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Sunday Punjab Express

CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025 | RNI.NO. PUNENG/2018/76070 | VOLUME 8, ISSUE 54 | ₹3.00

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My salutations, respect to all those observing fast: PM extends heartfelt greetings to devotees on Nahay Khaay

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday extended his heartfelt greetings to devotees across the country on the occasion of Nahay Khaay, marking the beginning of the four-day-long Chhath puja.

Taking to social media platform X, Prime Minister Modi said, "The four-day long Chhath festival begins today with the sacred rituals of bathing and eating. My heartfelt greetings to devotees across the country, including Bihar. My salutations and respect to all those observing the fast."

"This grand festival of our culture symbolizes simplicity and restraint, its purity and adherence to discipline are incomparable. The scenes witnessed at the Chhath Ghats on this sacred occasion offer a wonderful inspiration for family and social harmony. The ancient tradition of Chhath has had a profound impact on our society," PM Modi added. He further wished that Chhathi Maiya bestows her bountiful blessings on everyone.

"Today, Chhath is celebrated as a major cultural festival in every corner of the world. Indian families living around the world participate wholeheartedly in its traditions. I wish that Chhathi Maiya bestows her bountiful blessings on everyone," he said. PM Modi further said that Chhath Mahaparva is a unique confluence of faith, worship, and love for nature.

"Chhath Mahaparva is a unique confluence of faith, worship, and love for nature. While offerings are made to the setting and rising Sun, the offerings also incorporate the diverse colours of nature. The songs and melodies of Chhath Puja are also imbued with a unique sense of devotion and love for nature," PM Modi said.

He further remembered that Bihar's Nightingale, late Sharda Sinha, had a close relationship with Begusarai.

"I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Begusarai just yesterday. Bihar's Nightingale, Sharda Sinha, had a close relationship with Begusarai. Sharda Sinha and many other folk artists from Bihar have added a unique touch to the Chhath festival through their songs," PM Modi added.

PM Modi further shared a song of Sharda Sinha who had died during the Chhath festival last year.

"Today, on this great festival, I am sharing with you all such songs of Chhathi Maiya, listening to which everyone will be mesmerised," he added.

On the first day, devotees, known as 'Vratis (people who are fasting)' take a holy dip in rivers or ponds and consume a simple, 'sattvic (having qualities of purity, harmony, and balance)' meal of arwa chawal (plain rice) and lauki ki sabzi (bottle gourd curry) after offering prayers. **PTI**

Arvind Kejriwal and CM Mann participate in kirtan darbar to commemorate 350th martyrdom day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
New Delhi/Chandigarh, October 25



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and National Convener of Aam Aadmi Party Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday participated in a kirtan darbar organised by the Punjab government as a part of a series of events to commemorate 350th martyrdom day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji.

Addressing the gathering during the Kirtan Darbar organised here at Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib, the National Convener of AAP said that the Punjab government is fortunate to have got the opportunity to organise a series of commemorative events dedicated to the Ninth Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. He said that these events being organised by the Punjab government began today from the national capital on the occasion of Guru sahib's 350th Martyrdom Anniversary. Arvind Kejriwal said that Mughals had planned to forcibly convert Hindus to Islam, after which Pandits of Kashmir, seeking protection for their faith, came to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji for help.

The National Convener of AAP said that despite several offers from the Mughal emperor, Guru Ji refused to bow before tyranny and chose the path of martyrdom to defend freedom of religion. He said that Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was martyred in Delhi in 1675 and is remembered across the world as the first martyr who sacrificed his life for the protection of human rights. Arvind Kejriwal said that the pages of world history are filled with events of austerity, restraint, bravery, sacrifice, and service, yet the sacrifice of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji for religious freedom and human dignity opened a new chapter unparalleled in human history.

Punjab govt seeks blessings of Guru Sahib for embarking events to mark 350th martyrdom day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

The Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday embarked the series of events to mark the 350th martyrdom day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji after senior Cabinet Ministers performed Ardas here at Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib. The Cabinet Ministers including Aman Arora, Harjot Singh Bains, Harbhajan Singh, Tarunpreet Singh Sondh, Gurmeet Singh Khudian, Barinder Kumar Goyal, Hardeep Singh Mundian and Dr Balbir Singh, Lok Sabha MP Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal, Rajya Sabha MP Vikramjeet Singh Sahni, MLA Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Advisor Tourism and Cultural Affairs Deepak Bali and others joined the people in offering 'Ardas' to start the events for commemorating the 350th Martyrdom day of Hind Di Chadar.

EC may roll out first phase of all-India SIR next week, beginning with 10-15 states

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25



The Election Commission is likely to roll out the first of pan-India Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list next week beginning with "10 to 15 states", including those going to polls next year, officials said Saturday.

Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal will to polls in 2026 and they are amongst the states where the voters' list cleanup exercise will begin first.

The poll authority is likely to announce the first phase of SIR middle of next week, in which as many as "10 to 15 states" would be included, officials said.

The EC will not hold the electoral roll cleanup exercise in states where local body elections are taking place or are due, as the grassroots poll machinery is busy with it and may not be able to focus on SIR, they said

The SIR in such states will be held in later phases.

The voters' list cleanup exercise has concluded in Bihar where the final list with nearly 7.42 crore names was published on September 30. Biahr will go to polls in two phases, on November 6 and November 11, and the counting will take place on November 14.

The Commission has already held two conferences with state chief electoral officers (CEOs) to firm up the SIR rollout roadmap. Several CEOs have already put the voter lists published after their last SIR on their websites.

The website of the Delhi CEO has the 2008 voter list when the last intensive revision took place in the national capital.

In Uttarakhand, the last SIR took place in 2006, and that year's electoral roll is now on the state CEO website.

The last SIR in states will serve as the cut-off date, just as the 2003 voter list of Bihar was used by the EC for intensive revision. **PTI**

Democracy 'alien concept' for Pak, must end rights abuses in occupied areas: India at UN

UNITED NATIONS, OCTOBER 25

Asserting that democracy is an "alien" concept for Pakistan, India has called upon Islamabad to end grave human rights violations in territories under its illegal occupation, where the population is in "open revolt" against military occupation, repression, brutality and exploitation.

Responding to references made by Pakistan's envoy at the UN Security Council's open debate on 'The United Nations Organisation: Looking into the Future' on Friday, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, said,

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir exercise their fundamental rights in accordance with India's time-tested democratic traditions and constitutional framework." "We, of course, know that these are concepts alien to Pakistan," he said.

The envoy reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir "has been, is, and will always be" an integral and inalienable part of India.

Strongly rebuking Islamabad, Harish said, "We call upon Pakistan to end the grave and ongoing human rights violations in the areas illegally occupied by it, where the population is in open revolt against Pakistan's military occupation, repression, brutality and illegal exploitation of resources."

Harish also emphasised that the UN must undertake "real, comprehensive reforms," saying that the 80-year-old Security Council architecture no longer reflects contemporary geopolitical realities.

"An outdated Council architecture that mirrors the geopolitical realities of 1945 is not equipped to handle the challenges of 2025," he said, calling for expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories through "time-bound" and "text-based negotiations". **PTI**

LIC says made investments in Adani firms independently, after detailed due diligence

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Saturday said its investments in Adani group companies have been made independently and in accordance with its board-approved policies, following detailed due diligence.

"Department of Financial Services (in the Union Finance Ministry) or any other body does not have any role in such (investment) decisions," LIC said in a statement posted on X.

India's largest insurer has, over the years, made investment decisions across companies based on fundamentals and detailed due diligence. Its investment value in India's top 500 companies has grown 10-fold since 2014 -- from Rs 1.56 lakh crore to Rs 15.6 lakh crore -- reflecting strong fund management.

"The investment decisions are taken by LIC independently as per Board-approved policies after detailed due diligence," LIC said. "LIC has ensured the highest standards of due diligence and all its investment decisions have been undertaken in compliance with extant policies, provisions in the Acts and regulatory guidelines, in the best interest of all its stakeholders." **PTI**

Every infiltrator to be detected, deported to their countries: Amit Shah at Bihar poll rally



KHAGARIA (BIHAR), OCTOBER 25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday slammed the INDIA bloc for opposing the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar, and asserted that every infiltrator would be detected and deported to their countries.

Addressing a public rally in Khagaria district, Shah said this assembly election will decide whether the 'jungle raaj' will return to Bihar or the state remains on the path of development.

"Let Rahul Gandhi launch yatras to protect these infiltrators. It does not matter. He can not protect infiltrators by taking out 'Ghuspetiya Bachao Yatra'. Every infiltrator would be detected, deleted (from the voters' list) and deported to their countries," Shah said.

He accused RJD supremo Lalu Prasad of concentrating only on the prosperity of his family.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and CM Nitish Kumar ji want overall development of Bihar, but Lalu Prasad wants 'vikas' (prosperity) of his family only. People don't want the return of 'jungle raj' in the state," Shah claimed.

He also claimed that there was a substantial decrease in the number of heinous crimes in Bihar during the NDA rule.

"Under the RJD rule, murders, dacoity and other crimes were normal in Bihar," he alleged. **PTI**

SI raped me, MP pressured me to falsify medical reports of accused in police cases: Maha doctor in 4-page suicide note

SATARA (MAHARASHTRA), OCTOBER 25

A 26-year-old female doctor who allegedly committed suicide in Maharashtra's Satara district, left behind a detailed four page suicide note apart from the inked note on the palm of her hand, stating that a police officer raped her four times and exerted pressure on her to issue fake fitness certificates of accused in police cases. It has now emerged in her note that she was allegedly under pressure not only from police officials but even from a Member of Parliament (MP) and his personal assistants.

The woman doctor, who worked as a medical officer at the Phaltan sub-district hospital in Satara, also wrote in the note on her palm of her hand that she had been raped four times by Sub-Inspector Gopal Badne and was subjected to mental and physical abuse for over five months.

The woman doctor, who hails from Beed district, had been serving in the hospital for 23 months and was just a month away from completing her bond period for service in a rural area, when she took the extreme step out of frustration.

In her four-page suicide note, she wrote that police officers pressured her into issuing fake fitness certificates for accused, many of whom would not even be brought in for a medical examination. **PTI**

Burning eyes, headaches: Survey finds 3 in 4 Delhi-NCR households already feeling toxic air impact

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25



Three out of four households in Delhi-NCR are already experiencing the ill-effects of toxic air, with common complaints ranging from sore throat and cough to burning eyes, headaches and disturbed sleep, according to an online survey by citizen engagement platform LocalCircles.

An analysis of the CPCB data showed that post-Diwali, PM 2.5 levels have touched 488 micrograms per cubic metre, the highest in five years and over three times the pre-festival level of 156.6 micrograms per cubic metre. Pollution levels peaked during Diwali night on October 20 and the early next morning.

The survey, based on over 44,000 responses from residents across Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad, found that 42 per cent of the households reported that one or more members were suffering from sore throat or cough, while 25 per cent said family members had burning eyes, headaches or difficulty sleeping.

About 17 per cent of respondents reported breathing difficulties or aggravated asthma.

LocalCircles said 44 per cent of households were trying to minimise outdoor exposure and increase intake of immunity-boosting foods and drinks to cope with poor air quality. Nearly one-third of respondents said they had consulted or planned to consult doctors for pollution-related ailments.

Despite a 77.5 per cent reduction in stubble burning events in Punjab and Haryana due to floods and delayed harvests, Delhi's air quality has remained poor with the Air Quality Index (AQI) crossing 400 in several areas — about 24 times higher than the World Health Organization's recommended level for PM2.5 exposure.

LocalCircles said the findings highlight that residents are "already feeling the impact of toxic air" and called for strict enforcement of anti-pollution measures under Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), including deployment of smog guns and night-time sweeping to reduce dust. **PTI**

Health Department organises awareness programmes on World Polio Day in Ludhiana

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 25



On the occasion of World Polio Day, the Health Department, Ludhiana, organised a series of special awareness programs across the district to educate people about the prevention of polio and the importance of vaccination in keeping children free from the disease.

Speaking on the occasion, Civil Surgeon Dr Ramandeep Kaur said that polio is a contagious disease caused by the poliovirus, which mainly affects children under the age of five. If not prevented through timely vaccination, it can lead to permanent disability. She emphasized that it is the duty of every parent to ensure their children receive polio drops during each immunization drive.

Dr Kaur informed that the government conducts several pulse polio campaigns every year, during which all children below five years of age are administered polio drops as a protective shield against the virus. In addition to these special drives, she advised parents to make sure their children also receive the IPV injection and oral polio drops as part of the routine immunization schedule.

Highlighting India's achievement, she said, "Due to continuous efforts by the government and the cooperation of the people, the country has been declared polio-free. However, we must remain vigilant. Even a single unvaccinated child can put others at risk and allow the virus to resurface."

The Health Department appealed to all parents to actively participate in every polio immunization campaign and ensure that no child is left without the protective polio drops, keeping Ludhiana and India permanently polio-free.

Chhath Puja begins with Nahay-Khay ritual in Phagwara

ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 25

The four-day Chhath Puja festival, dedicated to the worship of Surya Dev (Sun God) and Chhathi Maiya, began on Saturday with the observance of the Nahay-Khay ritual. The day marks the start of a series of traditional observances rooted in purity, devotion, and family unity.

Devotees took a holy dip early in the morning, followed by the preparation of a simple sattvic meal of pumpkin, rice, and chana dal, popularly known as kaddu-bhaat. The meal, cooked in new clay pots and free from onion and garlic, symbolizes spiritual cleansing and self-discipline as devotees prepare for the arduous fast ahead.

Ravi and Manju, migrant youths from Bihar, shared that the festival primarily belongs to the residents of Bihar, Jharkhand, eastern Uttar Pradesh, and parts of Nepal, and is regarded as one of the most rigorous and sacred festivals in the Hindu tradition.

The Nahay-Khay ritual lays the foundation of the vrat (fast), believed to purify both body and mind while invoking the blessings of Chhathi Maiya. It also strengthens family bonds, as members gather to cook, clean, and share the sanctified meal, marking the onset of prayers for the well-being, health, and prosperity of children.

From a wellness perspective, the practice also carries scientific relevance the ritual bath promotes hygiene, while the nutritious meal provides essential proteins, vitamins, and energy to sustain devotees through the upcoming 36-hour waterless fast.

The festival continues with Kharna, Sandhya Arghya and concludes with Uday Arghya, celebrating faith, discipline, and gratitude to the Sun God the eternal source of life and vitality.

Meanwhile, the Phagwara Municipal Corporation staff were seen busy making arrangements for the Chhath Puja celebrations, as migrant citizens will offer Arghya to the setting sun on October 27 and worship the rising sun on October 28.

In various parts of the city, migratory residents were seen installing idols of Chhathi Maiya along the canal banks.

Educate Punjab Project distributes ₹1.5 cr aid to 1,000 flood-hit farmers for wheat sowing



HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 25

Continuing its journey of service and dedication, the Educate Punjab Project has been actively engaged in flood relief operations across Punjab since August 22, 2025. The initiative has adopted 12 flood-affected villages, providing consistent assistance to help affected families rebuild their lives.

Under this ongoing campaign, the project has distributed essential relief materials, conducted fogging and sanitisation drives, provided dairy cattle to families, and arranged school fee support for students impacted by the floods.

In a major step toward supporting farmers, a special event was organised on Saturday at Arif Ke village, where nearly 1,000 farmers received financial assistance of Rs 5,000 per acre amounting to a total of Rs 1.5 crore for wheat cultivation.

Addressing the gathering, Giani Raghbir Singh Ji said, "The Guru's teachings remind us that serving humanity is the highest form of worship. When we extend a helping hand to someone in need, we truly live the Guru's message. The efforts of the Educate Punjab Project are a shining example of this spirit of service that inspires the entire community."

Jaswinder Singh Khalsa added, "This initiative is not just about financial aid; it is about restoring the morale of our farmer brothers. Our mission is to ensure that no family or student is left behind due to the hardships caused by the floods."

The project's ongoing flood relief campaign stands as a symbol of faith, unity, and resilience reaffirming that with divine grace and collective effort, Punjab can overcome any challenge.

BSF seizes nearly 5 kg of heroin in drone-linked smuggling on Punjab border



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 25

In a series of successful operations over the past 24 hours, alert Border Security Force (BSF) troops recovered a total of 4.898 kg (gross weight) of heroin from areas along the Amritsar and Ferozepur borders.

In an intelligence-based joint operation conducted yesterday, BSF personnel, in coordination with the Punjab Police, recovered six packets of heroin weighing 3.248 kg from farmland near village Jalloke in Ferozepur district. The packets, wrapped in yellow adhesive tape, indicated that the consignment had been dropped by a drone from across the border.

Meanwhile, on the Amritsar border, vigilant BSF troops recovered one packet of heroin weighing 1.080 kg near the village Mullakot. Another packet weighing 570 grams was recovered from a field near the village of Chaharpur in the Ajnala sector of Amritsar.

Added here, in October 2025, 602 gm of heroin was seized from the Tendiwala village area, suspected to have been dropped by drone. In August, a hexacopter drone carrying 6 kg of heroin was recovered. From JK Singh Wala village. In August, there was 10 kg of narcotics and a foreign-made drone recovery with the arrest of 4 persons, including one found with 1.4 kg of heroin and a dual-remote drone. On April 1 kg of heroin was recovered from Tarn Taran, part of the Ferozepur sector. In February, 1 kg of heroin was dropped by a drone from Pakistan in the Dona Rahmat Wala village area.

These significant recoveries once again underscore the unwavering vigilance, professional competence, and dedication of BSF personnel in thwarting Pakistan-based smugglers' nefarious attempts to use drones for cross-border drug trafficking.

Rotary Club reviews preparations for free eye check-up and surgery camp in Chabbewal

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, October 25



A special meeting of the Rotary Club Hoshiarpur was held under the chairmanship of Club President Rotarian Avatar Singh to review preparations for the free eye check-up and surgery camp scheduled to take place on November 7 in Chabbewal village.

During the meeting, it was decided that all patients attending the camp will receive free medicines, spectacles, and meals, ensuring that no one faces financial hardship while availing of medical assistance.

President Rotarian Avatar Singh said the initiative reflects the Rotary Club's long-standing commitment to social welfare and healthcare outreach, aiming to provide relief to individuals suffering from vision-related problems.

He further informed that the project is being organized with the support of Rotary Club Warwick (England), former president Rotarian Bill Jaspal, and Rotarian Gurnandan Singh, who are key collaborators in this noble cause.

Club Secretary Inderpal Singh Sachdeva briefed members on various arrangements being made for the camp. He said that qualified ophthalmologists, modern diagnostic equipment, and adequate medical supplies have been arranged to ensure smooth operations.

₹6.5 crore project to transform Hoshiarpur's villages; 23 roads stretching 38 km sanctioned: Jimpa

DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, October 25



In a major infrastructure push, MLA Brahm Shankar Jimpa announced that 23 new rural roads, covering a total length of 38 kilometers, will soon be constructed across the Hoshiarpur constituency at a cost of Rs 6.5 crore.

Addressing a press conference at the Public Works Department (PWD) Rest House in Hoshiarpur, Jimpa said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, development projects in both urban and rural areas have gained strong momentum.

He revealed that the upcoming project will include nearly all villages of the constituency and will address long-pending roadworks dating back to 2015–16.

"Despite the change of two governments, no attention was paid to these projects. Our government took cognizance of people's issues and prioritized their resolution," Jimpa.

Jimpa emphasized that once completed; the new roads will reduce traffic congestion, improve rural connectivity and boost local economic activities.

Firing incident on Sultanpur Lodhi road leaves three injured in Kapurthala

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Sultanpur Lodhi, October 25

A violent clash erupted late last night near Sultanpur Lodhi near a roadside eatery, leaving three young men injured in what police believe was a fallout of an old rivalry. The injured were rushed to the Civil Hospital in Kapurthala for immediate medical treatment. According to preliminary information, the victims have been identified as Karanbir Singh, a resident of Saidpur; Rinku, a resident of Shekhupur; and Gurbir Singh, a resident of Kartarpur.

Speaking from his hospital bed, Karanbir Singh recounted the terrifying moments leading up to the attack. He said that while he was having dinner at the dhaba, four to five vehicles arrived carrying nearly three dozen men. The assailants allegedly attacked them with sharp-edged weapons and opened fire without warning. During the attack, Gurbir Singh sustained a gunshot wound and collapsed on the spot, while the others suffered injuries from both the gunfire and the assault.

At the Civil Hospital, Dr Yogita, the attending physician in the emergency ward, confirmed that the injured men were being treated for multiple wounds. She added that Gurbir Singh's condition was critical due to the gunshot injury and he has been referred to a higher medical center for advanced care.

Upon receiving information about the incident, ASI Jaswinder Pal, Station In-Charge of Bhulana Police Station, arrived at the scene with his team and initiated an investigation.

US citizen dies under mysterious circumstances at private de-addiction centre near Kapurthala

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 25

A US citizen admitted to a private de-addiction centre near Kapurthala reportedly died under mysterious circumstances on Saturday morning, raising serious questions about the functioning of such facilities in the region.

The deceased has been identified as Amarvir Singh, a resident of Ajit Nagar, Kapurthala.

According to family members, they received a call from the management of a de-addiction centre located in village Pattar Kalan, informing them that Amarvir was unresponsive.

The family rushed him to Civil Hospital, Kapurthala, where Dr Yogita, the Emergency Medical Officer, declared him brought dead.

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DC calls on farmers to help protect environment for future generations

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 25



In preserving the environment for future generations, Deputy Commissioner Deepshikha Sharma has urged farmers to extend full cooperation to the district administration.

She emphasised that while administrative officers and field staff are actively visiting villages to persuade farmers not to burn paddy stubble, it is equally the farmers' responsibility to support these efforts.

DC said that awareness camps, rallies, and special morning assemblies in schools are being organised across villages to educate farmers and students about the harmful effects of stubble burning. She added that every possible effort is being made to encourage farmers to adopt modern and eco-friendly methods for stubble management and field preparation for the next crop.

To curb stubble burning, all sarpanches, panchayat heads, and officials have been instructed to motivate farmers within their jurisdictions not to set fire to crop residue and to promote the use of stubble management machinery provided by the Agriculture Department. Strict action will be taken wherever violations are found.

DC Sharma informed that stubble management campaigns and on-ground activities by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are being carried out intensively across all blocks of the district.

Kamal Saroj demands administrative measures to ensure clean and safe Chhath Puja celebrations

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 25

Shiv Sena (UBT) Punjab State Press Secretary Kamal Saroj has urged the local administration and municipal authorities to ensure proper facilities, safety, and cleanliness during the upcoming Chhath Puja celebrations in Phagwara and surrounding areas.

Saroj demanded that the administration make adequate arrangements for clean water in the ponds and canals designated for the rituals, along with proper lighting before sunrise and after sunset to facilitate smooth conduct of the festival. He also called for strict cleanliness drives around the worship sites and installation of barricades wherever necessary to maintain crowd discipline and public convenience.

Emphasizing the need for a dignified celebration, Saroj appealed for a ban on vulgar music and indecent displays, saying that the sanctity of the festival must be protected. He further insisted on a complete prohibition on the consumption of alcohol and other intoxicants near the puja venues, urging both the police and event organizers to take firm action to ensure a respectful and safe environment.

5,764 PCS aspirants get free coaching from Raj Malhotra's IAS Study Group, Chandigarh: Sandhwan

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25



In order to fulfil the dreams of PCS aspirant students of Punjab, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan informed that a total of 5,764 students from across Punjab got free of cost PCS (Executive)-2025 Preliminary examination coaching from Raj Malhotra's IAS Study Group, Chandigarh.

He revealed that free of cost notes/materials have been provided to the students for this preparation so that students can explore their unlimited potential and change their destiny with devotion and dedication. He added that our government has taken several initiatives to further strengthen the education ecosystem in Punjab.

He highlighted that education is the backbone of the society and our government is leaving no stone unturned to provide quality education and skill development to the students. Under this initiative, the hard work of Punjab's youth will get a new direction and will set new records of success. Speaker added that this step will go down in history as a revolutionary initiative for the progress of Punjab, Punjabiyat and Punjabis.

Students felt immensely delighted after getting coaching from this renowned institution. Students expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Speaker whose sincere efforts had made it possible to impart the students of Punjab free of cost coaching for PCS (Executive) Preliminary Examination from Raj Malhotra's IAS Study Group, Chandigarh.

Japanese industry delegation meets Speaker, keenly interested to invest in state

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan held a meeting on Saturday with a special Japanese delegation who are keenly interested in investing in Punjab. The State is rich in the agriculture sector but is simultaneously emerging as a hub for the industrial sector. Speaker urged them to explore the opportunities in Punjab and invest in our shared futures. Our government has transparency, credibility and a clear policy framework for industrialists.

Speaker informed the delegation about the Punjab Government's Invest Punjab platform where a single window portal has been launched by our government where investors can get all necessary approvals within 45 days. He added that the state's business-friendly policies and vast investment opportunities will be immensely beneficial for them.

Key operative of terror module held with two IEDs, one pistol in Amritsar

N.P.S. CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, October 25



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, State Special Operation Cell (SSOC) Amritsar has apprehended an operative of a terror network and recovered two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), weighing around 2.5 kg each, packed with high-grade RDX and equipped with timers for detonation, and one sophisticated .30 bore pistol along with ammunition from his possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Saturday.

The arrested accused has been identified as Manpreet Singh alias Tiddi, a resident of village Kotla Tarkhana in Amritsar. The arrested accused has a criminal history, being previously involved in two criminal cases registered in police stations Sadar Batala and Kalanaur. After spending around one and a half years in Gurdaspur and Amritsar jails, he was released in February 2025 and subsequently resumed his criminal activities.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused was working on the directions of his handlers based in Armenia, United Kingdom (UK) and Germany, who are further receiving instructions from a Pakistan-based mastermind of a banned terrorist organisation. Further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages in this case to dismantle the entire network, he said.

Sharing operational details, AIG SSOC Amritsar Sukhminder Singh Mann said that acting swiftly on a specific intelligence input, the team of SSOC Amritsar arrested suspect Manpreet Singh alias Tiddi and recovered a pistol of 30 bore along with ammunition from his possession. Following his disclosure, two IEDs, packed in metal containers with high-grade RDX and equipped with timers for detonation, are also recovered from the area of village Kotla Tarkhana, he said.

The AIG said that probe further indicated that around two weeks back, the Pak-based handler facilitated a drone-dropping of the seized consignment in Ajnala Sector, which was retrieved by the arrested person and further concealed by him near a canal close to his village Kotla Tarkhana. His handlers had instructed him to remain on standby and await further orders to hand over the IEDs to another contact for intended use, he added.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 63 dated 25.10.2025 has been registered under Sections 25 of the Arms Act, sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act, and sections 111 and 61(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Police Station SSOC Amritsar.

49 more stubble burning incidents in Punjab, 561 reported since September 15: PPCB data



CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 25

Punjab witnessed 49 fresh stubble burning incidents on Saturday, taking the total count to 561 since September 15, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) data showed.

According to the data, the highest number of farm fires were reported in Tarn Taran at 175, followed by Amritsar at 135, Ferozepur 66, Patiala 34, Gurdaspur 27 and Sangrur 23, as many farmers continue to burn crop residue.

Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for the rise in air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

As the window for the Rabi crop, wheat, is very short after paddy harvest in October and November, some farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear off the crop residue.

Fines amounting to Rs 14.25 lakh have been imposed as environmental compensation in 278 cases so far, according to PPCB data. Of the total fine, Rs 9.55 lakh has been collected so far.

The data also showed that 215 FIRs were registered against farm fire incidents during this period under Section 223 (disobedience of order promulgated by public servant) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

According to the PPCB data, the total area under paddy cultivation in Punjab this year is 31.72 lakh hectares. Till October 24, 48.86 per cent of this area had been harvested.

Authorities in Punjab have also marked 230 red entries, 100 in Tarn Taran and 61 Amritsar, in land records of farmers who burnt crop residues.

A red entry bars farmers from getting loans against their farmland or selling it.

According to the PPCB data, the total area under paddy cultivation in Punjab this year is 31.72 lakh hectares. Till October 24, 48.86 per cent of this area had been harvested.

Punjab saw 10,909 farm fires in 2024 as compared to 36,663 in 2023, registering a 70 per cent decrease in the practice.

The state recorded 49,922 farm fire events in 2022, 71,304 in 2021, 76,590 in 2020, 55,210 in 2019 and 50,590 in 2018, with many districts, including Sangrur, Mansa, Bathinda and Amritsar, witnessing large number of stubble burning incidents. PTI

Mayor slams delay in Smart City Project files at F&CC meeting

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, October 25

At Thursday's Finance and Contract Committee (F&CC) meeting held on the Municipal Corporation (MC) premises, Mayor Vaneet Dhir sharply criticized the Building and Roads (B&R) Department for its delay in submitting files related to the Smart City projects, expressing strong dissatisfaction over the slow pace of work.

The Mayor questioned officials on why the files had not been forwarded for review despite repeated reminders. He reminded that he had already sent a letter on October 8, seeking an update on three major Smart City projects the vertical garden, smart roads, and the canal beautification project.

The Mayor questioned officials on why the files had not been forwarded for review despite repeated reminders. He reminded that he had already sent a letter on October 8, seeking an update on three major Smart City projects the vertical garden, smart roads, and the canal beautification project. However, no response had been received so far. He told The Tribune that an ultimatum has been given to the officials that if they fail to submit files, action will be taken against them. "I told them that this is not acceptable and action will be taken," he said.

The issue was discussed at length during the meeting, with several members urging the department to ensure better coordination and timely execution of Smart City initiatives.

This is not for the first time when the Mayor has asked the officials to be prepared with every detail related to various projects. Besides this, the F&CC approved development works worth crores under various heads, including desilting of sewer line, installation of tube-wells at various places, laying of storm sewer at Gujja Peer Road, purchase of animal catcher vehicle, etc. The meeting was attended by Senior Deputy Mayor Balbir Singh, Deputy Mayor Malkit Singh, councillors Kavita Seth and Hitesh Aggarwal.

Ahead of Tarn Taran bypoll, 2 Congress leaders join BJP

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25

This situation, he said, has compelled genuine grassroots leaders to seek a platform that values their commitment and dedication to Punjab, said Chugh in a statement.

Congress leaders Ranjit Singh Dhillon and Jagmeet Dhillon on Saturday joined the BJP ahead of the Tarn Taran bypoll in Punjab.

Ranjit Dhillon was the chairman of a Block Samiti and coordinator of the Punjab Congress, while Jagmeet Dhillon was the president of the Block Congress Committee in Tarn Taran.

Welcoming the leaders into the party fold in Delhi, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said their decision reflects the growing trust of Punjab's people in the "visionary" leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said leaders across Punjab are realising that the BJP is the only party genuinely committed to issues of development, good governance, and national interest. Chugh attacked the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), saying its "failure and mismanagement" has pushed Punjab into a "crisis". It also hit out at the Congress party, accusing it of promoting nepotism while suffering from "rudderless leadership".

This situation, he said, has compelled genuine grassroots leaders to seek a platform that values their commitment and dedication to Punjab, said Chugh in a statement.

Polling for the Tarn Taran bypoll will be held on November 11, and the results will be announced on November 14. The seat fell vacant following the death of AAP MLA Kashmir Singh Sohal in June.

'YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH'

On day 238, Punjab Police nab 90 drug smugglers with 6.1 kg heroin, 1.7 kg opium

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 238th day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 344 locations on Saturday leading to the arrest of 90 drug smugglers after registration of 78 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 34,082 in 238 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 6.1 kg heroin, 1.7 kg opium, 696 intoxicant tablets/capsules and Rs 29,490 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 66 gazetted officers have conducted 344 raids across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 344 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 41 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

Drug addict couple held for selling their 6-month-old child; infant recovered

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mansa, October 25

A couple, allegedly addicted to drugs, sold their six-month-old son to a scrap dealer in Mansa district, police said on Saturday.

The case came to light after the child's maternal aunt approached the police, an official said. The police have recovered the child and booked both the families under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The officer also said the couple has been arrested.

The couple, residents of Akbarpur Khudal village, was allegedly addicted to drugs and was unable to raise the child. Subsequently, they gave the six-month-old to the family of the scrap dealer in Budhlada town for Rs 1.80 lakh, according to the police.

The scrap dealer has four daughters. The families even signed a document, which they called an "adoption deed" for the child.

Locals claimed that the couple allegedly spent the money on buying drugs, and household items. The child's mother, who got addicted to drugs after her marriage, was a wrestler, locals said. Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports about the incident, Punjab Commission for Protection of Child Rights Chairman Kanwardeep Singh issued a notice to the Mansa Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) to recover the infant and hand him over to the child welfare committee.

The commission also directed the SSP to take action against the couple and the family which received the child, and submit a report by October 31.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Budhlada) Sikander Singh Cheema said the child has been handed over to the child welfare committee.

Ex-MP writes to US envoy, India's ambassador in Washington, seeking support for Sikh drivers

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

Former Rajya Sabha member Tarlochan Singh has written to the US envoy in India, urging the United States to stand by the Sikh drivers' community in the country, saying many of them are allegedly facing suspicion in the wake of a recent semi-truck crash in California.

Jashanpreet Singh, a 21-year-old Indian-origin truck driver, has been accused of causing the crash that left three people dead and several others injured. He allegedly rammed his truck into slow-moving traffic in Southern California on Tuesday, Fox News reported on Wednesday.

In his letter dated October 25 to US envoy Sergio Gor, Singh said, "I want to bring to your kind notice and through you, of the USA government that a recent unfortunate road accident by a Sikh driver in California is creating scare among the Sikh truckers in the USA". He attributed this anxiety to the "aggressive publicity" in the media surrounding the incident.

The former MP emphasised, "I am not seeking any pardon for the Sikh driver, who should face the court." However, he noted that Jashanpreet's family in Punjab claims he is a baptised Sikh who has vowed not to consume drugs or alcohol.

The driver's family rejected allegations that he was intoxicated while driving, asserting that he is an "Amritdhari Sikh" (baptised Sikh).

Singh highlighted that approximately 100,000 Sikh drivers are an "indispensable component" of the American supply chain.

"For decades, they have been in this profession and have never been singled out like this. Now they are facing suspicion at truck stops," Singh stated in the letter, adding that Sikhs have been living in America since the beginning of the last century and have contributed to the growth of the US.

"I seek through you, immediate intervention by the US government, to stand by the Sikhs who always feel proud to be American citizens," Singh wrote in his letter.

Health Dept issues advisory to prevent dengue, chikungunya and malaria

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Barnala, October 25



The Health Department, Barnala, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner T. Benith (IAS), has issued an advisory urging residents to take preventive measures against mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and malaria.

Giving details, Civil Surgeon Dr Baljit Singh said dengue is a viral disease transmitted by the bite of the Aedes aegypti mosquito. Its key symptoms include high fever, pain behind the eyes, red rash, joint and muscle pain, vomiting, and nausea.

He advised that individuals showing these symptoms should immediately visit a government hospital for proper medical evaluation and treatment.

"Treatment for dengue, chikungunya, and malaria is available free of cost in all government health institutions," said Dr Baljit Singh.

Dr Singh emphasized that preventing mosquito breeding is the most effective way to control these diseases. Residents have been urged to: Avoid water stagnation around homes. Cover water containers properly. Empty and dry coolers, water pots and tanks once a week, especially every Friday. Use mosquito nets and repellents while sleeping. Wear full-sleeved clothing to avoid mosquito bites.

Malaria symptoms include fever with chills, sweating after fever, headache, vomiting, and nausea. To prevent malaria, people should not allow water to accumulate around their houses and should pour a thin layer of oil over stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding.

Chikungunya, another viral infection spread through mosquito bites, presents with sudden fever, severe joint pain, skin rashes, and fatigue.

Air quality remains 'poor' in Punjab



CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 25

Air quality in parts of Haryana was recorded in the 'poor' and 'very poor' categories, while it was 'poor' and 'moderate' in neighbouring Punjab on Saturday, officials said.

Among the places where the AQI was in the poor category were Charkhi Dadri (292), Gurugram (234), Jind (293), Kaithal (283), Sonepat (214), Manesar (291) and Yamunanagar (226).

In Punjab, Bathinda recorded an AQI of 227, Ludhiana 206, Jalandhar 158, Khanna 144, Amritsar 126, Patiala 122 and Rupnagar 153.

Chandigarh, the common capital of Punjab and Haryana, recorded an AQI of 117. PTI

Aadhaar-enabled biometric attendance system for MCC employees will be mandatory from November 1

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25

Under the directions of Amit Kumar, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, the Facial Authentication Aadhaar Based Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) will be implemented across all wings and divisions of the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh for efficient and transparent attendance management of all officers and officials from 1st November 2025.

This initiative, mandates the use of facial authentication through personal smartphones for attendance marking, ensuring a modern, accurate, and accountable attendance mechanism.

The Commissioner, MCC Amit Kumar reviewed the progress and operational readiness of the AEBAS system and issued clear directions for strict and immediate compliance. It was observed that 10,930 employees of MCC are presently active and registered on the Biometric Attendance Portal developed by NIC. All officials who have not yet registered are directed to complete their registration within seven days without fail.

As per the directions of the Commissioner, marking of attendance through NIC's Facial Authentication using the mobile applications AadhaarBAS or AadhaarFaceRD on personal smartphones, or through Biometric Machines installed at designated locations, is mandatory for all MCC employees, including regular, contractual, outsourced, and field staff. It has been further ordered that salaries of all employees shall be strictly linked to their biometric attendance records with effect from 01.11.2025.

The IT Branch, MCC, has already conducted comprehensive training sessions for all Nodal Officers/Single Points of Contact (SPoCs) from every wing, branch, and division to ensure smooth and uniform implementation. The Commissioner has instructed all Nodal Officers/SPoCs/Supervisors to ensure that every employee under their control marks attendance daily without exception. In cases where any employee faces difficulty in marking attendance, the concerned supervisor shall immediately facilitate the attendance marking using his/her own smartphone or through a nearby biometric machine to avoid discrepancies.

Furthermore, all registered employees have been directed to update their biometric and service details, including their place of posting, by 31.10.2025, to ensure accurate record maintenance on the attendance portal.

The Commissioner, MCC, has emphasized that strict compliance with these directions is mandatory, and any negligence or non-compliance will be viewed seriously. All employees are therefore instructed to cooperate fully to ensure the successful implementation of the Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System, which aims to enhance transparency, punctuality, and administrative efficiency within the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh.

Punjab Governor unveils book 'Prernadayak Sakshatkar – Ek Safar'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25



Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, on Saturday at Punjab Raj Bhawan, unveiled the book "Prernadayak Sakshatkar – Ek Safar" (Inspirational Interviews A Journey), based on the life and thoughts of social worker and senior BJP leader Dr. Avinash Rai Khanna. The book has been authored by Dr. Jyoti.

Among the distinguished guests present were Justice Hari Pal Verma, Lokayukta, Haryana; Justice (Retd.) S.N.Aggarwal; Prof. Kuldeep Agnihotri, former Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh; and Shri Vineet Joshi, State Media Head, BJP Punjab.

On this occasion, Governor Kataria said that it was a matter of pride and happiness for him to unveil a book written on such an inspiring personality whose life symbolizes public service, integrity, and dedication. He added that the life of Dr. Avinash Rai Khanna is a source of inspiration for every section of society be it politics, education, or humanitarian service.

In his address, the Governor mentioned that born in Hoshiarpur, Dr. Khanna imbibed the values of service, hard work, and humility since childhood. He dedicated his life to public service and made politics a medium for social transformation. As MLA from Garhshankar, MP from Hoshiarpur, Member of Rajya Sabha, and National Vice President of the BJP, he always prioritized social welfare and the upliftment of humanity.

Governor Kataria further said that Dr. Khanna's life is like an "ocean in a pitcher" reflecting values of simplicity, truth, self-reliance, and compassion. He is not just a politician but also a sensitive social worker and a true devotee of humanity.

Congratulating the author Dr. Jyoti for this inspiring work, the Governor said that she has presented various aspects of Dr. Khanna's life with depth and sensitivity. He expressed confidence that the book would serve as a guide and source of inspiration for youth, students, and social workers alike.

Expressing his thoughts on the occasion, Dr. Avinash Rai Khanna said, "Public service has always been the core purpose of my life. I have always believed that every person in society possesses some goodness what is needed is to recognize it and give it direction.

UT Home Secretary-cum-Secretary Health conducts visit to GMCH-16



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25

Home Secretary-cum-Secretary Health, Sh. Mandip Singh Brar, today conducted a visit to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 16, Chandigarh, to take stock of the functioning of various departments and to ensure that citizens are receiving prompt and quality healthcare services.

Sh. Brar undertook a detailed round of the hospital, beginning from the Emergency and Trauma sections and extending to the Outpatient Department (OPD) and the Advanced Pediatric Centre. He interacted extensively with doctors, medical staff, and patients to gain firsthand insight into the hospital's day-to-day operations.

During the visit, Sh. Brar listened to the concerns raised by several patients and their attendants regarding waiting times and service delivery. He assured them that their grievances would be addressed on priority.

Taking note of the heavy patient rush at the Emergency Department, Sh. Brar directed hospital authorities to increase the number of registration counters to ensure faster processing and smoother patient management.

The Secretary Health also shared several important suggestions for enhancing healthcare delivery, including improved inter-departmental coordination, better emergency response systems, and regular upkeep of medical infrastructure. He emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and ensuring compassionate behaviour by hospital staff while dealing with patients.

Director Health Services, Dr. Suman Singh, along with senior officials of the Health Department, accompanied Sh. Brar during the visit. The team took note of his observations and assured that necessary measures would be implemented promptly.

HIGHLIGHTS

- REVIEWS HOSPITAL FACILITIES, INTERACTS WITH PATIENTS
- DIRECTS MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN HEALTHCARE SERVICES

CCA Punjab, Department of Telecommunications, celebrates silver jubilee, marking 25 years of dedicated service and institutional excellence



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25

The Office of the Controller of Communication Accounts (CCA), Punjab Telecom Circle a field unit of the Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India celebrated its Silver Jubilee, marking 25 years of dedicated service and institutional excellence.

The celebration was graced by the Controller General of Communication Accounts (CGCA), Govt of India, Vandana Gupta, who attended as the chief guest. The event witnessed participation from senior dignitaries representing various Central Government offices located in Chandigarh, including the Office of Additional DGT, Department of Telecommunications; Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Punjab Circle; officers from the Government of Punjab; as well as departmental pensioners, family pensioners, staff members, and stakeholders such as Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

In his welcome address, Vijendra Narain Tandon, Controller of Communication Accounts, Punjab, extended a warm welcome to the chief guest, CGCA Vandana Gupta, Ajay Kumar Kararha, Chief General Manager Telecommunications (CGMT), and other distinguished guests, acknowledging their valuable presence at the commemorative occasion.

48-year-old woman gets rid of rare facial twitching disorder after successful surgery

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25

A 48-year-old woman, suffering from a complex and rare case of 'Hemifacial Spasm', got rid of the problem after a successful surgery at Max Hospital, Mohali recently.

She was experiencing persistent, uncontrollable twitching on the right side of her face for over three months. The spasms, which involved the muscles around her eye and extended to her entire right facial region, caused considerable discomfort and emotional distress. Despite multiple consultations elsewhere, her symptoms persisted, prompting her to seek expert care.

The woman approached Max where upon evaluation, she was diagnosed with primary hemifacial spasm, a rare neurological condition caused by irritation of the facial nerve, said Dr. H.S. Bhatoe, senior director, neurosurgery at Max Hospital, Mohali. Explaining further, Dr. Bhatoe said that the cause of this condition is usually found to be idiopathic, meaning it is not hereditary or linked to any underlying disease.

"In this case, we identified the root cause as a vascular compression of the facial nerve and performed a delicate microvascular decompression to separate the offending vessel. The patient is now completely free from pain and twitching. The successful outcome underscores our hospital's expertise in managing complex neurological and neurosurgical disorders with a multidisciplinary, patient-centric approach," maintained Dr. Bhatoe.

Breast cancer awareness: Sahayta Charitable Welfare Society organises walkathon

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25

The Sukhna Lake came alive with Sahayta Charitable Welfare Society organising a breast cancer walkathon or 'Pink Walkathon' under its 'Pink October' campaign as part of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2025. Hundreds walked to spread awareness about prevention, early detection, and cure related to breast cancer. Participants carried placards and banners with messages to make the public aware of the scourge of breast cancer. It is pertinent to mention here that Neelu Tuli was the Founder President of Sahayta Charitable Welfare Society and had passed away due to cancer on October 26, 2006. Notably, the 'Pink Walkathon' was started in Chandigarh first time by Late Neelu Tuli in the year 2005.

Dr. (Prof.) Bhavna Rai, Head, Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), flagged off the walkathon at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh. On this occasion, Renu Saigal, President, Sahayta Charitable Welfare Society, delivered the welcome address, elaborating on the theme and significance of 'Pink October. A cancer survivor herself, Renu Saigal shared that the World Health Organization (WHO) has set this year's theme as 'Every Story is Unique, Every Journey Matters'.



Wing Commander Ajay Tuli (Retd.), Administrator, Sahayta Charitable Welfare Society, said, "The Society is actively supporting cancer patients and promoting preventive health within the community."

The walkathon saw participation from NSS students from different schools, NCC cadets, members of Carmel Ex-Students Association (CESA), members of Inner Wheel Club, Rotarians, eminent citizens, doctors & senior citizens among others. Breast cancer survivors also took part in the walk, displaying their victory over breast cancer, this certainly encouraged women who are currently battling the disease.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I SUKHDEV SINGH S/O MALOOK SINGH R/O VPO BACHWIND TEH AJNALA DISTT AMRITSAR HAVE DECLARED THAT MY SON ARPANDEEP SINGH ORIGINAL QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL EXAMINATION OF YEAR 2025 UNIC ID 8513221 INDEX NUMBER 1257429/008 PASSED FROM REVAL DATE PUBLIC SCHOOL ,RANGARH,DISTRICT ATTARI,AMRITSAR ISSUED BY I.C.S.E HAS BEEN ACTUALLY LOST.

ਮੈਂ ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਬਲਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ:-2661, ਫੇਜ਼-1, ਅਰਬਨ ਅਸਟੇਟ ਦੂੱਗਰੀ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਦਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰੀਤਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Heera Lal s/o Balwinder Singh R/o Village Aglaur, PO. Sansarpur, Teh. Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India, have changed my name from Heera Lal to Harkirat Singh.

I,Paramjit Singh S/o Shinder singh R/o H.no 225/1,Near Kamal atta chaki giaspura Ludhiana 141014 punjab have changed my name from paramjit singh to paramjeet singh

I,Jasvir Kaur Nagra W/o Chamkaur singh nagra R/o Kheri chandwan (Sangrur) have changed my name to Jasvir Kaur W/o Chamkaur singh nagra.

I, Paramjit W/o Sarbjit Singh R/o Vill. Alipur, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name as Paramjit to Paramjit Kaur. All concerned please note.

I, Brijlal Shori legally Father of Army No. 6496295P Rank: HAV/ASH, Name: Dinesh Kumar Sori, Unit: 501 ASC Battalion PIN- 905501, C/O 99 APO, have changed my Date of Birth from 16/07/1960 to 01/01/1964 due to wrongly entered in my son's service record /sheet roll.

I, Sonkuwar Sori legally Mother of Army No. 6496295P Rank: HAV/ASH, Name: Dinesh Kumar Sori, Unit: 501 ASC Battalion PIN-905501, C/O 99 APO, have changed my Name from SON KUVAR BAI to SONKUWAR SORI.

I hitherto known as BHOLI W/o PARDEEP KUMAR MALIK R/o H No 31,Kakowal Road,New Vishal Nagar, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana,Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUSHMA MALIK.

I,Varinder Sharma S/O Chaman Lal R/O H.No.103,New Adarsh Nagar, Islamabad, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my son's name from Saksham to Saksham Hastir. Concerned note.

I Himani W/o Nitin Gupta R/o # 3132, First Floor, Sector 38-D, Chandigarh, declare that i have changed my name from Himani to Himani Gupta.

I Rohit S/o Ram Saroop Vill Bassi Kalan, Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name to Rohit Roy. Concerned Note.

I, Sukhwinder Singh S/o Surinder Singh R/o VPO. Chitti, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name as Sukhwinder Singh to Sukhwinder Singh Athwal. All concerned please note.

I, Sharanpreet Kaur W/o Sukhdev Singh Athwal R/o VPO. Chitti, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name as Sharanpreet Kaur to Sharanpreet Kaur Athwal. All concerned please note.

I, Sawarn Singh S/o Amar Singh r/o House no: 36, Jinda Road, Master Colony, Maqsudan, Jalandhar-144008 (Punjab) have changed my name from Sawarn Singh to Swaran Singh. All concerned please note.

LOST AND FOUND

I,Ashok Kumar Kundra S/O Baldev Krishan Kundra R/O 102/3,Dharampura Colony,Batala,Gurdaspur inform that Registered sale deed in favour of Santosh Kumari W/O Baldev Krishan Kundra and Suman Kundra W/O Rajiv Kundra Deed No. 1726, Dated 16.07.2007 Plot No.102,situated at Dharampura Colony,Batala,Gurdaspur,Punjab 143505 has lost on 25.08.2025.Its FIR is submitted on 24.10.2025 at PSOC City Batala.Its LR No. is 641330/2025. If anybody finds it please contact us.Mobile -9878630286

CORRIGENDUM

Refer to our Advertisement/Publication dtd. 17/10/2025 for Lost of Original Titled Deed Wasika no. 18964 wrongly mentioned instead of 3259 dated 13/10/2010 in favour of Kiran Vig W/o Ashok Kumar, rest details are correct as previous advertisement. Rajinder Singh Contact: 9815391791

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ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਐਲੀਮੈਂਟਰੀ ਸਕੂਲ, ਨੰਗਲੀ, ਬਲਾਕ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ 2 ਵਿਖੇ 2 ਕਮਰੇ, 1 ਰਸੋਈ ਅਤੇ 1 ਲੜਕਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਵਾਸ਼ਰੂਮ ਦੇ ਅਣਸੇਫ ਬਲਾਕ ਨੂੰ ਢਾਹੁਣ ਲਈ ਅਤੇ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਸਾਈਟ ਕਲੀਅਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇਛੁੱਕ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਹੋਣ ਲਈ ਸੱਦਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਬਲਾਕ ਦਾ ਕੁਲ ਰਕਬਾ (1072 ਵਰਗ ਫੁੱਟ) ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੁਲ 2 ਕਮਰੇ, ਦਰਵਾਜੇ, ਬਾਰੀਆਂ, 1 ਰਸੋਈ ਅਤੇ 1 ਵਾਸ਼ਰੂਮ ਹਨ। ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਮਿਤੀ 31/10/2025 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10:30 ਵਜੇ ਸਕੂਲ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।
ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ :
1. ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਹੋਣ ਲਈ ਇੱਛੁਕ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰ 20,000/- ਰੁਪੈ ਦਾ ਡਰਾਫਟ/ਕੈਸ਼ (Security ਦੇ ਰੂਪ) ਵਿੱਚ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਦੇ 2 ਘੰਟੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸਕੂਲ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਜਮਾ ਕਰਵਾਉਣਗੇ। ਡਰਾਫਟ/ਕੈਸ਼ ਜਮਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ ਮਿਤੀ 31/10/25 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 8:30 ਤੋਂ 10:00 ਵਜੇ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।
2. ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਿਸ ਦੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ, ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਠੇਕਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।
3. ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਦੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਦੇਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਇਛੁਕ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਅਨਸੇਫ ਬਲਾਕ ਨੂੰ ਨਿੱਜੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੇਖ ਲਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ ਅਤੇ ਵੇਖਣ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਬੋਲੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ।
4. ਬੋਲੀ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਜਿਸ ਵੀ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਕੰਮ ਦੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ, ਉਹ ਬੋਲੀ ਦੀ ਰਕਮ ਦਾ ਡਰਾਫਟ/ਕੈਸ਼ ਸਕੂਲ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਮਿਤੀ 31/10/2025 ਨੂੰ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 2:30 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਜਮਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਏਗਾ। ਬੋਲੀ ਦੀ ਸਾਰੀ ਰਕਮ ਜਮਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਹੀ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਅਣਸੇਫ ਬਲਾਕ ਨੂੰ ਢਾਹੁਣ ਦੀ ਇਜਾਜ਼ਤ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।
5. ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਠੇਕਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ, ਉਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਬਾਕੀ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ Security ਦਾ ਡਰਾਫਟ/ਕੈਸ਼ ਵਾਪਸ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।
6. ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਯੰਗ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਮਿਥੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜੇ ਸਾਈਟ ਕਲੀਅਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰੇਗਾ ਤਾਂ 10,000/- ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਦਿਨ ਦੇ ਹਿਸਾਬ ਨਾਲ ਜੁਰਮਾਨਾ ਦੇਣ ਦਾ ਪਾਬੰਦ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਅਣਸੇਫ ਬਲਾਕ ਢਾਹੁਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਜੇ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਜਾਨੀ/ਮਾਲੀ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਸਦੀ ਨਿਰੋਲ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰ ਦੀ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਭਰਪਾਈ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।
ਵੱਲੋਂ : ਸ੍ਰੀਮਤੀ ਇੰਦੂ ਬਾਲਾ ਮੰਗੋਤਰਾ (ਡਿਪਟੀ ਜਿ:ਸਿ: ਅਫਸਰ ਐਲੀ: ਸਿ) ਬਲਾਕ ਸਿਖਿਆ ਅਫਸਰ ਸ. ਬਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਸ੍ਰੀਮਤੀ ਮਨਮੀਤ ਕੌਰ, ਸ. ਐਲੀ. ਸਕੂਲ ਨੰਗਲੀ, ਫਤਿਹਗੜ੍ਹ ਚੂੜੀਆਂ ਰੋਡ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਫੋਨ ਨੰ: 9781099898

Mohali District Administration intensifies action against Illegal mining in Mohali



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, October 25

Acting on the directions issued by the Punjab Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the District Administration SAS Nagar has intensified its crackdown on illegal mining activities to ensure strict enforcement of mining regulations and protection of the state's natural resources.

Last night, the Mining Department conducted a special drive across various locations in Sub-Division Mohali, setting up checkpoints to inspect tipper trucks and verify transportation permits. During these operations, several vehicles were stopped, and their documents were thoroughly checked to ensure compliance with legal norms.

Providing details about the operation, SDO Mining Shubham Goel informed that the drive was conducted under the supervision of District Mining Officer Khushwinder Singh and Superintending Engineer Rajinder Ghai, in accordance with the government's zero-tolerance policy against illegal mining.

He further appealed to all individuals and vehicle owners engaged in the transportation of minor minerals to refrain from illegal mining and transportation and to obtain the requisite official permits only through the Mining Department after depositing the due royalty to the state exchequer.

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

Through this Publication This is for Constructive Notice for respondent **M/S SHREE SHIV SHAKTI INDUSTRY INDIA** having **registered office at B-XXX-577, FIRST FLOOR, KAILASH NAGAR, INDUSTRIAL AREA–A, SHERPUR ROAD, PUBLIC CONVENIENCE, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB-141010**, to appear in person or through authorized representative before the **District Level Micro & Small facilitation Council Ludhiana, District Industries Centre, Ludhiana** on **Dated 27.10.2025** regarding claim reference petition submitted by claimant **M/S MADHUSUDAN FABRICS** U/s 18(1) of MSMED Act 2006 bearing **reference: MSEFC/DIC10/24/3279.** If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per section 23 & 25 of Arbitration and 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

Akali Dal leader blames Mayor–MLA feud for Mohali's garbage mess

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, October 25

The garbage crisis in Punjab's 'VIP City' Mohali has worsened dramatically, with towering heaps of waste now choking residential colonies, marketplaces, and key entry points. Nearly 18 months after the Punjab and Haryana High Court banned dumping at the Industrial Area Phase 8B site, the Municipal Corporation has yet to identify a new dumping ground. As a result, residents are forced to live amid unbearable stench, overflowing garbage, and mounting health hazards.

Condemning the political deadlock behind this civic collapse, Senior Akali Dal leader Ajaypal Middukhera issued a sharp statement holding local leaders accountable. "It is unfortunate that the personal conflict between the Mayor and the MLA has taken priority over public welfare. Mohali's residents are being forced to live amid filth and disease because of this administrative failure. Instead of indulging in blame games, both leaders must rise above politics and work together to restore cleanliness and civic dignity to the city," Middukhera said.

Mohali's civic decline is now starkly visible in official data the city has dropped to 11th place out of 35 cities in Punjab in the latest Swachh Survekshan survey, a steep fall from its earlier distinction as the state's cleanest city.

Mohali's civic decline is now starkly visible in official data the city has dropped to 11th place out of 35 cities in Punjab in the latest Swachh Survekshan survey, a steep fall from its earlier distinction as the state's cleanest city.

With the city generating nearly 150 to 200 tonnes of waste daily and no designated dumping site in place, its sanitation system stands on the brink of collapse. Civic groups, environmental activists, and residents are urgently demanding immediate government intervention before the crisis spirals completely out of control.

Health Department intensifies 'Every Friday Fight Dengue' campaign

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 25



To control the spread of dengue in the district, the Health Department, Ludhiana, has intensified its awareness and prevention activities under the ongoing campaign "Every Friday – Fight Dengue." The initiative aims to promote cleanliness and eliminate mosquito breeding sites to ensure a completely dengue-free district.

Civil Surgeon Dr Ramandeep Kaur said that every Friday, health teams visit houses, schools, offices, hospitals, and market areas to inspect and educate residents about dengue prevention. She emphasized that the dengue mosquito breeds only in clean, stagnant water, and areas where water remains collected for more than seven days can become breeding sites. Citizens are urged to thoroughly inspect their surroundings every Friday coolers, flower pots, rooftop tanks, discarded tyres, and junk items and ensure that no water remains stagnant around their homes.

District Epidemiologist Dr Babita added that dengue mosquitoes bite during the day; therefore, children should wear full-sleeve clothes when going to school to minimize exposure.

Under this campaign, the Health Department teams are organizing awareness lectures, rallies, and poster exhibitions in schools. In rural areas, ASHA and Anganwadi workers are conducting door-to-door visits to spread awareness about dengue prevention. Additionally, panchayats and local municipal authorities are assisting in intensive cleanliness drives.

District Mass Media Officer Parminder Singh and District BCC Coordinator Barjinder Singh Brar visited dengue-affected areas today, where they educated the public and destroyed mosquito larvae found during inspections. They advised that anyone experiencing symptoms such as high fever, body ache, headache, pain behind the eyes, or skin rashes should immediately visit the nearest government hospital for testing.

All government hospitals in Ludhiana district provide free dengue testing and treatment, ensuring timely medical assistance for affected citizens.

Nakodar faces multiple civic challenges; residents demand urgent action

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Nakodar, October 25



The town of Nakodar is struggling with a range of civic problems that have disrupted the daily lives of residents and commuters. At the heart of the crisis lies the deteriorating road infrastructure, particularly the main Nakodar–Jalandhar road, where the stretch up to Convent School has been badly damaged, making travel increasingly hazardous.

Residents, including students and office-goers, have reported frequent near-miss accidents, especially during rainy days when potholes fill with water and visibility drops. Illegal encroachments on major roads have worsened the situation. Temporary stalls and shop extensions have reduced lane width, forcing vehicles to squeeze through congested areas. Key commercial points such as Hospital Road and Vishwakarma Chowk remain chronically choked, turning short commutes into lengthy, stressful experiences.

Traffic management in the town remains largely unregulated. With no proper signage or lane discipline, vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists often compete for space. During peak hours, congestion becomes unbearable, disrupting business activities and posing serious safety hazards.

Residents have blamed inadequate municipal oversight and ineffective PWD interventions for the worsening civic situation. Potholes, unplanned construction, and poor maintenance have been recurring issues, with repairs often limited to short-term patchwork rather than durable solutions.

Expressing concern, District BJP (Rural) President Munish Dheer criticized the Municipal Committee, PWD and civil administration for their inaction.

"The growing neglect of Nakodar's infrastructure is putting lives at risk. The authorities must take immediate corrective measures," said Dheer. In response, SDM Nakodar Lal Vishwas assured residents that steps will be taken to address the issues, though he did not specify any timelines.

The situation in Nakodar underscores the urgent need for comprehensive civic planning and enforcement. From road repairs and traffic management to regulation of encroachments, residents are calling on authorities to **restore safety, improve mobility, and enhance the livability of the town.

Election Observers hold meeting with candidates ahead of Tarn Taran by-election



INDER PAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, October 25

The Police Observer appointed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for Vidhan Sabha Constituency 021 – Tarn Taran, along with Expenditure Observer Manzarul Hasan (IRAS), held a meeting with candidates and their election agents at the District Administrative Complex on Saturday to review election expenditure and compliance procedures ahead of the by-election.

The meeting was presided over by District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Rahul, Returning Officer Gurmeet Singh, Assistant Commissioner Karanveer Singh, Statistical Advisor and Nodal Officer (Expenditure Cell) Dr Amandeep Singh, Election Tehsildar Arminderpal Singh, and other officials were also present.

Addressing the gathering, District Election Officer Rahul briefed candidates on the instructions of the Election Commission of India and appealed to them to uphold the Model Code of Conduct throughout the campaign.

He informed that the election expenditure limit for each candidate in the by-election has been fixed at Rs 40 lakh. All candidates are required to maintain a daily record of expenses in their expenditure registers and must open a joint bank account with their election agent to handle all campaign transactions.

Punjab SC Commission member Gurpreet Singh motivates students, urges parents to prioritise education



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, October 25

To encourage education and parental involvement, Gurpreet Singh Itanwai, Member of the Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission, visited the Government Primary School, Ferozeshah, on Friday, to motivate the students. He was accompanied by Baba Harjinder Singh. Upon arrival, he was warmly welcomed by Head Teacher Rajinder Singh Raja and staff members Resham Singh, Charanjit Singh, Baljit Singh, Sukhbir Kaur, Rajwinder Kaur, Mandeep Kaur, and Puneet Kaur.

Addressing the students and their parents, Gurpreet Singh highlighted the various welfare schemes and facilities being provided by the Punjab SC Commission for the upliftment and protection of the rights of the Scheduled Caste community.

He urged parents to educate their children as much as possible, emphasizing that education is the key to building good citizens and a better society. He further noted that parents play an equally important role as teachers in shaping their children's future.

On this occasion, students who had won at the block-level sports competitions were honoured, while others were encouraged to participate actively in sports. Cash prizes were also distributed among the students.

The school staff expressed their gratitude to Gurpreet Singh for his visit and honoured him with a memento as a token of appreciation.

Punjabi Lok Virasat Academy honours Sant Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal for flood relief services

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 25



The Punjabi Lok Virasat Academy, Ludhiana, honoured Sant Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal for his exemplary humanitarian service in the flood-affected areas of Doaba, where the Beas and Sutlej rivers had recently caused severe damage. The felicitation ceremony was held at the residence of Prof. Gurbhajan Singh Gill and Sardarni Jaswinder Kaur Gill on Pakhowal Road, Ludhiana, and was attended by Jasjit Singh Natt, Gurinderjit Singh, and Lovedeep Kaur.

During the ceremony, Prof. Gurbhajan Singh Gill, Chairman of the Punjabi Lok Virasat Academy, presented Sant Seechewal with his complete anthology "Akhar Akhar," a compilation of eight ghazal books written over the past fifty years.

Prof. Gill lauded Sant Seechewal's selfless service, saying that his greatest strength lies in his deep connection with the people. "He does not act like a traditional saint or a Member of Parliament; he walks among the people, earning their trust through humility and dedication. That is why his service receives such wholehearted support," said Prof. Gill.

During his Ludhiana visit, Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal also held discussions with Prof. Gill regarding the ongoing Buddha Nullah Cleanliness Campaign, emphasizing that without developing a scientific mindset among the public, it would be impossible to achieve lasting relief from polluted water sources.

He informed that this was his fifth visit on the directive of the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab, during which he instructed officers and officials of the Ludhiana Municipal Corporation to work diligently toward the completion of the environmental project.

180 job letters given at Rozgar Mela in Jalandhar

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, October 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Rozgar Melas organised at 40 locations across the country through a video-conferencing. During the 17th tranche of the Rozgar Mela, more than 51,000 appointment letters were given to candidates.

A special programme was organised at Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jalandhar, under this initiative. Vinod Kumar Verma, Chief Postmaster General, Punjab Circle, was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest and handed over appointment letters to over 180 youth selected for various government posts.

Vinod Kumar Verma encouraged the new appointees to continue working hard to achieve greater success. Highlighting the benefits of the Karmayogi Platform, he mentioned that it serves as a valuable resource where one can access free training and knowledge to enhance ones professional abilities.

Prof Vinod Kumar Kanojia, Director, NIT Jalandhar, congratulated the recruits and said the youth play a crucial role in the progress of the nation. He noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Rozgar Mela initiative, launched in 2022, has already provided employment opportunities to lakhs of young Indians, accelerating the nation's development momentum.

The event was also attended by Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, Deputy Commandant, Border Security Force.

Ludhiana Police send truckload of quilts to aid flood victims

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 25



Extending a helping hand to those affected by recent floods, the Commissionerate Police Ludhiana dispatched a truckload of quilts to assist flood victims in the affected villages of Ferozepur district.

The relief effort was initiated under the guidance of Swapan Sharma, Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, and Rupinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (City/Rural), Ludhiana, in collaboration with Satguru Ravidas Welfare and Educational Society, Ludhiana, and Bhagwan Mahavir Sewa Sansthan, Ludhiana.

The truck carrying the relief material was flagged off from the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, for distribution among the needy families in flood-affected areas.

Annual Fest 'Magnitude 2025' inaugurated

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, October 25

The wave of excitement and nostalgia swept over Lovely Professional University (LPU) as its distinguished alumna and reigning Bollywood star, Shehnaaz Gill, returned to her alma mater for a memorable visit. Gill inaugurated the university's spectacular annual fest, 'Magnitude 2025', and reconnected with her roots in an emotional homecoming.

Shehnaaz was welcomed and felicitated by the university leadership, including Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Founder Chancellor, and Col. Dr. Rashmi Mittal, Pro-Chancellor of LPU, celebrating her remarkable journey from a dedicated LPU student to a national sensation.

Overwhelmed by memories, Shehnaaz shared how stepping into the university brought back a flood of emotions. "The moment I entered LPU, I kept showing my team my hostel, the mall, the hospital, and especially Block 14 where I attended my B.Com classes. It was a wave of nostalgia," she said. Recalling her student life, Shehnaaz fondly remembered participating in LPU's Youth Vibe Festival. "I remember wanting to perform so badly and when I finally did, during the final stage, the host asked who should win and the entire crowd shouted 'Shehnaaz'. That moment is still inked in my heart.

Gatkabaz poised for spectacular three-day Gatka showdown in Bengaluru from Nov 7

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25



Bengaluru is poised to transform into the vibrant epicenter of India's ancient martial arts and rich cultural traditions, as the nation's most exceptional sports talents and cultural virtuosos converge for a monumental national gathering from November 7 to 9. The prestigious event, 2nd National Cultural Pythian Games, promises to shape the future trajectory of the sport across the country.

During this exhilarating sporting extravaganza at the GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, the National Gatka Association of India (NGAI), the oldest national Gatka governing body affiliated with World Gatka Federation and Asian Gatka Federation, would host its 2nd Federation Gatka Cup. This event would be held concurrently with 2nd National Cultural Pythian Games, in a strategic partnership with the Pythian Council of India (PCI). This dual event is meticulously designed to propel the ancient game of Gatka onto a prominent global platform, he added.

Disclosing this, the NGAI president Harjeet Singh Grewal, a State Awardee, announced that during this dual championship, the NGAI would select a national Gatka squad.

The PCI chairman Bijender Goel and president Shantanu Agrahari commended the extensive collaboration with all traditional sports and cultural organizations, hailing the Pythian Games as a landmark initiative that empowers indigenous sports and forges structured pathways for aspiring young athletes to ascend on the international stage. The PCI would provide logistical support, accommodation, meals and official tournament kits, thereby ensuring impeccable professional standards are maintained throughout the prestigious competition.

Disclosing this, the NGAI president Harjeet Singh Grewal, a State Awardee, announced that during this dual championship, the NGAI would select a national Gatka squad. These Gatkabaz would represent the nation at India's debut in 1st International Pythian Cultural Games in Moscow next year. He elaborated that participants would not only fiercely vie for medals but would also be honored with dual certification.

Statewide protest by Power Employees and Pensioners in Ludhiana on Nov 2

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, October 25



Power corporation employees and pensioners have announced a united agitation against the Punjab Government's alleged move to sell valuable properties of the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) and the controversial Electricity Amendment Bill 2025. A joint meeting of employees' and pensioners' unions, held at Shaheed Karnail Singh Isru Bhavan, Ludhiana, under the joint chairmanship of Gurpreet Singh Gandiwind and Gurbhej Singh Dhillon, resolved to intensify their struggle to "save the existence of the corporation."

The meeting was attended by representatives of several unions including PSEB Employees Joint Forum, Bijli Mulazam Ekta Manch Punjab, Association of Junior Engineers, Grid Sub-Station Employees Union (Regd. 24), Powercom & Transco Pensioners Union (affiliated with AITUC), and Pensioners Welfare Federation Pehalwan, along with leaders of various farmers' organizations.

Joint leaders Harpal Singh and Gurvel Singh Ballpuriya informed the media that protest demonstrations and flag marches are being held across all Powercom circles from October 16 to 31. These will culminate in a state-level protest and flag march at Aarti Chowk, Ludhiana, on November 2, against the Power Minister, demanding withdrawal of the government's decision to sell corporation properties and opposition to the Electricity Amendment Bill 2025, which they termed "destructive for the power sector."

AI integration redefining diagnostics and patient care in India: Dr Jitendra Singh

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine is redefining diagnostics and patient care in India, said Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh on Saturday



The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine is redefining diagnostics and patient care in India, said Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh on Saturday.

Addressing the 54th Foundation Day and College Convocation of the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS), University of Delhi, Singh highlighted the rapidly changing paradigms of medical education in India as well as those of health care.

The Minister noted that the integration of AI in medicine, which he himself has experimented with through tele-mobile clinics, is set to redefine diagnostics and patient care.

"AI can communicate in the patient's own language and even provide comfort through human-like interaction," Singh said, calling it a hybrid model that combines empathy with innovation.

The Minister noted that India has emerged as a global healthcare leader with an indigenous DNA vaccine for Covid-19 and gene therapy, and also emphasised the growing global credibility of India's life sciences sector.

He also mentioned the paradigm shift in medical education in the past decade.

"Ten years ago, there were only about 45,000 undergraduate medical seats; today, the number is close to 1.5 lakh," he said.

Further, Singh credited initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat and Jan Aushadhi Kendras for transforming healthcare delivery to "accessible, affordable, and available".

Noting that "the age of working in silos is over," Singh urged academic institutions to integrate with industry and government laboratories.

The Minister also urged doctors to deal with a "biphasic disease spectrum" -- the coexistence of communicable and non-communicable diseases -- alongside an ageing population and rapid technological changes.

Singh also conferred degrees upon undergraduate and postgraduate students and urged the new generation of doctors to embrace innovation while staying rooted in compassion.

"Those receiving their degrees today will be at the prime of their careers when India celebrates 100 years of independence in 2047," he said.

"Destiny has given you this opportunity to be the architects of a healthier, more self-reliant India." **IANS**

ANRF, ICMR launches mission to accelerate India's medical technology innovation



The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has launched the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA)-Medical Technology (MedTech) to boost the country's medical technology ecosystem, said the Ministry of Science and Technology on Saturday.

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has launched the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA)-Medical Technology (MedTech) to boost the country's medical technology ecosystem, said the Ministry of Science and Technology on Saturday.

The initiative, also in partnership with the Gates Foundation, looks to accelerate innovation in the country's medical tech sector and reduce reliance on high-cost imports. It will also help promote equitable access to affordable and high-quality medical technologies.

The mission will provide funding support to a wide range of entities, including academic and R&D institutions, hospitals, startups, MSMEs, the medtech industry, and collaborations between entities," the Ministry said.

"With milestone-linked funding of Rs 5-25 crore per project (and up to Rs 50 crore in exceptional cases), the mission will support projects that bring impactful MedTech solutions to market," it added.

The five-year mission comes with a total outlay of Rs 750 crore in funding. About 50 projects will be funded in five years.

The mission aims to support the development of a broad spectrum of innovative medical devices and in vitro diagnostics, including equipment and key subcomponents, implants, assistive and surgical devices, consumables, and software-based medical solutions.

In addition, the mission urges projects aligned with national health priorities such as tuberculosis, cancer, neonatal care, primary health care, etc., the Ministry said.

Beyond funding, the mission will also provide support through national initiatives such as Patent Mitra (IP protection and technology transfer), MedTech Mitra (regulatory guidance and clearances), a Clinical Trial Network (for clinical validation and evidence generation), as well as mentorship from industry experts.

Participants first need to send concept notes, open till November 7, via the ANRF portal.

The shortlisted concept proposals will then be allowed to submit the full proposals. The window for submission will open in December 2025. **IANS**

Tiny metal particles show potential in targeting cancer cells: Study



Researchers have developed microscopic metal particles that can kill cancer cells while sparing healthy tissue, offering a potential new direction for more targeted and less toxic cancer treatments

Researchers have developed microscopic metal particles that can kill cancer cells while sparing healthy tissue, offering a potential new direction for more targeted and less toxic cancer treatments.

The study by the team from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Australia remains at the cell-culture stage and has not been tested in animals or humans, Xinhua news agency reported.

However, it suggests a new strategy for designing cancer treatments that exploits cancer's own weaknesses.

The international team led by RMIT researchers created tiny particles, known as nanodots, from molybdenum oxide -- a compound based on a rare metal called molybdenum. It is often used in electronics and alloys.

By tweaking their chemical composition, the scientists enabled the particles to release reactive oxygen molecules -- unstable forms of oxygen that damage cancer cells and trigger their self-destruction.

In tests, the particles killed three times more cervical cancer cells than healthy cells within 24 hours, without the need for light, unusual for technologies that rely on oxidative stress, according to the study published in the journal Advanced Science.

"Cancer cells already live under higher stress than healthy ones. Our particles push that stress a little further, enough to trigger self-destruction in cancer cells, while healthy cells cope just fine," said Zhang Baoyue, first author from the RMIT School of Engineering.

"The result was particles that generate oxidative stress selectively in cancer cells under lab conditions," Zhang said.

Most cancer treatments affect both cancerous and healthy tissue, but technologies that selectively stress cancer cells could enable gentler, more targeted therapies, researchers said.

They added that these particles are made from common metal oxide instead of costly or toxic noble metals like gold or silver, making them likely cheaper and safer to develop. **IANS**

Study shows eye scans may provide clues to ageing, heart disease risk

Canadian researchers have found that scanning the tiny blood vessels in the eyes may help predict a person's risk of developing heart disease and how fast they're biologically ageing.



Canadian researchers have found that scanning the tiny blood vessels in the eyes may help predict a person's risk of developing heart disease and how fast they're biologically ageing.

The study, published in the journal Science Advances, suggests that retinal scans could one day serve as a noninvasive window into the body's overall vascular health and biological ageing status, offering new opportunities for early detection and intervention.

"By connecting retinal scans, genetics, and blood biomarkers, we have uncovered molecular pathways that help explain how aging affects the vascular system," said Marie Pigeyre, Associate Professor at McMaster University's Department of Medicine in Canada.

"The eye provides a unique, noninvasive view into the body's circulatory system. Changes in the retinal blood vessels often mirror changes occurring throughout the body's small vessels," added Pigeyre.

To conduct the study, the team combined retinal scans, genetic data, and blood sample analyses from over 74,000 participants.

People with simpler, less branched blood vessels were found to be at increased risk of cardiovascular diseases and showed signs of biological ageing, such as higher inflammation and shorter lifespan.

Currently, assessing age-related diseases like heart disease, stroke, and dementia requires multiple tests. The hope is that retinal scans alone could eventually be used as a quick, accessible way to assess ageing and cardiovascular risk. However, more research is needed.

The team also reviewed blood biomarkers and genetic data and identified potential biological causes behind changes in the eye's blood vessels. This helped them identify specific proteins that may drive ageing and disease -- MMP12 and IgG-Fc receptor IIb.

Both proteins are linked to inflammation and vascular ageing. According to Pigeyre, these proteins could be potential targets for future drugs.

"Our findings point to potential drug targets for slowing vascular ageing, reducing the burden of cardiovascular diseases, and ultimately improving lifespan," she said. **IANS**

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NEWSBRIEFS

Police arrest 5 robbers in Jharkhand's Deoghar

DEOGHAR: Police arrested five robbers and seized firearms and Rs 15 lakh in cash from their possession in Jharkhand's Deoghar district, an official statement said on Saturday. The arrested robbers were allegedly involved in the looting of Rs 20 lakh cash and jewellery worth Rs 5 lakh from a family at Misarna village under Madhupur police station limits on October 16. "Following the incident, a special team was formed under the leadership of Madhupur sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Satyendra Prasad to recover the stolen money and items and arrest the involved criminals," a police statement said. Based on a tip-off and technical evidence, the team conducted raids and arrested five suspects. **PTI**

Lover arrested for forcing girl to convert to Islam for marriage

BENGALURU: Karnataka Police on Saturday arrested a man for allegedly forcing a girl to convert to Islam in order to marry her. The accused, Mohammad Ishaq, has been arrested in Amrutalli police station limits in Bengaluru. The case came to light after the victim filed a complaint against her lover and his family, alleging that they were pressuring her to convert to Islam for marriage. The complaint was registered at HSR Layout police station in Bengaluru on Thursday. According to police, the victim and Mohammad Ishaq were introduced via Instagram on October 17, 2024. After some interaction, they began a relationship. **IANS**

India to engage constructively with UN to advance voice of Global South: Manohar Lal

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25



India will continue to engage constructively with the United Nations (UN) to advance peace, sustainable development and the voice of the Global South, according to Union Minister Manohar Lal.

In his address at the 80th United Nations Day celebrations as the chief guest at an event here, the minister highlighted the UN's remarkable contributions over the past eight decades in preventing conflicts, promoting international law, and supporting the development of nations left behind.

Referring to the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future" — a concept rooted in India's G20 Presidency — Manohar Lal emphasised the importance of shared global responsibility and cooperation to address interconnected challenges.

The minister reaffirmed India's deep partnership with the UN, citing initiatives such as the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and the India-UN Global Capacity Building Initiative as examples of India's action-oriented approach and commitment to South–South cooperation.

Paying tribute to Indian peacekeepers who made the supreme sacrifice in UN missions, he reiterated India's unwavering stand against terrorism and its call for reforms in the UN, particularly the expansion of the UN Security Council to make it more inclusive and representative.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that 'all is not well' within the United Nations and that its decisions do not address global priorities. He pointed out how a UN Security Council member protected the terror group that claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

While launching a postage stamp to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the United Nations in New Delhi, EAM Jaishankar recalled the sacrifices of Indian UN peacekeepers and spoke about the recently hosted Chiefs of Army Staff conclave in the national capital, which witnessed participation from 30 troop-contributing countries.

He further said, "That said, we must also recognise that all is not well with the United Nations. Its decision-making neither reflects its membership nor addresses global priorities. Its debates have become increasingly polarised and its working visibly gridlocked." **IANS**

BJP files complaint against Tejashwi Yadav over AI-generated video

PATNA, OCTOBER 25



The legal cell of the Bihar BJP unit has lodged a formal complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI) against RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, accusing him of circulating an AI-generated video aimed at defaming Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary.

The complaint was filed by Bindhayachal Rai, convener and in-charge of the BJP's legal and election commission coordination department in Bihar.

"We have filed a complaint before the Election Commission regarding a deeply objectionable and misleading AI-generated video circulated by Tejashwi Yadav on his official Facebook handle," Rai said.

"The video maliciously portrays Samrat Choudhary and Nitish Kumar in a fabricated manner using artificial intelligence-generated content with false and misleading statements intended to distort public perception and influence voters during the ongoing election period," he added.

He also shared the video link in his complaint letter.

The BJP alleged that Yadav's act amounts to character assassination and a violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), as well as the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The complaint cited Section 123(4) of the Act, which defines the publication of false statements about a candidate's personal character or conduct as a "corrupt practice." **PTI**

One killed, three injured in Bengaluru blast; Union Minister seeks probe

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 25

One person was killed and three others from the same family were injured in an explosion in Bengaluru on Saturday. The impact of the blast was so severe that the house sustained significant damage. The explosion has been reported from Triveninagar in the K.R. Puram locality.

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje visited and inspected the spot. She has also demanded a comprehensive probe into the incident. The deceased has been identified as 80-year-old Akkayyamma. Besides, 25-year-old Kiran, 52-year-old Shekar, and 22-year-old Chandana are the injured persons. Chandana has suffered more than 50 per cent burn injuries. East Division Joint Commissioner of Police Ramesh Banoth also visited the spot and gathered information from the officials.

He said: "The incident occurred at around 7.30 a.m. An elderly woman, who was sleeping, died after the roof slab collapsed on her. Three others have sustained injuries.

"A woman living in the house behind was also injured. Shekhar's daughter too was hurt. We obtained information from them. They said the explosion occurred when the gas stove was turned on. The young woman gave this statement. However, an investigation is being carried out to determine the exact cause," he stated. **PTI**

Fair trade practices build foundation of thriving economy: Goa CM Sawant

PANAJI, OCTOBER 25



Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday noted that assurance of fair weighing scales and accurate packaging build confidence in trade and these just trade practices in turn form the foundation of a thriving economy.

He said such trust not only makes business easier but also gives consumers the peace of mind they deserve.

The chief minister was speaking during inauguration of first national conference of 'Controllers of Legal Metrology 2025' in Panaji. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi was also present for the inauguration along with other dignitaries.

"The assurance that a weighing scale is fair or that a packaged product is accurate builds confidence in trade," Sawant maintained, adding this confidence forms the foundation of a thriving economy.

The chief minister said legal metrology may seem like a specialized field, but it lies at the heart of everyday life, "from the fuel we pump, to the food we buy, to the gold we weigh". **PTI**

Adityanath conducts site inspection of Noida International Airport

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 25



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday inspected the Noida International Airport in Jewar, reviewing the progress of the domestic terminal, inauguration venue, security arrangements, traffic management, and ongoing construction works.

Following the inspection, the chief minister chaired a high-level review meeting in the airport boardroom with senior officials from the district and police administration, Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL), and the airport construction agency.

A presentation was made on project progress, upcoming action plans, and preparations for the inauguration. Noting that the Noida International Airport will serve as a symbol of Uttar Pradesh's development, he emphasised that quality, timeliness, and coordination must remain top priorities in all construction activities.

The chief minister directed that every task be completed within the stipulated timeframe, maintaining the highest standards, and warned against any form of laxity in inauguration preparations. He also stressed the importance of beautification, cleanliness, and passenger amenities across the airport complex and surrounding areas. Additionally, Adityanath called for a concrete, coordinated plan for security and traffic management, along with the timely completion of connecting roads and metro projects, the UP government said in a statement.

Christoph Schnellmann, CEO of Yamuna International Airport Private Limited, apprised the chief minister of developments related to civil aviation, security, the explosives squad, control units, substations, and infrastructure. Adityanath reviewed all technical, security, and administrative aspects of the airport's operations and issued necessary directives. **IANS**

DELHI/NCR

PWD plans 3 new flyovers to decongest Delhi's Outer Ring Road

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

The Public Works Department (PWD), to decongest West and Northwest Delhi, is planning to construct three flyovers for which feasibility studies worth over Rs 10 crore will be carried out soon, officials informed on Saturday. According to officials, the projects are part of the overall city decongestion plan of the Delhi government as these stretches currently face heavy vehicular traffic.

"The first project is the construction of a flyover from Kanjhawala Chowk to Mangolpuri on Outer Ring Road and further connecting to the Urban Extension Road 2 (UER) project, which has been recently opened for public use. Tenders have been floated for all three projects," they said.

This stretch includes three traffic signals located at Kanjhawala Chowk UER-II, Sec-22 Rohini (Begumpur), Y-Block Mangolpuri and Pathar market junction, and the total road length covered under the project is around 10 kilometres, the project plan reads. The cost of this study is Rs 3.4 crore, and the detailed project report has to be submitted in six months' time to the PWD.

The second project is the construction of a flyover along the Supplementary Drain starting near Keshopur Depot to the Haiderpur area on Outer Ring Road, a distance of approximately 17.5 km. The cost for the study of this project is Rs 5.6 crore.

The detailed study will include a survey of the entire area and mapping of all buildings, details on encroachments, the number of trees, signage, road features and other permanent structures that are in the area of this project, according to the tender. **PTI**

Delhi court defers hearing on ED's plea seeking seizure of arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari's assets till Nov 22

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25



A Special PMLA Court in Delhi on Saturday put off till November 22 the hearing on the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) application requesting provisional confiscation of properties directly linked to UK-based arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari.

Special Judge Sanjay Jindal took on record a response filed by the federal probe agency to queries raised by Bhandari's lawyers over documents submitted by the ED in court. Bhandari's counsel claimed that certain fresh documents presented by the probe agency could be used in court. The ED filed an application earlier to confiscate Bhandari's properties in India and abroad. The move followed the designation of the accused as a Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO) under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

During the hearing, the probe agency argued that all assets directly or indirectly linked to Bhandari, whether held through corporate entities or personal ownership, were liable for confiscation. The agency informed the court that no objections had been raised by any third party regarding the listed properties, thereby clearing the path for legal seizure.

The ED's plea included a wide array of assets, reportedly spanning prime real estate in Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, and overseas holdings in London and Dubai. **IANS**

Delhi's first two Atal Canteens to be set up near slum clusters in Naraina, Inderpuri

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

The first Atal Canteens in the national capital will soon be constructed near the slum clusters at Naraina and Inderpuri in Rajinder Nagar assembly constituency.

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) on Friday floated a tender to set up the first two canteens.

According to the tender, the canteens will be constructed near Sonia Gandhi Camp in Naraina and the JJR Colony in Inderpuri within 60 days at an estimated cost of Rs 31.99 lakh.

The Atal Canteen initiative aims to provide affordable, hygienic meals to daily wage earners and residents living in the nearby Jhuggi-Jhopri (JJ) clusters.

Each canteen will have a dining hall, kitchen, storeroom, pantry, and separate washing areas for workers and utensils. The canteens will be properly ventilated, well-lit, and maintained in clean and sanitary conditions. Provisions will be made for covered drains, waste disposal and a separate section for women diners to ensure privacy, the tender said.

The canteens will operate on a "no profit, no loss" basis, with affordable food prices for the public. The menu will reflect the regular dietary habits of the local community, particularly the labour population, it added. **PTI**

Two missing 15-year-old girls reunited with family, one suspect apprehended

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

The Delhi Police has reunited two missing 15-year-old girls, including one who eloped with a neighbour, with their families following separate rescue operations, an official said on Saturday.

One suspect has been apprehended in connection with one of the cases, they said. In the first case, a minor girl was reported missing from Bhalswa Dairy on July 28. After extensive efforts, police traced the victim and a 19-year-old suspect named Lucky from Mahipalpur area of south Delhi.

Enquiry revealed that the girl, a Class 9 dropout, had eloped with Lucky, who lived in her neighbourhood. The two initially travelled to Punjab's Jalandhar and Pathankot before returning to Delhi, where they rented a room in Mahipalpur. In the second case, another girl was reported missing from Ranhola area on October 22. Police located her from the same area.

Investigation revealed that the girl, also a Class 9 student, had left home after being scolded by her mother for talking to a boy on phone. She went to her friend's house, where she stayed during the missing period, police said. Both the girls were handed over to their respective families. **PTI**

Myanmar woman held with over ₹1 cr gold at Delhi airport: Customs

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

A woman from Myanmar was arrested for smuggling gold worth Rs 1.17 crore at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport here, the customs department said on Saturday.

The accused was intercepted after her arrival from Yangon, Myanmar on Friday.

During the personal and baggage search, six rectangular-shaped yellow metal bars, appearing to be gold weighing 996.5 grams were recovered from the passenger.

The metal bars were concealed in brown colour tape and hidden inside a black colour undergarment worn by the passenger, said a statement issued by the customs department. The total tariff value of the recovered gold is Rs 1.17 crore, customs said. **PTI**

ਦਰੱਖਤਾਂ ਦੀ ਬੋਲੀ

ਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਮਿੱਢੇ ਮਾਜਰਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਿੱਢੇ ਮਾਜਰਾ ਦੇ ਕਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਖੜੇ ਰੁੱਖਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਕਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਖੜੇ ਸੁੱਕੇ ਰੁੱਖਾਂ (ਸ਼ਫ਼ੈਦਾ 50, ਤੂਤ 1, ਸ਼ਫ਼ੈਦਾ 1) ਦੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਮਿਤੀ 29 10 2025 ਨੂੰ ਰੱਖੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਨਿਯਮ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਮੌਕੇ 'ਤੇ ਦੱਸੀਆਂ ਜਾਣਗੀਆਂ।

ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਰਪੰਚ ਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਮਿੱਢੇ ਮਾਜਰਾ ਬਲਾਕ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ
ਐਸਐਸ ਨਗਰ 99141-90958

ਗਰੇਟਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਏਰੀਆ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਅਥਾਰਿਟੀ

ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ

Plot No 609, Sector-69, SAS Nagar ਦੀ 50% Share ਦੀ ਅਲਾਟੀ Smt. Chander Mohini w/o Late Sh. Sunder Dass R/o Plot No 609, Sector-69, SAS Nagar ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਮਿਤੀ 19.05.2013 (Chandigarh Administration, Department of Health, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh ਵੱਲੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਸਰਟੀਫਿਕੇਟ ਮਿਤੀ 30.05.2013 ਅਨੁਸਾਰ) ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ। Smt. Kuldeep Kaur Dhanoa, M.C. Ward No. 29, Sector-69, Municipal corporation, SAS Nagar ਵੱਲੋਂ ਉਕਤ ਦਰਸਾਏ ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਦੇ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਵਾਰਸ ਦਰਸਾਏ ਗਏ ਹਨ

1 Sh. Sonal Kumar- Son

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਲੀਗਲ ਹਾਇਰਜ਼ ਸਰਟੀਫਿਕੇਟ, 50% ਦੇ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਦੇ ਡੈਥ ਸਰਟੀਫਿਕੇਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ਾਂ ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਉਕਤ ਦਰਸਾਏ ਗਏ ਲੀਗਲ ਹਾਇਰਜ਼ ਵੱਲੋਂ Plot No 609, sector-69, SAS Nagar ਦੇ 50% Share ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਮ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਬੇਨਤੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ), ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਆਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜੇਕਰ ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਉਕਤ ਵਾਰਸਾਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਦੀ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ) ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਪਾਸ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ 'ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ Plot No 609, Sector-69, SAS Nagar ਦੇ 50% Share ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਦੇ ਉਕਤ ਵਾਰਿਸ਼ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ

ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ)
ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ

Haryana procures 52.18 lakh tonnes paddy; CM Saini says govt to purchase every grain

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 25



After procuring 52.18 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday said the government is committed to purchasing every grain of crops.

"Both the Central and state governments, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are working in the interest of farmers. At present, procurement of paddy and bajra crops is underway in the state," he said.

However, those attempting to "defraud" the government under the pretext of procurement will not be spared under any circumstances, CM Saini said.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high-level review meeting to ensure transparency and smooth operations in paddy and bajra procurement.

Officers from all departments concerned attended the meeting, with all Deputy Commissioners and Police Superintendents joining virtually.

The meeting reviewed arrangements related to the procurement, the condition of mandis, farmers' complaints, and the e-procurement system.

The Chief Minister was categorically clear in saying the government would not compromise on the interests of farmers.

CM Saini instructed that in cases where irregularities were found in e-procurement portal entries, employees and officers have been suspended.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the government is determined to protect farmers' earnings and purchase every grain of their produce.

Officials reported that paddy procurement started on October 22, and in most markets, it is proceeding smoothly. So far, procurement from 2.66 lakh farmers has resulted in approximately 52.18 lakh metric tonnes of paddy being purchased.

Around Rs 10,204.98 crore has been transferred to farmers' accounts. Procurement of bajra includes 291.10 metric tonnes by state agencies and 3.99 lakh metric tonnes by private traders.

The officials also reported some complaints regarding paddy coming from other states and irregularities in gate pass scanning, to which the government has taken a strict stance.

Physical verification is being conducted for rice mills in Ambala, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, and Kaithal, where paddy has been allocated for milling.

To prevent illegal entry of paddy from other states, all border districts have been instructed to implement strict police checkpoints.

The Chief Minister instructed district administration officers to regularly visit mandis and interact with farmers. Rice mills allocated paddy should be physically verified periodically. IANS

Leopard sighted in Ambala, search operation underway

AMBALA, OCTOBER 25

A search operation for a leopard was launched and an alert sounded by the forest department in Dhulkot after receiving information about the big cat's sighting in the village in Ambala district, officials said on Saturday. CCTV footage from the nearby area showed a wild animal resembling a leopard, they said, but the forest department is yet to confirm its presence.

Police received information about the sighting on Friday evening, after which a joint team of the police and the forest department, along with villagers, conducted a search operation. The forest department made an announcement in the village, urging residents to remain vigilant. A search for the animal is underway, according to officials. PTI

Hisar court refuses bail to YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra arrested in espionage case

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 25

A court in Haryana's Hisar district has dismissed the bail plea of YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who was arrested in May on the suspicion of espionage, and said there is a reasonable apprehension that her release on bail may impede the probe. Hisar police had arrested Malhotra (33), who ran the YouTube channel 'Travel with JO', on May 16 under provisions of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Malhotra at present is in judicial custody. In its detailed order, the court of Additional Sessions Judge Dr Parminder Kaur dismissed the regular bail plea.

"There exists on the record a prima facie case of considerable gravity under the Official Secrets Act and the BNS provisions relied upon; the forensic material recovered from the accused's electronic device, the SMAC (multi-agency centre) intelligence inputs and the circumstantial matrix of contacts with a foreign official and movements in sensitive areas collectively create a reasonable apprehension that release on bail may impede the investigation, facilitate tampering with digital evidence, or otherwise be contrary to the public interest and national security considerations," said the October 23 court order. The court observed that public interest and national security considerations assume special significance where the allegations, if established, would impair the sovereign interest of the state.

"Courts must be mindful that bail is not to be granted if it would be a danger to public order, security or if it would result in the accused being in a position to frustrate the process," it said. On the argument of the petitioner's counsel that the intelligence inputs relied upon are untested and that the prosecution failed to produce direct evidence of communication or transmission of sensitive material to foreign agents, the court said while it is true that such matters ultimately must be tested at trial and the accused has the right to contest the allegations. It also said the court, when considering the bail, must view the totality of the evidence available at the stage.

"Here, the combination of (a) intelligence linkage shown by SMAC inputs, (b) the asserted communications connecting the petitioner to the foreign national, (c) forensic reconstruction of deleted material showing footage of sensitive sites and (d) the factual matrix of the petitioner's visits and movements while abroad --taken together -- satisfy the threshold of a prima facie case of sufficient gravity to refuse bail," it said. Noting that the seriousness of the offence and the gravity of allegations must weigh heavily in the bail decision, the court said the Official Secrets Act and the provisions of the BNS invoked by the prosecution are not ordinary penal enactments as they protect matters of state security and public safety. PTI

State govt to introduce new law for water conservation: Ranbir Gangwa

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25

Haryana Public Health Engineering and Public Works Minister, Ranbir Gangwa, said that the State Government is committed to providing clean, adequate, and uninterrupted water supply to its citizens. To prevent wastage of drinking water, address leakage issues, and promote water conservation, the government is diligently working on bringing a new act.

Addressing a press conference on Friday at Panchkula during the closing ceremony of the two-day workshop organised by the Public Health Engineering Department Gangwa said that the objective of the proposed Act is to promote water conservation and ensure uninterrupted water supply to citizens. He informed that the draft of the Act has already been prepared and will soon be presented before the Assembly for approval. The Minister appealed to the public to support the government's efforts in conserving water and avoid its wastage.

He said that this was the first workshop of its kind organised by the department, in which officers from the level of JE to EIC participated. During the workshop, participants shared their technical experiences and discussed ways to improve service quality. Experts from IIT Roorkee also guided the officers on technical aspects.

The workshop focused on enhancing technical efficiency, improving water quality, ensuring transparency in project execution, modern water management, sewerage and flood control, he added.

Gangwa said that the government aims to provide urban-level facilities in villages as well so that residents do not have to migrate to cities for their needs. Under the Mahagram Yojana, 148 villages with a population of more than 10,000 have been identified.

Out of these, water supply, sewerage, and STP systems have been completed in 17 villages, while work is in progress in 30 others and within the next two years, all villages under the scheme will be equipped with facilities comparable to those in urban areas.

Gangwa said that the department has been trying to prepare a comprehensive action plan to address the problem of waterlogging after the monsoon season. Expressing confidence, he said that with the collective efforts of officers, employees, and the public, Haryana will emerge as a leading Water Smart State in the country, a model that other states will follow.

Responding to a question Gangwa said, strict directions have been issued to avoid manual cleaning of sewerage systems to prevent any mishaps during such work. Officers have also been directed to prepare a long-term plan for sewerage and drinking water supply keeping in mind the requirements of the next 30 years.

HIMACHAL/J&K

Voted for NC candidates in RS polls in larger interest of J&K: Jailed AAP MLA

JAMMU, OCTOBER 25

Jailed AAP MLA Mehraj Malik on Saturday said he voted for the NC candidates in the Rajya Sabha polls in the "larger interest" of Jammu and Kashmir, setting at rest claims that he was among those who voted in favour of the BJP candidates. Malik, who is the president of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), was detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on September 8 and is currently lodged in the Kathua jail. "Even after casting my vote for the NC from jail without them ever reaching out or making the slightest effort to seek my support I am now being questioned by some of their leaders. This is the absolute height of shamelessness.

"Let me make it clear: the National Conference was never serious about winning this (the fourth) Rajya Sabha seat. They neither approached me nor showed any intent to build consensus. Still, keeping the larger interests of Jammu and Kashmir in mind, I chose to vote for them believing my vote could make a difference," Malik said in a statement that was uploaded on social media by his party after a meeting with him in the prison.

On Friday, the ruling NC won three seats, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured one seat in the first Rajya Sabha polls held in Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union Territory in August 2019.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Sat Sharma defeated NC candidate Imran Nabi Dar by securing 32 votes against his opponent's 22 in the third notification. NC's Gurwinder Singh Oberoi also got elected under this notification by securing 31 votes, while two other NC members emerged victorious on the two remaining seats that went to polls under separate notifications.

"Unfortunately, now I realised that some among them were already compromised and had decided to side with the BJP. Today, their actions and statements only expose their hypocrisy and double standards," Malik said in the statement. He said those pretending to be "anti-BJP are the same ones proving their friendship with Sat Sharma". Moreover, the AAP leader claimed that by fielding a Muslim candidate from the Nagrota Assembly segment, which is slated to go to bypolls on November 11, the NC is only "helping" the BJP consolidate its position, a move that clearly shows where the ruling party's "true loyalties lie".

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir can now see through this political drama. History will remember who truly stood firm and who surrendered for personal gains," the statement said. PTI

Five houses gutted, cow burnt alive as fire breaks out in Shimla village

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 25

Five houses were gutted and a cow was burnt alive in a fire that broke out in Narmana village here on Saturday, police said. No loss of human life was reported in the incident, the cause of which is not yet known.

The fire broke out and quickly spread to the five houses. Residents informed the fire department. However, before the fire could be put out, the houses had been reduced to ashes, police said. District administration officials also reached the spot to assess the losses suffered by the five families. Meanwhile, the affected families have moved in with their relatives. PTI

Himachal Cabinet gives nod to convert fossil fuel taxis into e-vehicles



SHIMLA, OCTOBER 25

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, presided over by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday decided to allow the Transport Department to issue necessary permission for conversion of 1,000 existing diesel and petrol taxis into electric taxis with the provision of 40 per cent subsidy under the Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Yojna.

The Cabinet also gave nod to enhance honorarium of Special Police Officers at the rate of Rs 300 per month with effect from April 1 and this would benefit 510 people, including 107 of the tribal areas. The Cabinet accorded ex-post facto approval for enhancement of honorarium of Rs 500 per month of SMC teachers, IT computer teachers, mid-day meal workers and part-time water carriers with effect from April 1.

It approved the proposal to streamline implementation and efficient monitoring mechanism of Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojna and HP Crop Diversification Project (JICA-Phase-II) in the state. This mechanism will go a long way in fostering coherence between the departments, SPNF and JICA, besides ensuring efficient governance and execution with expected outcomes envisaged under the flagship programmes of the projects. The Cabinet decided to constitute a Cabinet sub-committee under the chairmanship of Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi to finalize the draft of Rural Area Development guidelines to be adopted by gram panchayats in the form of model bylaws to regulate the construction activities in the rural areas.

Rural Development Minister Anirudh Singh, Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh and Town and Country Planning Minister Rajesh Dharamani will be the members of this Cabinet sub-committee. PTI

Sajad Lone accuses NC of 'gifting' 7 MLAs to BJP, Omar says don't act like professor after boycotting RS polls

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25



People's Conference (PC) chief and MLA Sajad Lone on Saturday accused National Conference (NC) of "gifting" seven MLAs to the BJP in Rajya Sabha polls, while Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reacted by telling Sajad not to act like a "professor" after boycotting the polls himself.

PC chief and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone accused the NC of "gifting" seven MLAs to the BJP during the recent Rajya Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a press conference here, Sajad also announced that his party will soon start a "full-fledged campaign" against the ongoing reservation policy in the UT, which he claimed is killing merit and depriving Kashmiri candidates of government job opportunities. "This government is out to kill merit. Open merit has been buried. We are going to start a ground-level registration drive against this policy," Sajad Lone said, warning that the current system is "pushing Kashmir towards a major disaster".

Lone further said that if necessary, his party will take to the streets. "If hunger strikes or mass protests are required, we will not hesitate. Enough is enough," he said. He accused the NC of facilitating cross-voting in favour of the BJP. In the Rajya Sabha polls held on Friday, NC won three and BJP one seat out of the four that went to polls. PTI

Rice for kids found infested with weevil larvae, worms at 10 Anganwadi centres in HP

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 25

Rice meant for distribution among children was found infested with rice weevil larvae and moth worms in 10 Anganwadi centres here, officials said on Saturday.

During a routine inspection conducted by the State Food Commission, 10 Anganwadi centres under the Dhar Chandna Circle in Kupvi subdivision, including Gaonkhar, Dhar-I, Dhar-II, Sharad, Bethadi, Dak, Bavat, Oran, Mushadi, and Majhgaon, were found locked, a statement issued on Saturday said.

The staff of these centres were called to open the premises, and during inspection of the nutritional supplies, it was found that the rice meant for children was infested with rice weevil larvae and moth worms, the statement read.

Taking serious note of the lapse, the commission ordered the suspension of the distribution of the contaminated food items and directed strict action against the responsible personnel. The child development project officer, Chopal, has been instructed to conduct a detailed inquiry into the matter and take immediate and appropriate action as per norms, the statement added. PTI

Jammu Railway Division recovers ₹32 lakh in fines from ticketless passengers in past 10 days

JAMMU, OCTOBER 25

The Jammu Railway Division has fined at least 2500 passengers for travelling without tickets in the past 10 days during the festive season, collecting Rs 32 lakh, a senior official said on Saturday. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said ticket checking drives were conducted daily in the division during the festive season to provide better passenger convenience and prevent illegal travel.

On October 24 alone, penalties amounting to more than Rs 7 lakh were collected from 1200 people for travelling without tickets, he said. Data from the last ten days show that under the intensive ticket checking drive during the festive season, more than Rs 32 lakh were collected from 2,500 passengers for travelling without tickets, the official added.

"Our efforts to strengthen ticket checking during the festivals have yielded positive results. This has led to increased revenue and significantly improved travel experience for valid passengers," he said. Singhal said the newly formed Jammu Division, despite facing shortage of ticketing staff, has performed remarkably well. PTI

NEWSBRIEFS

Thai PM cancels APEC attendance over passing of Queen Mother Sirikit

BANGKOK: After concluding the Cabinet meeting on Saturday, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul told the media that Thailand has entered a national mourning period following the passing of Queen Mother Sirikit, and he has cancelled his trip to South Korea to attend the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. Anutin stated that, as he needs to stay in the country to preside over funeral arrangements during this period, his planned official visit to Malaysia scheduled for Saturday has also been cancelled, Xinhua news agency reported. He will travel to Malaysia on Sunday morning to attend the signing ceremony of the Thailand-Cambodia peace agreement, and then return to Thailand immediately. Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Sihasak Phuangketkeow will attend other meetings of the ASEAN Summit and related summits on his behalf, said Anutin, adding that the foreign minister will also replace him for the APEC meeting in South Korea. **IANS**

Book tracing India-UK ties 'from colonialism to cooperation' gets London launch

LONDON: A book that showcases India's strides on the world stage against the backdrop of its transforming relations with the UK, one of its key allies, over the last seven decades was the subject of a special launch event here. 'The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation' by veteran journalist and political commentator Ashok Tandon captures India-UK ties since India's Independence in August 1947 to the current day, with a recently concluded Free Trade Agreement (FTA) set to significantly boost trade and economic cooperation. Organised on Friday evening by the Indian Journalists' Association (IJA) in the UK, of which Tandon is a past president, the book launch and panel discussion reflected upon some of the important milestones that shaped today's close partnership between both nations. **IANS**

Russian missile and drone attacks kill 4 in Ukraine as Zelenskyy pleads for air defence

KYIV, OCTOBER 25



Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukraine overnight into Saturday killed at least four people and wounded 20, officials said, and prompted fresh pleas from Ukraine's president for Western air defence systems. In the capital, Kyiv, two people were killed and 13 were wounded in a ballistic missile attack in the early hours of Saturday, Kyiv's police said.

A fire broke out in a non-residential building in one location, while debris from intercepted missiles fell in an open area at another site, damaging windows in nearby buildings, Ukraine's State Emergency Service wrote on the message app Telegram. "Explosions in the capital. The city is under ballistic attack," Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on Telegram during the onslaught. In the Dnipropetrovsk region, two people were killed and seven wounded, acting regional Gov Vladyslav Haivanenko said, adding that apartment buildings and private homes were damaged in the strikes. Ukraine's air force said Russia launched nine missiles and 62 drones, of which four missiles and 50 drones were intercepted.

In Russia, the Defence Ministry said its air defences shot down 121 Ukrainian drones over Russia overnight. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that such attacks intensify Ukraine's need for Patriot defence systems. "It is precisely because of such attacks that we pay special attention to Patriot systems to be able to protect our cities from this horror. It is critical that partners who possess relevant capability implement what we have discussed in recent days," he wrote in English on X. "America, Europe and the G7 countries can help ensure that such attacks no longer threaten lives," he said. Zelenskyy is hoping Ukraine can purchase 25 Patriots from the US to fortify its air defences, particularly in cities.

On Friday, he urged the United States to expand its sanctions on Russian oil from two companies to the whole sector, and appealed for long-range missiles to hit back at Russia. Zelenskyy was in London for talks with two dozen European leaders who have pledged military help to shield his country from future Russian aggression if a ceasefire stops the more than three-year war. The meeting hosted by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer aimed to step up pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, adding momentum to recent measures that have included a new round of sanctions from the United States and European countries on Russia's vital oil and gas export earnings.

The talks also addressed ways of helping protect Ukraine's power grid from Russia's almost daily drone and missile attacks as winter approaches, enhancing Ukrainian air defences, and supplying Kyiv with longer-range missiles that can strike deep inside Russia. **IANS**

UN chief asks Security Council to spend resources in peace instead of war

UNITED NATIONS, OCTOBER 25



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on the Security Council to channel the resources often spent on war to development and peace.

Guterres made the plea on Friday at an open debate of the Security Council on the future of the United Nations, held to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the founding of the world body.

Via a video link from Hanoi, the Secretary-General started his speech by alluding to an anecdote of the Security Council, Xinhua news agency reported.

Guterres said that in the spring of 1946, the first ballot box of the Security Council was opened for inspection before voting, and to everyone's surprise, there was already a slip of paper inside.

It was a message from the box's maker, a local New York mechanic named Paul Antonio, who said he wished for lasting peace all over the world, the UN chief added.

"That humble note reminds us why the Security Council exists: for people -- sincere, hopeful people who, for the last eight decades, have placed their trust in this institution to save them from the scourge of war," he said.

"The privilege to sit at this table carries a duty, above all, to honour the faith of those people. And to channel the resources so often spent on war to the causes of development and peace," the UN Chief added.

On many pivotal occasions, the Security Council has delivered on that task, and it has prevented the chaos of a great-power war in the past eight decades, he said.

"The council is a vital necessity and a powerful force for good. But at the same time, its legitimacy is fragile. Too often, we have seen members of this body act outside the principles of the (UN) Charter -- principles we have all freely agreed to as sovereign nations," Guterres added. **IANS**

US keen to finalise trade deal with S Korea as soon as possible

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 25



The United States is keen to "nail down" a trade deal with South Korea as soon as Seoul is willing to take "appropriate" commitments, a senior U.S. official said, as the two countries strive to bridge differences over how to implement Korea's $350 billion investment pledge under the framework deal. The official made the remarks during an online press briefing amid uncertainty over whether Seoul and Washington could reach a breakthrough to finalise details of the trade deal before or during a summit between Korean President Lee Jae Myung and U.S. President Donald Trump, set for Wednesday in Korea.

Trump is set to pay a two-day state visit to Korea on Wednesday and Thursday, as Korea will host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the southeastern city of Gyeongju on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, reports Yonhap news agency. "We are very keen to nail down a deal with Korea as soon as possible, as soon as they're willing to take the commitments that we think are appropriate," the official said.

The official reaffirmed the Trump administration's interest in shipbuilding cooperation with South Korea.

"We welcome their know-how, their capital and ... the general collaboration to help America revive its manufacturing, defense industry, shipbuilding and submarine building."

The two countries reached their trade deal in late July, under which Seoul committed to investing $350 billion in the U.S., among other pledges, in return for Washington's agreement to lower its "reciprocal" tariff and sector-specific duty on South Korean autos to 15 percent from 25 percent.

But the deal has yet to take effect amid negotiations to reconcile differences over a series of sticking points, including how to fund the investment package.

In recent weeks, top South Korean officials, including Kim Yong-beom, the presidential chief of staff for policy, Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol and Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan, have visited Washington multiple times, underscoring Seoul's stepped-up efforts to reconcile differences over sticking points in the trade talks. **IANS**

Brazil voices concern over US threats against Venezuela

RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 25



The Chief Advisor to the President of Brazil voiced deep concern over growing US threats of military action against Venezuela.

In an interview with local outlet Metropoles, Celso Amorim dismissed attempts to link Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to terrorism. "You may like him or not, but Maduro is not a sponsor of terrorism," he said on Friday (local time).

Amorim warned that the deployment of US forces near Venezuela and the authorisation of covert CIA operations by US President Donald Trump have heightened tensions in the Caribbean and raised alarm across Latin America. He stressed that "any conflict in the region must be resolved through dialogue and respect for national sovereignty." Brazil maintains diplomatic relations with Venezuela and has repeatedly opposed any foreign military intervention. Meanwhile, Venezuela's Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez, during a visit to a military hospital in the capital Caracas, said that the country will not accept any government subservient to the United States.

"The Bolivarian National Armed Forces will not allow a government that is kneeling, enslaved, or submissive to US interests," Padrino Lopez said on Friday (local time), according to state broadcaster Venezolana de Television. He urged Venezuelans to remember that some opposition leaders have previously called for foreign intervention and sanctions against the country, reports Xinhua news agency.

While acknowledging that the opposition plays an important role in a democracy, Padrino Lopez warned of what he described as threats from US military actions, particularly in the Caribbean. He denounced recent US manoeuvres near Venezuelan waters, saying they have intimidated local fishermen, and called the situation "the greatest threat in a century."

Despite escalating tensions, Lopez reiterated Venezuela's desire to avoid conflict. "We want peace," he said. **IANS**

Cote d'Ivoire holds Presidential election amid political tension

ABIDJAN, OCTOBER 25



Voters in Cote d'Ivoire began casting their ballots on Saturday in the 2025 presidential election. At the Groupe Scolaire Plateau de Port-Bouet 2 voting centre in Abidjan, many voters arrived before 8 am (0800 GMT), the official start time, under the watch of police officers and gendarmes.

Polling stations will remain open until 6 pm local time, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the Independent Electoral Commission, a total of 25,678 polling stations have been set up, 25,370 within Cote d'Ivoire and 308 abroad, to accommodate 8,727,431 registered voters, including 8,607,253 in the country and 120,178 overseas.

Incumbent President 83-year-old Alassane Ouattara is representing the Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace and seeking a fourth term in office. He is facing four other contenders, including former First Lady Simone Ehivet Gbagbo, 76, candidate of the Movement of Capable Generations; Jean-Louis Billon, 60, candidate of the Democratic Congress; Ahoua Don Mello, 67, an independent candidate; and Henriette Lagou Adjoua, 66, candidate for the Group of Political Partners for Peace. **IANS**

Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit passes away at age of 93

BANGKOK, OCTOBER 25

Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit has passed away at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, the Bureau of the Royal Household said. The bureau said on Friday in an official announcement that a team of doctors, who have been overseeing and providing treatment for the Queen Mother's health at the hospital since September 7, 2019, identified that she was suffering from several illnesses and abnormalities across multiple bodily systems, necessitating continuous medical attention. According to physicians, the Queen Mother contracted a bloodstream infection on October 17, 2025.

Despite the physicians' efforts to provide treatment, her condition gradually deteriorated, and she passed away peacefully at 9:21 p.m. on Friday at the age of 93, Xinhua news agency reported. Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua has directed the relevant bureau to make arrangements for the Queen Mother's royal funeral, which will be held with the highest honours in accordance with royal traditions. **IANS**

Concerns raised about Japanese PM's hawkish tone

TOKYO, OCTOBER 25



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has delivered her first speech in Parliament since taking office, which has raised concerns about her hawkish and conservative views on security and diplomacy. On the security front, Takaichi on Friday voiced her readiness to further accelerate Japan's military buildup, pledging to raise the country's defence budget to 2 per cent of GDP by next March, two years ahead of the plan, and revise the National Security Strategy and two other key defence documents by the end of 2026.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader called an alliance with the United States the "cornerstone" of Japan's diplomatic and security policies, adding that her government will deepen multilateral dialogue with countries such as South Korea, the Philippines, Australia and India, and advance a "free and open Indo-Pacific". Takaichi emphasised that China is an "important neighbour" with which Japan needs to foster "constructive and stable" ties, but there are "security concerns" between the two sides, Xinhua news agency reported.

In terms of the economy, Takaichi highlighted her commitment to "responsible and proactive fiscal policies", vowing to promote the development of industry sectors such as artificial intelligence, and support people's livelihood by expanding local subsidies and energy subsidies, thereby reducing the burden on middle and low-income groups. Regarding policies toward foreigners, the 64-year-old staunch conservative said her government will enhance its management, tighten restrictions on land purchases by foreigners, and ensure that foreigners in Japan abide by relevant rules.

Takaichi's policy speech at an extraordinary parliamentary session came after she was elected Prime Minister on Tuesday, Japan's first woman to hold the post. **IANS**

Venezuelan Defence Ministry says it rejects any US-subservient government

CARACAS, OCTOBER 25



Venezuela's armed forces will not accept any government subservient to the United States, Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez said during a visit to a military hospital in the capital Caracas.

"The Bolivarian National Armed Forces will not allow a government that is kneeling, enslaved, or submissive to US interests," Padrino Lopez said on Friday (local time), according to state broadcaster Venezolana de Television. He urged Venezuelans to remember that some opposition leaders have previously called for foreign intervention and sanctions against the country, reports Xinhua news agency.

While acknowledging that the opposition plays an important role in a democracy, Padrino Lopez warned of what he described as threats from US military actions, particularly in the Caribbean. He denounced recent US manoeuvres near Venezuelan waters, saying they have intimidated local fishermen, and called the situation "the greatest threat in a century."

Despite escalating tensions, Lopez reiterated Venezuela's desire to avoid conflict. "We want peace," he said. **IANS**

Pentagon sending aircraft carrier to Latin America

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 25



The US military is sending the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group and embarked carrier air wing to the US Southern Command area of responsibility, Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell announced on social media. The US Southern Command area of responsibility includes the land mass of Latin America south of Mexico, the waters adjacent to Central and South America, and the Caribbean Sea.

The deployment was made "in support of the President's directive to dismantle Transnational Criminal Organisations (TCOs) and counter narco-terrorism in defence of the Homeland," Parnell said on Friday on X. "These forces will enhance and augment existing capabilities to disrupt narcotics trafficking and degrade and dismantle TCOs," he said.

Local analysts view the move as an indication that the Trump administration intends to broaden its anti-cartel campaign, shifting from targeting small vessels in international waters to potentially striking land-based operations across Latin America, Xinhua news agency reported.

The US military buildup in the Caribbean is already the largest in the region in more than three decades, since the American invasion of Panama, according to a Wall Street Journal report. Earlier on Friday, US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth said the military sank a suspected drug-smuggling vessel overnight in international waters of the Caribbean, killing all six people on board. **IANS**

lifestyle



Alia Bhatt celebrates the birthday of her 'mama birdie', Soni Razdan

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt, who was last seen in 'Jigra', is celebrating the birthday of her mother, Soni Razdan. On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared two pictures featuring her and her actress mother. While the first picture shows the senior actress hugging her daughter, the second picture shows the mother-daughter duo sharing a hearty laugh at a dinner.

Alia wrote in the caption, "Happy bday mama birdie. You are our whole universe and you light it up every... single... day". Soni Razdan is a British-born Indian actress and filmmaker known for her versatile performances across film, television, and theatre. She was born in Birmingham to a British-German mother and a Kashmiri Pandit father, she moved to India early in life and studied at the prestigious Elphinstone College, Mumbai.

She began her career on stage before gaining attention in television serials like 'Buniyaad' and 'Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum'. She transitioned to cinema with impactful roles in '36 Chowringhee Lane', 'Mandi', 'Saaransh', and 'Khamosh'. She is known for her understated elegance and emotional depth, she balanced art-house and mainstream cinema with ease. In recent years, she has appeared in films like 'Raazi' and 'Yours Truly', and web series such as 'Call My Agent: Bollywood'. She is married to filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, and continues to command quiet respect in Indian cinema. She was recently seen in the streaming film 'Songs of Paradise' in which she essayed the role of legendary Kashmiri singer Raj Begum. The actress had spoke with IANS during the promotions of 'Songs of Paradise', and joked that her fondest memory of working on her iconic film 'Party' was the pack-up since it involved a tough shooting schedule where the actors were confined to a single location throughout the shoot.

She earlier told IANS, "When you're working on a film and you're shooting it all night, every night, your fondest memories are packing up and going to sleep (laughs). But, of course, I'm joking. I loved the whole experience". "It was so innovative for that time where the way we shot the movie, and going from one room to the other. **IANS**



Priyanka quips about multiple retakes as she shares no-filter pictures

Global head-turner Priyanka Chopra Jonas shared a string of pictures exuding tropical vacation vibes but only after 37 retakes. Priyanka, who is currently on a family holiday, shared a string of pictures of herself sporting minimal makeup, a floral outfit. One image also featured a romantic moment with her American popstar husband Nick Jonas.

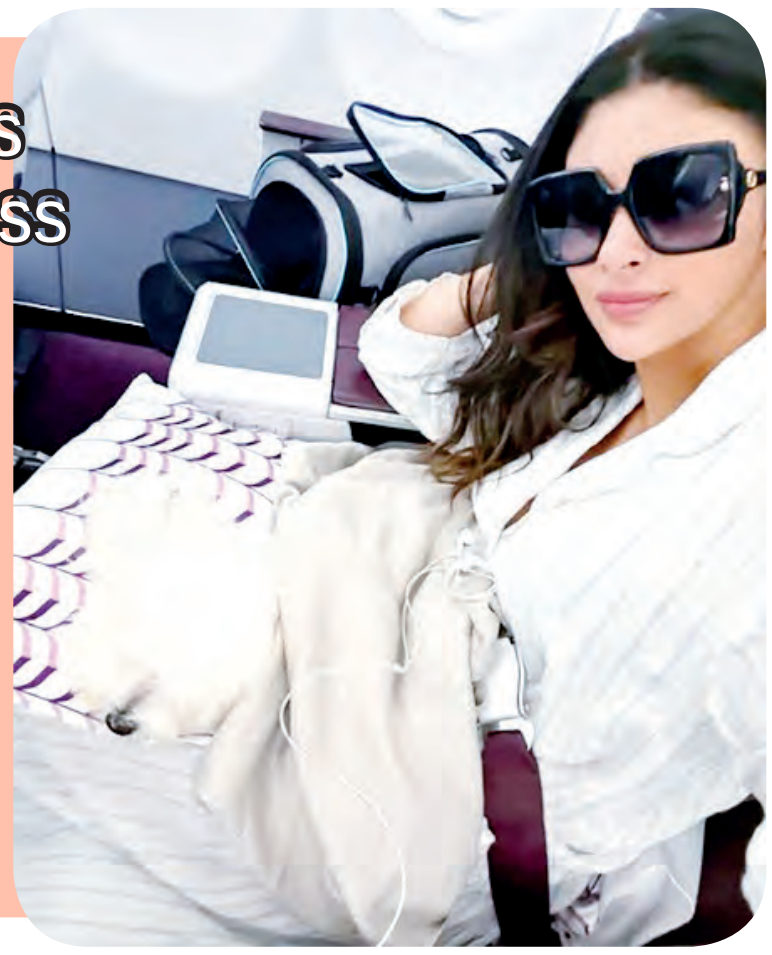
She playfully captioned the post: "Not me pretending this wasn't take #37." A few days ago, she posted a "most precious" picture featuring her Nick and daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas. Priyanka took to Instagram stories, where she shared a serene picture of the father-daughter duo from their time at the beach. The two were sitting together on the sand, facing the ocean.

For the caption, Priyanka wrote: "The most precious." Priyanka and Nick started dating in 2018. The same year in December, the couple married at Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur in traditional Hindu and Christian ceremonies. In January 2022, the couple had a daughter named Malti Marie Chopra Jonas, via surrogacy.

Talking about her film work, Priyanka was last seen in "Heads Of State" directed by Ilya Naishuller. It stars Idris Elba and John Cena as the UK Prime Minister and US President, respectively. Priyanka, who has been feted with two National Film Awards and a Padma Shri, will next be seen sharing screen space with Mahesh Babu for the first time in her next in the upcoming tentatively titled film "SSMB29".

In addition to this, she has also been roped in for the latest instalment in the popular franchise "Krrish 4", marking Hrithik Roshan's debut as a director. **IANS**

Mouni's pet dog travels with her in business class



Television and Bollywood actress Mouni Roy recently heaved a sigh of relief after she was allowed to travel internationally with her pet dog on a flight. The actress shared a series of photos on her social media story where she was seen thanking the airlines for helping her sort the travel procedure for her pet dog. In other stories she was seen carrying her fur baby in a pet travelling basket and was seen posing happily. In another picture, the pet dog was seen resting out of the basket and on her lap mid-flight.

The fur baby was seen travelling with Mouni in the business class section of the flight. Mouni has always shared an umpteen number of pictures and videos of her pet babies on social media, whom she is very close to. The actress a few weeks ago was in Italy, having a ball of a time. Roy was seen enjoying a picturesque trip to Milano, Italy, and strolling through the iconic "Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II", one of the world's oldest and most luxurious shopping galleries. In the pictures shared by her on her social media, Mouni was seen dressed in a chic black and white chequered overcoat. **IANS**

Neeru's running on 'coffee, chaos, cute outfits' as she's excited for 'Madhaniyan' release



Punjabi star Neeru Bajwa, who is excited for the release of her upcoming film titled 'Madhaniyan', shared a glimpse into her pre-release hustle, saying she's running on "coffee, chaos and cute outfits". Neeru took to Instagram, where she shared a transformation reel on the track "Gustakhiyan" by The Landers, Davi Singh and Sync.

In the caption section, Neeru wrote: "Running on coffee, chaos, and cute outfits Madhaniyan in theatres Oct 31... 5 days to go #tooexcited." Directed by Nav Bajwa, "Madhaniyan" also stars Raj Dhaliwal and Poonam Dhillon. 'Madhaniyan' is reportedly based on the unusual marriage of not only between two people but of two different families and their values. The story shows that in our culture marriage is just not about two people rather it's about the marriage of two families.

It is set reportedly against the vibrant backdrop of Punjabi culture,the film captures the essence of marriage as a union of families, emphasizing the emotional and cultural dynamics that come with it. Neeru had earlier spoken about the song 'Nai Jana' from the upcoming film and said that it took her back to so many fond memories. 'Nai Jana' is a playful Punjabi folk track sung by Mannat Noor and with music composed by Money Aujla. **IANS**

Pooja Hegde quips about becoming a 'focus puller'

Actress Pooja Hegde shared a lighthearted moment from her shoot and said she received a couple of "not bads" and one "very good," as she tried her hands in "focus" pulling. Pooja took to Instagram to share a video from the sets, where she is seen behind the camera handling the focus. She is heard asking the professional cameraman, "Not bad, na?"

"I got a couple of "not bads" and 1 "Very good"... future focus puller in the making???" she wrote as the caption. She went on to highlight the challenges of the craft and said: "Ok but seriously, I can't tell you how tough this job is. RESPECT." The actress, who recently celebrated her 35th birthday on October 13, did not share as to what she was shooting for. Talking about her work, Pooja was recently seen in a song titled "Monica" from the recently released film "Coolie."

"Coolie" is an Indian Tamil-language action thriller film directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. The film stars Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna, Upendra, Soubin Shahir, Sathyaraj, Shruti Haasan, Reba Monica John, Junior MGR, Monisha Blessy and Kaali Venkat.

The film features actors Sathyaraj and Rajinikanth together after almost 38 years. 'Coolie', which is Rajinikanth's 171st film, revolves around gold smuggling. Interestingly, director Lokesh Kanakaraj has disclosed that 'Coolie' will be a stand alone film and not a part of his Lokesh Cinematic Universe (LCU). She will next be seen in Jana Nayagan, a political action thriller film directed by H. Vinoth. The film stars Vijay, Pooja Hegde and Bobby Deol in the lead roles, alongside Mamitha Baiju, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Prakash Raj, Narain and Priyamani. The film was officially announced in September 2024 under the tentative title Thalapathy 69, as it is Vijay's 69th film as a lead actor, and the official title was announced in January 2025. She will next be seen in Jana Nayagan directed by H. Vinoth. It is intended to be the final film appearance of Vijay before his entry into politics, as well as KVN's first Tamil language production. She also has Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai with Varun Dhawan and Mrunal Thakur.**IANS**



NEWSBRIEFS

Tata AIA launches 'Shubh Family Protect'

LUDHIANA: Tata AIA Life Insurance Co Ltd (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, is introducing Tata AIA Shubh Family Protect—a game-changing term plan that offers both an immediate lump-sum payout and a flexible monthly income for up to 30 years. Designed to provide comprehensive financial protection for families, this first-of-its-kind plan is an ideal solution for those seeking peace of mind in uncertain times. **BPE**

Kotak Mahindra Bank Consolidated PAT for Q2FY26 at ₹4,468 crore

CHANDIGARH: The Board of Directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank approved the unaudited standalone and consolidated results for the quarter and half-year ended September 30, at the Board meeting held in Mumbai, on Saturday. Consolidated Customer Assets which comprise Advances (incl IBPC & BRDS) and Credit Substitutes grew to Rs 576,339 crore as at September 30, up 13% YoY from Rs 510,598 crore as at September 30, 2024. Total Assets Under Management as at September 30 grew to Rs 760,598 crore , up 12% YoY from Rs 680,838 crore as at September 30, 2024. The Domestic MF Equity AUM increased by 14% YoY to Rs 362,694 crore as at September 30. **BPE**

Farmton Foods strengthens Punjab Seed Network to boost produce inflow

LUDHIANA: Farmton Foods Pvt Ltd is strengthening its connection directly with the farmers in Punjab to ensure a steady supply of high-quality seeds for large-scale potato cultivation ahead of the completion of its upcoming state-of-the-art Rs 580 crore frozen potato processing facility in Gujarat. Working currently with over 350 farmers across the state, Farmton's strategy of contract farming and open procurement helps the farmers to have a profit from both assured buy-back prices and open-market opportunities. Through its G0 to G3 seed multiplication pipeline, Farmton provides farmers with risk-free cultivation, technical guidance, agronomy support, and regular field visits from sowing to the post-harvesting stage. Rouging operation is an important part of seed production to maintain seed quality. Speaking about the development, Rameshbhai Mali, MD, Farmton Foods Pvt. Ltd., said, "Punjab remains the backbone for our upcoming processing plant in Gujarat. **BPE**

Broader indices outshine benchmarks this week, 16 smallcaps gain over 15 pc

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 25

The broadcap indices outperformed major benchmarks in the volatile festival-truncated week, as the BSE midcap and smallcap indices rose by 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent.

Broadcap indices, or broad market indices, are benchmarks that track the performance of a wide range of companies to represent the overall financial market or a significant segment of it.

The surge was driven by foreign institutional inflows and largely positive Q2 earnings, according to analysts.

As many as 41 small-cap stocks gained between 10 and 36 per cent during the week and nearly 16 small-cap stocks logged returns above 15 per cent.

During the week, the BSE Sensex rose 0.30 per cent or 259 points, and closed at 84,211. The Nifty50 rose 0.33 per cent or 85.3 points, and closed at 25,795. Both indices have, however, gained nearly 5 per cent in October.



Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) became net buyers this week, buying equities valued at Rs 342.74 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) maintained a 27-week buying streak, with net purchases totalling Rs 5,945 crore.

Analysts anticipated short-term volatility, identifying resistance at 25,850 and immediate support at the 25,600 to 25,500 zone.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) became net buyers this week, buying equities valued at Rs 342.74 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) maintained a 27-week buying streak, with net purchases totalling Rs 5,945 crore.

As of October, FIIs have sold a net total of Rs 244.02 crore, while DIIs purchased a net of Rs 33,989.76 crore, according to latest data.

Among sectors, the Nifty IT index gained 3 per cent, the PSU Bank added 2 per cent, the Nifty Metal index gained 1.5 per cent, the Nifty Media index was up 1.3 per cent, and the Nifty Oil & Gas index was up 1 per cent. Conversely, the FMCG and auto sectors declined by approximately 0.5 per cent each.

Analysts reported that the week started with festive optimism, but momentum slowed due to geopolitical tensions and profit-taking, despite record festive sales indicating strong consumer demand.

Looking ahead, investors are keen on India-US trade negotiations and key interest rate decisions from the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank. **IANS**

Germany aims to finalise Free Trade Deal with India by year end: Consul General Burkart

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 25



Germany hopes to conclude the long-pending Indo-European Free Trade Agreement with India by the end of this year, said Achim Burkart, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to Karnataka and Kerala.

Speaking at the 'German Day of Unity' event held here on Saturday, Burkart highlighted the growing cooperation between the two nations.

"In all that world of darkness, there is also hope and light. One of these lights is the ever-growing good relations between India and Germany, and also the common willingness to finalise the Indo-European Free Trade Agreement by the end of this year," he said.

Addressing ongoing global conflicts, the Consul General emphasised that India and Germany are united in their commitment to the principles of the UN Charter.

He stressed that Germany will not rest until a sustainable and just peace is achieved in Ukraine, in line with UN guidelines.

"This UN Charter represents the hope that jointly agreed rules are stronger than arbitrary violence, that negotiations produce more sustainable solutions than the dominance of individuals, and that a life of dignity can be enjoyed by every human being," he added.

Burkart cautioned that the ideals set forth at the founding of the United Nations 80 years ago face unprecedented pressure today.

He underlined that India and Germany will work closely to uphold and defend these principles, strengthening multilateral cooperation in the process.

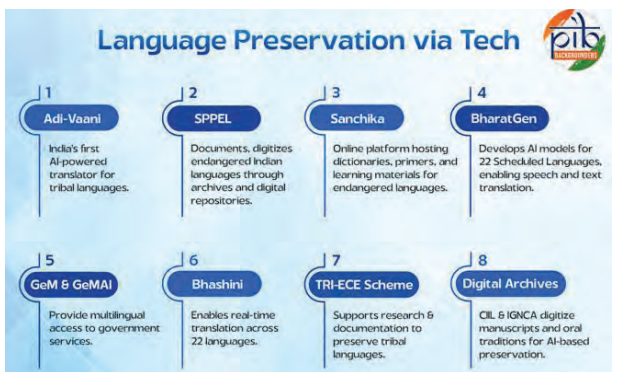
The event was welcomed by G. Vijaya Raghavan, Chairperson of the Goethe-Zentrum in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, and co-hosted by Honorary Consul Syed Ibrahim.

Burkart also presented awards to the winners of the German Model Parliament, an educational initiative promoting democratic debate and cross-cultural engagement.

The celebrations concluded with a musical performance by Buck Roger and the Sidetrackers, adding a cultural touch to the diplomatic gathering. **IANS**

Bhashini, BharatGen, Adi-Vaani positioning India as global leader in multilingual innovation

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25



India is emerging as a global leader in multilingual innovation with platforms such as Bhashini, BharatGen, and Adi-Vaani, the government said on Saturday. India's linguistic landscape is among the most diverse in the world, with 22 Scheduled Languages and hundreds of tribal and regional dialects spoken across its vast geography.

To preserve its rich linguistic heritage, the government is leveraging advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP), machine learning, and speech recognition to build intelligent, scalable language solutions.

The key platforms driving linguistic inclusion include Bhashini and BharatGen, which offer multilingual support, while Adi-Vaani aims to bring tribal languages into the digital fold. "India's future in language preservation is powered by cutting-edge technology, integrating AI and digital archives to keep its rich linguistic heritage vibrant and accessible. Platforms like Bhashini, BharatGen, and Adi-Vaani, along with targeted initiatives such as SPPEL and TRI-ECE, empower citizens nationwide to engage with services in their native languages," the government said in an official statement.

'India's future in language preservation is powered by cutting-edge technology, integrating AI and digital archives to keep its rich linguistic heritage vibrant and accessible.'

"This comprehensive approach not only safeguards India's cultural diversity but also drives inclusive digital growth, positioning the country as a global leader in multilingual innovation," it added.

SPPEL, or the Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages, focuses on documenting and digitally archiving endangered Indian languages, particularly those spoken by fewer than 10,000 people.

The Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication, and Events (TRI-ECE) scheme supports innovative research and documentation projects aimed at preserving tribal languages and cultures.

These initiatives enable seamless communication, real-time translation, voice-enabled interfaces, and localised content delivery.

"By building a robust technological ecosystem that respects linguistic diversity, India is setting the foundation for an inclusive digital future where every citizen, regardless of their mother tongue, can participate fully in the digital economy and governance," the statement said. **IANS**

India aims for 350 airports by 2047: Civil Aviation Minister

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, after inaugurating the renovated Terminal 2 at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) here on Saturday, said that the government aims to have 350 airports by 2047.

India currently operates 164 airports and aims to add approximately 200 more by 2047, he said, adding that the challenge is not about constructing airports but about "how to bring in more aircraft to India".



The renovated T2 terminal will resume operations on Sunday after being closed since April 2025 for extensive renovation.

Aviation Minister said that the upgrade of Delhi's T2 terminal is key to a larger plan to establish India as an international aviation hub.

Acknowledging the sharp increase in traffic at India's largest airport, Naidu told NDTV Profit that the Delhi airport is targeting a 120 million capacity, and the T2 expansion is projected to increase capacity by approximately 15 million seats.

He further stated that a "thorough investigation" is being done into the AI-171 crash, for which a timeline cannot be given.

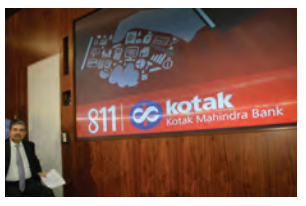
Naidu said that the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is conducting the AI-171 crash investigation, adhering strictly to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) procedures.

He also mentioned that a major domestic technological achievement was made when the black box was decoded in India for the first time.

Reflecting on the past decade, the minister said, "We've built so many airports over the last 10 years that we've become experts. You give us land anywhere, and we will build a state-of-the-art airport." **IANS**

Kotak Mahindra Bank's Q2 net profit dips 2.7 pc to ₹3,253 crore

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 25



Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday reported a 2.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in its net profit at Rs 3,253 crore for the July-September quarter (Q2 FY26).

The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 3,344 crore in the same period last year.

Despite the marginal dip in profit, the bank's net interest income (NII) rose 4 per cent (on-year) to Rs 7,311 crore from Rs 7,020 crore in Q2 FY25, while the net interest margin (NIM) stood at a healthy 4.54 per cent.

The lender's advances book expanded 16 per cent on-year to Rs 4,62,688 crore (as of September 30), from Rs 3,99,522 crore a year earlier, reflecting robust credit demand. On the liabilities side, average total deposits grew 14 per cent (on-year) to Rs 5,10,538 crore, compared with Rs 4,46,110 crore in Q2 FY25. Average current deposits also rose 14 per cent to Rs 70,220 crore from Rs 61,853 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

Asset quality saw further improvement, with the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio declining to 1.39 per cent as of September 30, 2025, from 1.49 per cent a year ago. The Net NPA (NNPA) ratio also improved to 0.32 per cent from 0.43 per cent in the same period. The bank's Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) remained strong at 77 per cent.

According to its exchange filing, CASA ratio (as at September 30) stood at 42.3 per cent and Credit to Deposit ratio stood at 87.5 per cent. Standalone Return on Assets (ROA) for Q2 FY26 (annualised) was 1.88 percent while Return on Equity (ROE) was 10.38 percent on an annualised term. **IANS**

Seshasayee Paper Q2 net profit falls 21 pc to ₹22.4 cr



MUMBAI, OCTOBER 25

Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd reported a 21.3 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in consolidated net profit for the second quarter of FY26, as per a regulatory filing on Saturday.

The company's net profit stood at Rs 22.4 crore, down from Rs 28.5 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Meanwhile, Revenue from operations also fell 13.1 per cent to Rs 346.3 crore, compared to Rs 398.5 crore in the same period last year.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) came in at Rs 26.3 crore, a 14.4 per cent decrease from Rs 30.7 crore a year earlier.

The EBITDA margin for the quarter stood at 7.6 per cent, marginally lower than 7.7 per cent in the year-ago quarter. During the quarter, the company invested Rs 26 crore in a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to acquire a 26.1 per cent equity stake, in line with the terms of its investment agreement.

Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd is a leading manufacturer of writing and printing paper. Meanwhile, Seshasayee Paper and Boards shares closed slightly higher on Friday ahead of the Q2 result announcement. The scrip ended the session at Rs 256.0, up 0.20 per cent. In the last five days, the stock jumped nearly 1.5 per cent; however, in the last 30 days, it remained flat. **IANS**

Pakistan's public debt reaches 'unsustainable' $286 billion by FY25

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25



Pakistan's total public debt hit $286 billion by the end of the 2024–25 fiscal year, and its borrowing has reached an "unsustainable" level, a new report has said.

The figure, up 13 per cent from the previous year, underscores not only a fragile recovery but also the deep structural flaws that have become the hallmark of Pakistan's fiscal management, according to the report from Maldives Insight.

"Pakistan's economy is not expanding fast enough to outpace its liabilities, and its borrowing remains both habitual and unsustainable," the report said, adding that servicing debt, rather than financing growth, remains the single largest use of public resources.

Pakistan's Ministry of Finance's 'Annual Debt Review 2025' concedes that the debt-to-GDP ratio has climbed to 70 per cent, up from 68 per cent the previous year.

Pakistan's fiscal deficit for the year stood at $25.2 billion, financed primarily through domestic borrowing, the report said, adding that domestic debt alone now accounts for $194 billion, up 15 per cent from the previous year. Meanwhile, the external debt rose to $92.5 billion, up 6 per cent. The ministry reported an average time to maturity for domestic debt of 3.8 years and a reduced external debt share. However, interest expenses increased by 9 per cent year-on-year, limiting development spending, according to the report.

Multilateral loans accounted for 57 per cent of total external debt, bilateral loans constituted 26 per cent, and commercial borrowing, which includes Eurobonds, made up the remainder. The report noted that these numbers demonstrate the extent to which Pakistan's economic sovereignty is dependent on the conditionalities and fluctuations of external financiers.

Pakistan's economy remains incapable of generating sufficient revenue to sustain itself without constant borrowing. **IANS**

Mini-ratna HLL Lifecare pays ₹69.5 cr dividend to government

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

Mini-ratna company HLL Lifecare Limited, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on Saturday paid a record dividend of Rs 69.53 crore to the government for the financial year 2024–25.

The dividend cheque was presented to Health Minister JP Nadda by Dr Anitha Thampi, Chairperson, HLL, in the presence of Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and other senior officials.

Nadda asserted that HLL is a reliable name in the field of medical services and is committed towards the national vision of accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all.

HLL, along with its subsidiaries and Amrit pharmacies, have emerged as a key player in transforming the health sector.



Nadda asserted that HLL is a reliable name in the field of medical services and is committed towards the national vision of accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all.

In the last 10 years, over 6.7 crore people have benefited through the affordable medicines of the Amrit Pharmacies, thereby saving more than Rs 8,000 crore in terms of their out-of-pocket expenditure, the minister informed.

The financial year 2024–25 witnessed comprehensive growth across both HLL's manufacturing and service portfolios.

Revenue from operations increased to Rs 4,500 crore, reflecting a 20 per cent growth over the previous year. The company's net worth rose significantly to Rs. 1,100 crore (as on March 31, 2025).

On a consolidated basis, including its subsidiaries HITES, GAPL, and Lifespring Hospitals the HLL Group recorded a total revenue of Rs 4,900 crore, marking a 19 per cent growth over the previous fiscal.

Established in 1966, HLL Lifecare Limited has evolved from addressing India's population control challenges to becoming a multi-product, multi-service healthcare enterprise playing a pivotal role in the nation's health sector transformation.

Through initiatives such as AMRIT Pharmacies, the company continues to make essential medicines and surgical products affordable, thereby reducing out-of-pocket expenses for patients across the country. **IANS**

SPORTS

AAVISHKAR SALVI
"SINCE WE ENTERED INTO THE WORLD CUP, WE ALREADY KNEW THAT IT WAS A VERY LONG TOURNAMENT AND THE WORKLOADS WERE PLANNED ACCORDINGLY."

Centurion Rohit, Kohli play vintage knocks to carry India to nine-wicket win over Australia

SYDNEY, OCTOBER 25



Rohit Sharma struck his 50th international hundred and Virat Kohli played time-bending knock in possibly their last outing in Australia, propelling India to a consolation nine-wicket victory in the third ODI here on Saturday.

After Harshit Rana-led bowlers restricted Australia to a below-par 236, Rohit (121 not out) and Kohli (74 not out) stitched a 168-run alliance in just 170 balls for the second wicket to take India to 237 for one in 38.3 overs.

Australia won the three-match series 2-1 but Rohit and Kohli gave the ecstatic Sydney crowd precisely what they wanted, while unfurling archetypal innings and in the process saved the team from an embarrassing whitewash.

Rohit was all fluency and wholehearted shot-making, and Kohli resembled a mathematician solving a puzzle with meticulousness.

Once skipper Shubman Gill returned to the hut after helping his senior partner to milk 69 runs for the opening wicket, Rohit took over the chase in his inimitable manner and went on to produce his 33rd ODI century.

He has 12 Test and five T20Is hundreds to his name.

Starting with a couple of silken-smooth drives and flicks off Mitchell Starc, Rohit slipped into his punishing self once Adam Zampa was introduced.



The 38-year-old slog-swept Zampa for a six to nullify Australia's already weakened spin department, and followed it up with a wonderful inside out six over covers off the leg-spinner.

Kohli played trademark straight drive off Starc for a four after getting off the mark with a single, which he celebrated with a smile and punch, a small atonement for the two preceding successive ducks.

But soon Kohli found his groove, galloping for those quick singles interspersed with occasional boundaries.

Nathan Ellis took the DRS after hitting Kohli's pads, and the 'Chase Master' heaved a sigh of relief after the TV umpire concurred with the on-field umpire's not out decision. Kohli was on 36 then.

Rohit brought up his fifty soon in 63 balls and the next 50 flowed in 42 balls as the Mumbai man batted with panache and aggression in equal measure.

Kohli, who made his fifty off 56 balls, soon had his old mate a tight embrace as Rohit went past his 33rd ODI hundred in 105 balls.

A few overs, later Kohli slammed Ellis for a four to take the match to its logical conclusion and the Australian players crowded around him and Rohit to congratulate them.

The Sydney crowd also had their fill while watching Rohit and Kohli, but there will be a tinge of sadness in their hearts.

They might not get another look at them on these shores. But the last sighting of RoKo was worthy to freeze forever in their memories.

Before the two old boys went about their business in their respective ways, the Indian bowlers led by Rana (4/39) limited the Aussies to a sub-par total.

Australia's struggle was largely because Rana, who generated good pace and bounce off a fresh SCG turf, and spinners choked the home batters in the middle overs with splendid spells.

However, the Australians made a good beginning through skipper Mitchell Marsh (41) and Travis Head as they added 61 runs for the opening wicket.

But once Head departed after steering Mohammad Siraj to Prasidh Krishna at point, Australia struggled for partnerships.

Following that, a 54-run association between Renshaw (56) and Alex Carey kept the hosts afloat, but was not enough to carry them to a bigger total.

India was sharp on the field on this day, pulling off some excellent saves and catches. PTI

Richa Ghosh doing fine, India players' workload planned according to the World Cup: Salvi

NAVI MUMBAI, OCTOBER 25



India bowling coach Aavishkar Salvi on Saturday said wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh is being monitored by the strength and conditioning team, adding that the players' workloads have been carefully managed considering the long duration of the Women's World Cup.

India will take on Bangladesh in their final league match here on Sunday before their semifinal here on October 30.

Ghosh's absence from the optional training session here on Saturday was notable after she suffered a blow to her finger while keeping wickets in the match against New Zealand two days ago.

"With regards to Richa's fitness, I think she is fine and the S&C team is taking care of it. They are still discussing, so I don't have the exact updates about it but she looks fine," Salvi told the media here after India's training session.

The optional session was attended skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and deputy Smriti Mandhana, who did not train, but those who trained included Uma Chetry, who kept the wickets when Ghosh had to leave the field against New Zealand.

The others who trained here were all-rounder Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Radha Yadav and Harleen Deol. Barring Deol, none of these players had featured against New Zealand.

"Since we entered into the World Cup, we already knew that it was a very long tournament and the workloads were planned accordingly," Salvi said.

"We had said that (when) we get into the World Cup, we plan almost 2-3 months back, so the workload point of view, everything is taken care of," he added.

Salvi admitted there were "executional errors" from the bowlers earlier in the tournament when India lost three matches on the trot.

"If you see the powerplays we have been good. In the middle over segments also we have been good but there were a few errors which we made in between obviously those were executional errors which we have already identified," he said.

"Once we identified the areas, we work upon them into the nets to go towards it. In slogs (overs), yes, we want to get better at that and since it is a young bowling attack and they all are hungry to learn every day in and day out."

"The dew is also not helping at times, the ball becomes wet but no excuses, the girls are working towards getting better at whatever they can do."

Salvi said given the dew factor at almost every venue India have played in this World Cup, they keep practicing to bowl with wet balls. "If you talk about the dew and the current conditions that we are operating in, (we) already knew that dew will be there at each of the venue that we are going to play when we started off." PTI

Gill hails 'near-perfect' win for India after Rohit and Kohli shine in Sydney

SYDNEY, OCTOBER 25



India captain Shubman Gill described his side's nine-wicket win over Australia in the third and final ODI at the Sydney Cricket Ground as a 'near-perfect game', thanks to the team's bowling effort and the clinical chase led by Rohit Sharma's 121 not out and Virat Kohli's unbeaten 74 in Sydney on Saturday.

"We had a near-perfect game. Pulled things back in the middle overs. Chase was pleasing to see. Our spinners, contained in the middle and pacers, took key wickets. Harshit has bowled fast in the middle overs; we need that quality. Rohit and Kohli have done it for so many years. Delight to watch. Special win (first as ODI captain) on a special ground," Gill said after the match ended.

Rohit, who was named both Player of the Match and Player of the Series, reflected on the challenge of playing in Australia and the importance of passing on his rich experiences to younger players.

"You expect tough conditions in Australia. Quality bowlers. Gotta understand things and try your best. Haven't played for a long time, good prep, and was slightly confident coming in. We couldn't win the series - will still take a lot of positives. Young side, there will be a lot of learning for them."

"When I came into the squad, I remember how seniors helped us; it's now our job to do the same. Never easy playing in Australia, just abroad. We need to share our experience and help them create game plans. I still go back to basics in Australia, all these years later. It's something I need to pass on." IANS

Virat Kohli becomes second-highest run-getter in ODIs

SYDNEY, OCTOBER 25



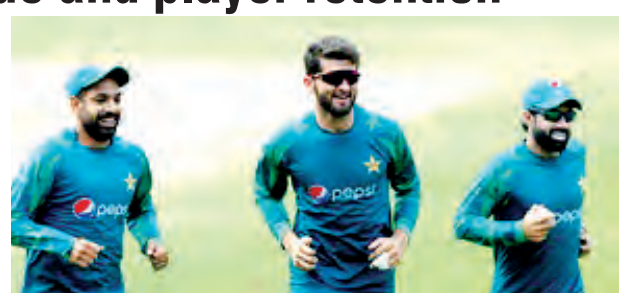
Indian batting stalwart Virat Kohli on Saturday broke another record as he became the second-highest run-getter in the ODI format.

Kohli, who endured a subdued form in the first two ODIs against Australia, broke the shackles and announced his return on the international stage. The No.3 batter, who is famously known as 'Chase Master', hammered his 75th ODI fifty and also completed 2500 runs against Australia in the format. During the course of his innings, Kohli surpassed Sri Lanka great Kumar Sangakkara's tally of 14,234 runs (in 404 ODIs) in his 293rd ODI innings.

The former India captain is now only behind legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar, who is sitting at the top of the table with a massive tally of 18,426 runs. However, Kohli boasts a better average than Tendulkar or any of the top 10 batters in the list. He averages 57.69 in 305 ODIs played so far, while Tendulkar's average stood at 44.83 in his 463-match ODI career. With Kohli at the fag end of his career and only playing in the 50-over format, it is likely that the Delhi batter will finish his ODI career as the second-highest run getter behind his idol Tendulkar. IANS

Pakistan stars cleared for BBL as CA eyes future of league and player retention

MELBOURNE, OCTOBER 25



Pakistan's leading cricketers have been cleared to participate in the upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) following initial uncertainties regarding the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) stance on providing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for overseas leagues.

The development follows a notice from the PCB's chief operating officer, Sumair Ahmad Syed, in late September, which halted players from joining foreign T20 leagues. However, Cricket Australia (CA) confirmed that the matter has now been resolved, and all Pakistani players with BBL contracts will participate as planned.

"That came through last week," ESPNCricinfo quoted CA chief executive Todd Greenberg as saying. "So they'll all be playing, they've all been cleared to play, which we're really excited about because we've got some great Pakistan players in the BBL, so looking forward to seeing them here this summer."

Among the notable Pakistani players confirmed for the season are Babar Azam (Sydney Sixers), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Brisbane Heat), Hasan Ali (Adelaide Strikers), Mohammad Rizwan (Melbourne Renegades), Haris Rauf (Melbourne Stars), and Shadab Khan (Sydney Thunder). " IANS

Yohaan Benjamin makes history as first Indian to feature in UEFA Youth League

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, October 25



Indian football is celebrating a historic milestone as Yohaan Benjamin, a former Minerva Academy player, becomes the first-ever Indian to play in the UEFA Youth League. The talented forward, who currently represents NK Bravo U19 in Slovenia, has been named in the squad to face former champions FC Porto on October 22 and November 5, 2025 marking a proud moment for Indian football.

Yohaan's inclusion follows an outstanding run of form in the Slovenian U19 League, where he scored a brace against NK Fuzinar U19 and netted a decisive winner against NK Krka U19. His sharp movement, intelligent positioning, and composure in front of goal have quickly earned him recognition in European youth football circles.

A product of Minerva Academy's celebrated youth development system, Yohaan's journey from India to Europe exemplifies the Academy's mission to nurture world-class players capable of excelling on the global stage. His selection for the UEFA Youth League, Europe's elite youth tournament, marks a major step forward for Indian players aspiring to break into top-tier football abroad.

Lionel Messi's Argentina match in India postponed to next FIFA window

KOCHI, OCTOBER 25



Lionel Messi and his team Argentina's highly anticipated match in India has been postponed. Originally scheduled for November 17 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the game will now take place during FIFA's upcoming international match window, as announced on social media by Anto Augustine, managing director of Reporter Broadcasting Company, the sponsor of the friendly game.

Anto Augustine, a businessman from Kerala and Managing Director of Emaraj Group International, posted on Facebook explaining that the postponement was due to a delay in receiving permission from FIFA, the international football organisation. He indicated that the match in Kerala will be rescheduled for the next international window, and the new date will be announced shortly.

"Considering the delay in receiving FIFA's permission, after discussions with the Argentine Football Association (AFA), it has been decided to postpone the match from the November window," Augustine wrote.

Earlier, Spanish media outlet La Nacion, citing an official from the Argentine Football Association (AFA), reported that the three-time FIFA World Cup winners will not go to Kerala. IANS



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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