Beautiful That Way' to 'The Last Showgirl' soundtrack in December 2024. **IANS**



NEWSBRIEFS

SAEL to procure 20 lakh tonnes of paddy stubble

JIND: SAEL Industries Ltd (SAEL), announced that it is expecting to procure ~20 lakh tonnes of paddy-waste with the onset of the harvesting season this year and convert it into clean electricity through its fuel aggregator. This scale of paddy-waste procurement drive addresses the pressing concern of stubble burning and agri waste management. SAEL has a portfolio of 11 WTE plants across Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, totalling 165MW (including one Under Construction project in Rajasthan). **BPE**

Navigating early breast cancer treatment and work: Dr Nitish Garg

CHANDIGARH: Dr Nitish Garg, Medical Oncology, Consultant, Sohana Hospital, Mohali says, "I notice that many women diagnosed with early breast cancer wish to continue working through their treatment. For many, this decision goes beyond financial necessity, it reflects their commitment to career growth and maintaining a sense of purpose and normalcy. Selecting a treatment approach that supports both health and professional life is essential. Access to advanced therapies with fewer side effects like reduced fatigue, pain, or diarrhea can help women sustain their work routine. At the same time, open communication with employers about treatment plans and possible adjustments plays a key role in maintaining a healthy balance." **BPE**

This Halloween, Social opens the gates to Corporate Hell

CHANDIGARH: This Halloween, Social is turning workplace burnout into the ultimate fright night. The café-bar invites guests to step into Corporate Hell, a darkly funny take on office life where tombstones mark missed targets, skeletons haunt from unpaid overtime, and the only KPI is killing it on the dance floor. Designed around the shared exhaustion of modern work culture, Corporate Hell takes what so many people feel, the pressure to always be online, the endless notifications, the burnout disguised as ambition and turns it into something everyone can laugh about together. **BPE**

Coca-Cola's 8-year ICC partnership champions India's local heroes during Women's World Cup 2025

LUDHIANA: Coca-Cola India, the official refreshment and hydration partner of the International Cricket Council (ICC), celebrates 8 years of partnership as India hosts the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 across Navi Mumbai, Guwahati, Indore, and Vizag. Coca-Cola India, through this association, will offer chilled refreshments to millions of fans nationwide, ensuring the spirit of cricket is celebrated across stadiums, neighborhoods, and community spaces. Sundeep Bajoria, Vice President – India Operations, Coca-Cola India & Southwest Asia said, "The ICC Women's World Cup is more than a sporting event, it is a platform that inspires millions, especially young women, to dream bigger. At Coca-Cola India, we are proud to stand behind women cricketers who are shaping the future of the game, while also empowering communities." **BPE**

Tata Motors signs MoU with Punjab Gramin Bank

PATIALA: Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, announced the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Punjab Gramin Bank to enhance financing for its entire range of small commercial vehicles and pick-ups (SCVPU), including the newly launched Tata Ace Pro. The tie-up will make vehicle ownership easier for customers, by offering low interest rates, simplified documentation and quick loan disbursals. With Punjab Gramin Bank's wide reach, aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners can access low EMIs, helping them start and grow their businesses. **BPE**

Nestle India signs MoU with Ministry of Food Processing Industries

LUDHIANA: Nestlé India further strengthened its commitment to India as it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) to expedite the investments in green field and brown field projects, in Odisha and its existing manufacturing locations. The MoU was signed at the World Food India Summit 2025 in New Delhi. Manish Tiwary, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestlé India, stated, "The signing of this MoU with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries underscores Nestlé India's commitment to investments in the food processing sector in green field and brown field projects, in Odisha and existing manufacturing locations within the time frame of next 2 to 3 years." **BPE**

Central Bank of India Q2 net profit up 33%

MUMBAI: Central Bank of India reported a 32.86% rise in net profit to Rs 1,213 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2025. Total business grew 14.43% year-on-year to Rs 7.38 lakh crore, with deposits up 13.40% to Rs 4.44 lakh crore and advances up 16.03% to Rs 2.93 lakh crore. Asset quality improved, with Gross NPA at 3.01% and Net NPA at 0.48%. CRAR stood at 17.34%, and ROA improved to 1.01%. The Bank continues to strengthen its retail, agriculture, and MSME portfolios while expanding its national reach through over 21,000 touchpoints. **BPE**

DPIIT signs MoUs with Kotak Mahindra Bank, Primus Partners to strengthen startup ecosystem

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kotak Mahindra Bank and Primus Partners to strengthen the nation's startup ecosystem, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Thursday.

The strategic collaboration with Kotak Mahindra Bank aims to create a comprehensive framework enabling startups to access customised banking solutions, credit and funding opportunities, digital and payment infrastructure, and capacity-building programmes.

The partnership reinforces the DPIIT's commitment to nurturing an innovation-led economy and accelerating India's journey toward becoming a global startup hub.

Under the MoU, Kotak Mahindra Bank will extend a range of dedicated offerings for DPIIT-recognised startups, including zero-balance current accounts, working capital and term loans, API-based banking platforms, digital payment solutions, and specialised startup cards.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd President Raghavendra Singh stated that the collaboration would facilitate greater engagement with the startup community through customised financial solutions, mentorship programmes, and access to networks that can help founders scale their enterprises effectively.

The Bank will also facilitate access to mentorship, investment advisory, incubation support, and networking platforms, helping startups progress from ideation to scale.

"This partnership reflects the DPIIT's ongoing efforts to build a vibrant and inclusive innovation ecosystem that empowers startups at every stage of their journey. By integrating policy, industry, and finance, we aim to strengthen the bridge between entrepreneurial ambition and sustainable impact, ensuring that India's innovators have the right tools to grow globally," Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Sanjiv, said.

The partnership with Primus Partners Pvt Ltd seeks to enhance support for early-stage and growth-stage product startups through structured capacity-building interventions, expert mentorship, market access initiatives, policy awareness drives, and facilitation of technology integration.

Primus Partners Co-Founder and Chairman, Davinder Sandhu, stated that the partnership with DPIIT would facilitate structured engagement with the startup community through mentoring, knowledge sharing, and industry linkages.

The MoUs show the DPIIT's focus on enabling industry-led engagement to strengthen India's startup ecosystem, promoting innovation, self-reliance, and inclusive economic growth. **IANS**

Colgate-Palmolive India's Q2 profit falls 17 pc, revenue slips over 6 pc

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23



Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited on Thursday reported a 17 per cent drop in its net profit for the second quarter of the current financial year (Q2 FY26).

The company's profit stood at Rs 327.50 crore for the quarter ended September 2025, compared to Rs 395.05 crore in the same period last financial year (Q2 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing.

Revenue also fell 6.15 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 1,519.50 crore, down from Rs 1,619.11 crore in the previous fiscal.

Operating income or EBITDA declined 6 per cent to Rs 465.43 crore, while the EBITDA margin was almost unchanged at 30.6 per cent, compared to 30.7 per cent last financial year.

Prabha Narasimhan, Managing Director and CEO of Colgate-Palmolive India, said the quarter's performance reflected a temporary impact from disruptions among distributors and retailers due to the GST rate revision.

She added that the company has worked with its partners to ensure consumers benefit from the lower prices that took effect after the tax change.

"Despite the short-term challenges, we remain focused on our long-term strategic goals and will continue to invest in our brands," Narasimhan said.

Alongside the results, the company announced a first interim dividend of Rs 24 per share for the financial year 2025–26, amounting to a total payout of Rs 652.8 crore.

The record date for the dividend has been set as November 3, and the payment will be made on or before November 19, according to the company's exchange filing.

Colgate-Palmolive (India)'s quarterly results were released after market hours. On Thursday, its shares closed 1.16 per cent higher at Rs 2,286.90 on the NSE. However, the stock has fallen 31.35 per cent over the past year and 14.69 per cent so far in 2025. **IANS**

India's EV growth accelerates with multi-fuel push: Report

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23



India is rapidly moving toward sustainable mobility through a mix of electric, hybrid, and alternative fuel vehicles, a new report said on Thursday.

The data compiled by the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA), titled "Automotive Electrification in India Market Report," was released under IESA's e-mobility initiative, the India Electric Mobility Council (IEMC).

As the world's fourth-largest automobile producer, India is at a crucial turning point in its automotive journey.

The report highlights that while petrol and diesel vehicles still dominate the roads, the shift toward cleaner mobility is gaining strong momentum.

Government policies, industry investments, and rising consumer awareness are all pushing the country toward a more sustainable transport future.

Several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, are leading the way in electric vehicle (EV) adoption.

These states together account for more than half of India's total EV sales. They are actively supporting the transition by promoting local EV manufacturing, improving charging infrastructure, and creating dedicated mobility clusters.

The IESA report points out that India's journey toward cleaner transport is unique because it is following a multi-fuel, multi-pathway approach.

Alongside battery-powered electric vehicles, there is growing interest in compressed natural gas (CNG), hybrid, flex-fuel, and hydrogen-powered vehicles.

Each of these technologies plays a role in reducing emissions and addressing different transportation needs.

To support this shift, the government's upcoming Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFÉ 3) norms, set to take effect from April 2027, will reward automakers that produce more zero- and low-emission vehicles.

These norms introduce new incentives -- known as volume derogation factors -- for vehicles powered by batteries, hybrids, and alternative fuels.

Debmalya Sen, President of IESA, said that policy support is vital for driving this change and shaping consumer choices.

He added that while some states are advancing directly to zero-emission vehicles, others are taking a gradual route through alternative fuels, depending on their market readiness and infrastructure. **IANS**

Global VC investment hits $120 billion in Q3 led by AI, exit activity: Report

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23



Global venture capital investment reached $120 billion across 7,579 deals in Q3 2025, marking the fourth consecutive quarter above $100 billion, a report said on Thursday.

Artificial intelligence (AI) remained the leading sector for funding, while exit activity rose to $149.9 billion, collectively accounting for a significant chunk of activity, according to the report from global consultancy KPMG.

"India experienced a banner quarter for exits in Q3 2025, with exit value surging to a high not seen in at least seven years. Despite the soft VC investment in Q3, there continued to be optimism in the market given the growth in startup exit activity -- particularly in terms of IPO exits," the report said.

The KPMG report said that due to India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals and vibrant capital markets, there is substantial optimism that VC investment will begin to rebound once trade uncertainties are resolved. Further, IPO activity is also expected to increase over the next few quarters in India, the report added.

"Macros are still strong, the capital markets are still vibrant, and a lot of capital has been raised that will need to get deployed—so funding should increase as uncertainties calm. But investors will be focused heavily on the path to profitability and cash flows because without those, you won't get a capital market exit," said Nitish Poddar, Partner and National Leader, Private Equity, KPMG in India. **IANS**

Sensex, Nifty extend winning streak for 6th day, led by IT stocks

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23



Equity benchmark indices continued their upward momentum for the sixth consecutive session on Thursday, supported mainly by strong buying in IT stocks.

However, both indices ended the day off their highs as some profit booking emerged later in the session. The Sensex touched a new 52-week high of 85,290 during the day, gaining as much as 864 points. It finally settled with a modest rise of 130 points, or 0.15 per cent, at 84,556.

The Nifty also surged to an intra-day high of 26,104 before closing almost flat at 25,891, up 23 points. Analysts said that the Nifty completely erased its morning gains during the day; nevertheless, the short-term trend remains strong.

"On the daily chart, a large red candle has formed, indicating the possibility of a pullback towards the 25,700 level in the next few days. However, the short-term trend remains intact, with the potential to revisit higher levels around 26,200 in the next 10–15 days," market experts said.

Infosys led the rally among Sensex stocks, jumping 4 per cent after its promoters decided not to participate in the company's Rs 18,000 crore share buyback.

Other IT stocks followed suit, with HCL Technologies and TCS climbing more than 2 per cent each amid reports that India and the US may soon sign a trade deal.

Among other gainers, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, and Tata Motors rose over 1 per cent each. **IANS**

US tariffs to dent Indian leather industry revenue, GST 2.0 to provide some respite: Report

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

India's leather and allied products industry is projected to experience a 10–12 per cent revenue decline in current fiscal following the United States' tariffs, a report said on Thursday, adding that free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK and GST cuts will provide some relief to leather exporters.

The revenue drop would be despite a moderate improvement in domestic demand following the rationalisation of GST besides other favourable macroeconomic factors such as lower income taxes, benign inflation, and low interest rates, according to the report from ratings agency CRISIL Ratings.

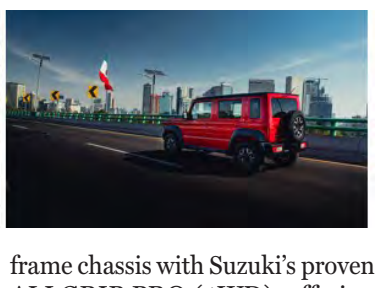
The agency also indicated a potential 150–200 basis-point impact on operating margins and a deterioration in credit profiles.

The leather and allied products industry is estimated to have logged a revenue of Rs 56,000 crore in FY25 and exports accounted for 70 per cent of the revenue. The agency forecasted that leverage levels of companies are expected to remain stable. The reduction in GST on intermediate leather goods to 5 per cent from 12 per cent should provide some respite by reducing both working capital requirement and reliance on external debt.

The absence of any significant debt-funded capital expenditure plans will also keep leverage in check, the statement said. The agency said that the capacity to reroute exports to alternative markets and re-exports through Europe can impact the earnings of the companies. **IANS**

Maruti Suzuki's Jimny 5-door export from India surpasses 1 lakh units milestone





NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

In a landmark achievement, the Jimny 5-door SUV has surpassed a cumulative export of 1 lakh units from India, Maruti Suzuki India Limited said on Thursday.

Jimny 5-door export journey began in 2023, shortly after the SUV made its debut in India. The SUV, manufactured exclusively in India, has been shipped across more than 100 countries, including Japan, Mexico, and Australia.

"Jimny 5-door's entry in Japan in January 2025, under the name 'Jimny Nomade', sparked off an overwhelming response with orders crossing the 50,000 mark within days of introduction. This reflects Jimny's strong resonance in one of the world's most evolved and quality-conscious automobile markets," the company said.

According to Maruti Suzuki, the Jimny 5-door is built for performance, combining a ladder-frame chassis with Suzuki's proven ALLGRIP PRO (4WD), offering superior off-road dynamics and stability.

Powered by a 1.5-litre petrol engine, it embodies a balance of durability, simplicity and dependable performance, traits that appeal to both rugged terrain drivers and global customers attuned to quality and functionality.

"The Jimny has over half a century of heritage globally. Jimny 5-door crossing 1 lakh export mark is a proud achievement for Maruti Suzuki. We are deeply thankful to customers around the world for their trust in this acclaimed SUV," Maruti Suzuki India Limited Managing Director and CEO, Hisashi Takeuchi, said.

Jimny's strong off-road DNA, reliable performance and uncompromising quality have earned admiration in over 100 countries, he added. **IANS**

SBI General Insurance's GWP grows 10.7 pc in H1 FY26

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

General insurance company SBI General Insurance on Thursday announced a 10.7 per cent increase in its gross written premium to Rs 7,376 crore for H1 FY26, surpassing the industry growth rate of 7.3 per cent.

The growth in H1 FY26 was driven by strong performance in key sectors: health business grew by 41 per cent, personal accident (PA) by 48 per cent, and the motor business by 17 per cent, the statement said.

GWP grew by 13.9 per cent for the period, excluding the impact of 1/n accounting norms, the insurer said. The "1/n accounting norm" is a rule for insurance companies in India that requires that the premiums from long-term policies be recognised evenly over the policy's term rather than all at once.

The company increased its private market share by 38 basis points to 6.83 per cent, up from 6.45 per cent a year ago, and reported a profit after tax of Rs 422 crore. **IANS**

SPORTS

SHUBMAN GILL
"IN THE FIRST GAME, THE TOSS WAS MORE CRUCIAL BECAUSE OF THE RAIN, BUT IN THIS ONE BOTH TEAMS PLAYED FOR ALMOST 50 OVERS."

Australia seal ODI series vs tactically errant India despite Rohit's 73

ADELAIDE, OCTOBER 23







Rohit Sharma's defiant 73 went in vain as India surrendered the three-match ODI series against Australia after losing the second game by two wickets here on Thursday, a setback that will reignite the debate on proven match-winner Kuldeep Yadav's omission from the playing XI.

Under pressure, Rohit mixed grit with grace in a 97-ball knock on a spicy track that formed the cornerstone of India's total of 264 for 9 which was at least 25 short of what should have been a par-score.

In reply, Australia struggled against Indian spinners but with Nitish Reddy being shoe-horned as a multi-skilled player instead of a genuine match-winner in Kuldeep, the visitors paid the price in a close situation.

Cooper Connolly (61 not out off 53 balls) and Mitchell Owen (36 off 23 balls), two cricketers, who are also appearing for IPL auditions, flayed the pacers and spinners alike as Australia survived a late collapse to canter home in 46.2 overs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three match series.

The duo added 59 in just 6.3 overs to end Australia's three-series losing streak in the format. The ongoing rubber will end in Sydney with the inconsequential third ODI on October 25.

Connolly, who was recently in Kanpur for an 'A' series, brought back memories of a certain Michael Bevan to finish the match by finding the gaps with ease in a pressure-cooker scenario.

"...the future is bright for Australian cricket," declared Australia's stand-in skipper Mitchell Marsh.

In the process he also exposed how difficult it could get for India in the 2027 World Cup if the obsession with all-rounders is not reconsidered.

Reddy, coming in at No.8, scored 8 off 10 balls and gave 24 in three overs although in his defence, Axar Patel dropped a sitter offered by Matthew Short (74), who laid the foundation for Australia's victory.

"Never easy to defend those total when you drop a couple of catches," said India skipper Shubman Gill.

However, the absence of Kuldeep was felt more than ever when the Australian batters struggled against the two finger spinners.

Axar Patel (1/52 in 10 overs) just slowed the pace and shortened the length as Matt Renshaw (30) gave the charge to be bowled.

At the other end, Washington Sundar (2/37) had an impatient Alex Carey (9) trying to sweep and getting bowled in the process.

However, once the burly Mitchell Owen came into the scene, he smashed the daylights out of Harshit Rana (2/59 in 8 overs) to tilt the game decisively in favour of Australia.

Earlier, the Indian innings was about Rohit's determination and he had to survive a lot of anxious moments in the Powerplay when Josh Hazlewood (0/29 in 10 overs, including two maidens) made the ball talk.

There was a point when Rohit had played 17 consecutive dot balls off Hazlewood and both him and Iyer looked overtly cautious due to the underlying moisture and lateral movement.

While Rohit fought, Virat Kohli was dismissed without scoring for a second consecutive game. PTI

Gill rues missed chances in Adelaide game after losing series

ADELAIDE, OCTOBER 23



India captain Shubman Gill admitted that dropped catches and a total which was just adequate cost his side dearly as Australia clinched the ODI series with a disciplined all-round performance here on Wednesday.

India lost the second ODI by two wickets after a seven-wicket defeat in the first match at Perth. Here, the Indian fielders were not at their sharpest, spilling at least three chances, including Matthew Short, who made a fine 74 off 78 balls.

"We had just enough runs on the board. Never easy when you drop a couple of chances to be able to defend that kind of a total," Gill said during the post-match presentation ceremony.

The young skipper did not find any demons in the pitch either.

"In the first game, the toss was more crucial because of the rain, but in this one both teams played for almost 50 overs. The wicket did a little early on, but it settled nicely after 15–20 overs," Gill said.

The 26-year-old praised senior batter Rohit Sharma for his fighting knock of 73.

"Never easy, coming back and playing after a long time. The initial phase was challenging, but very pleased with how he batted. He fought out well; I would say he missed out on a really big knock," the India skipper said.

Australia, led by Mitchell Marsh, displayed depth in both departments, and the home skipper hailed his bowling attack and the composure of the younger batters. PTI

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Rain halts play in India v New Zealand clash

NAVI MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23



Rain stopped play in Match 24 of the ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 between India and New Zealand at the Dr DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Thursday.

India had raced to 329 in 48 overs and looked to make a final push towards 350 when it started pouring, sending the players scurrying into their respective dugouts. The ground staff rushed in with the covers for what was a passing drizzle.

India had reached the massive score riding on brilliant efforts by openers Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal, who struck contrasting centuries and shared a massive 212-run partnership.

While Smriti Mandhana was aggressive in her approach and hammered ten boundaries and three sixes in her 109 off 95 balls, Pratika dropped the anchor and compiled a superb 122 off 134 balls, hitting 13 boundaries and two sixes as India made hay on a pristine dry pitch that was quite good for batting.

India's much-maligned top order finally came good as Jemimah Rodrigues, brought into the playing XI in place of Amanjot Kaur, built on the foundation laid by Mandhana and Rawal as she scored a blazing half-century to give the innings a final push.

India scored 75 runs in the overs between 11th and 20th and 73 in the next set of 10 overs, while 66/1 came off overs between 31-40.

Asked to bat first, Mandhana and Rawal started cautiously and reached 40 for no loss in the Powerplay. Mandhana exploded into action after that as she reached her fifty off 49 balls.

Mandhana, who was given out lbw of Amelia Kerr but was saved by DRS, reached her 14th career century off 88 balls, hammering 10 fours and three sixes, putting up another batting masterclass in a match that India needs to win to qualify for the semifinals. Rawal took 122 balls to reach three figures.

Mandhana and Rawal raised a massive partnership of 212 runs for the first wicket, the highest for India in ODIs. This was their fourth 150-plus partnership between Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal in Women's ODIs, joint-most by any pair, alongside Belinda Clark-Lisa Keightley and Suzie Bates-Amy Satterthwaite. This was their seventh century stand for the opening wicket, joint-most for an Indian pair. IANS



Ignored for Aus ODIs, Jadeja to play Ranji Trophy

RAJKOT, OCTOBER 23



Ravindra Jadeja is set to play for Saurashtra in the second round of the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy, starting on October 25.

The spin all-rounder's inclusion will give Saurashtra a big boost as they take on Madhya Pradesh at home in Rajkot, on the same surface where spinners claimed 31 of the 35 wickets to fall in last week's clash between Saurashtra and Karnataka, reported ESPNCricinfo.

Currently ranked the No. 1 Test all-rounder, Jadeja is on a short break from international cricket. He last featured in India's two-match home Test series against the West Indies earlier this month, where he scored his sixth Test century, an unbeaten 104 in the opening Test at Ahmedabad and picked up eight wickets in the series as India was victorious 2-0.

Jadeja was not picked for the ongoing three-match ODI series in Australia, something he said was "not a surprise" after being informed of the team management's plans.

"It is a good thing that they communicated the reason behind my omission," Jadeja had said earlier.

"I am happy about that. But whenever I get a chance next, I will try and do what I have done all these years," he added.

"If I get a chance in the World Cup and there are many ODIs before, and if I do well there, it will be a good thing for Indian cricket. Winning a World Cup is everyone's dream. We narrowly missed out last time, so next time we will try and make up for it."

Against Madhya Pradesh, Jadeja will reunite with his long-time Saurashtra spin partner, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, who starred with a match haul of 10/203 in the previous fixture, helping Saurashtra secure first-innings lead points against Karnataka. AGENCIES

Youthful Chelsea thump hapless Ajax 5-1



LONDON, OCTOBER 23

A youthful Chelsea hammered Ajax Amsterdam 5-1 in an eventful Champions League game on Wednesday that included three goals from teenagers, three penalties and a red card, under pouring rain at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca put out a side with an average age of 22 and made 10 changes from the team that beat Nottingham Forest in the Premier League at the weekend.

"I work with them every day. I know what they can do," Maresca said of his teenagers. "The good thing about them is that they want to learn, they want to improve."

Ajax's night turned sour in the 17th minute when captain Kenneth Taylor was sent off for a dangerous tackle on Facundo Buonanotte after referee Felix Zwayer consulted the pitchside monitor and changed his original yellow card to red.

A minute later, following the resulting free kick, 19-year-old Marc Guiu knocked the ball into the net from close range latching on to a Wesley Fofana cross. Moises Caicedo made it two in the 29th minute with an audacious low shot from 30 metres that took a deflection into the net.

Lofty Ajax striker Wout Weghorst reduced the deficit in the 27th minute from the penalty spot after Tosin Adarabioyo had trodden on Raul Moro's foot. AGENCIES

England win NZ T20I series as rain ruins final game

AUCKLAND, OCTOBER 23



England claimed a 1-0 victory in their three-match Twenty20 series against New Zealand after rain curtailed Thursday's final match in Auckland.

The touring side secured the triumph courtesy of a commanding 65-run victory in Monday's second T20, after the first match was abandoned following the completion of one innings.

Thursday's decider in New Zealand lasted 3.4 overs before the covers were deployed with the hosts on 38/1 after being put into bat.

Opener Tim Seifert had smashed 23 runs from 11 deliveries, while Tim Robinson fell victim to Brydon Carse, caught in the deep.

"Very frustrating. The weather hasn't been ideal but good to get a little bit of game time out there," said England captain Harry Brook, who was also named the player of the series after scoring 98 runs.

"It's a great place to tour, we've had a great time so far and we're looking forward to the ODI series. We've had an amazing time.

"There will be a few changes in the side (for the ODI series), a few big names come back and hopefully we can keep that momentum going forward." The three-match ODI series begins on Sunday. AGENCIES

Punjab Kings appoint Sairaj Bahutule as new spin bowling coach ahead of IPL 2026

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 23



Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Punjab Kings (PBKS) announced on Thursday that former India cricketer Sairaj Bahutule has joined as the new spin bowling coach ahead of the IPL 2026 season.

Bahutule replaces Sunil Joshi, who held the role in PBKS from 2023 to 2025, and is now headed to join the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru. IANS had previously reported on October 16 that Bahutule had joined PBKS after being with IPL 2008 champions Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the 2025 season of the competition. He had worked in the same capacity with RR from 2018 to 2021.

"I'm really excited to join Punjab Kings as a spin bowling coach for the upcoming IPL season. This is a team that plays a different brand of cricket, and I can see the potential is massive. They have a bunch of talented players, and I'm looking forward to working with them to refine their skills and help them reach new heights," said Bahutule in a statement.

Bahutule, who played two Tests and eight ODIs for India, brings a wealth of experience to the PBKS setup – holding coaching roles with domestic teams such as Kerala, Gujarat, Vidarbha, and Bengal, and being the spin bowling coach at the CoE for three years before concluding a short second stint with RR.

"We extend our sincere thanks to Sunil Joshi for his dedicated service and contribution to the Punjab Kings over the years. As we look forward, we are thrilled to welcome Sairaj Bahutule to our coaching staff." IANS

Bellingham fires Real Madrid to win in Champions League

MADRID, OCTOBER 23



Jude Bellingham scored his first goal since June as Real Madrid saw off a dogged Juventus to maintain their 100% record in this season's Champions League on Wednesday with a 1-0 victory at the Santiago Bernabeu.

The goal was created by Vinicius Jr, who in the 58th minute took on three Juventus players and made space to shoot. His attempt rebounded off the post for Bellingham to slot home his first goal of the season since returning from shoulder surgery.

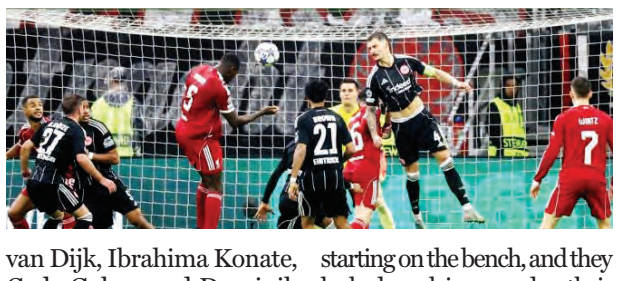
After a sluggish first half, the game came alive in the second half with play swinging from one end to the other.

Juventus were cautious, defending with five across the back and looking for counter attacks. Courtois had to make several saves, but as the game progressed Madrid took control and had 28 shots by the end. "A very tough, hard-fought match. Chances at both ends. An important win against another big team. Nine out of nine. Now we're off to Anfield," Courtois told Movistar Plus.

Dusan Vlahovic spurned a golden opportunity to put Juventus ahead when he ran half the length of the pitch onto a through ball, outpacing last defender Eder Militao but seeing his shot saved by goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois' outstretched leg. AGENCIES

Liverpool end poor run with 5-1 thrashing of Frankfurt

FRANKFURT, OCTOBER 23



Liverpool's Hugo Ekitike scored a ruthless breakaway goal against his former team in a 5-1 Champions League thrashing of Eintracht Frankfurt that ended the Reds' woeful streak of four consecutive losses across all competitions.

Arne Slot's side finally found some form after a dismal run of results with Virgil van Dijk, Ibrahima Konate, Cody Gakpo and Dominik Szoboszlai also finding the net in a one-sided encounter.

The Liverpool coach rang the changes, with Mohamed Salah starting on the bench, and they looked much improved on their recent displays with summer signing Florian Wirtz providing two assists on his return to Germany. AGENCIES

Printer, Publisher & Owner: Dr Tejinder Pal Singh. Printed at IE Press, C-5, Institutional Area, Sector 6, Panchkula-134108 and published at SCO 118-119 (First Floor), Sector 8-C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh-160009. Managing Editor-cum-Managing Director: M.P.S. Pali.
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