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CHANDIGARH > MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 | RNI.No. PUNENG/2018/76070 | VOLUME 8, ISSUE 69 | ₹3.00

TALIBAN WARNS PAKISTAN AFTER ISTANBUL PEACE TALKS COLLAPSE AGAIN P09

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Modi lauds Dhami govt's 'bold' actions on UCC, checking illegal conversion, demographic change

DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 9



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised the Uttarakhand government's "bold" initiatives on demographic change, uniform civil code and checking illegal religious conversion, suggesting other states should emulate them.

"The seriousness with which the Dhami government implemented the UCC is an example for other states. The state government has adopted bold policies on issues of national interest, such as the anti-conversion law and the riot control law," Modi said while addressing an event on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the state's formation.

"The BJP government (in Uttarakhand) is also taking concrete action on sensitive issues such as land grabbing and demographic changes," the prime minister said.

At the event held at the sprawling grounds of the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun, Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development projects worth Rs 8260.72 crore in the hill state remotely. The prime minister lauded the state government for removing hurdles in the way of the development of Uttarakhand and said the state can establish itself as the spiritual capital of the world in the next few years.

"Uttarakhand's development journey has faced numerous obstacles, but the BJP government has overcome them every time and ensured that the pace of development remains unchanged," he said.

Expressing confidence that Uttarakhand will touch new heights of development in coming years, the prime minister assured it of all help from the Centre.

He said the double-engine BJP government is working to elevate Uttarakhand's potential to new heights.

"You all know how deep my attachment to Uttarakhand is. Whenever I came here on spiritual journeys, the struggle and hard work of the people living in the mountains always inspired me. This introduced me to the immense potential of Uttarakhand.

"After visiting Baba Kedar, I said that this decade belongs to Uttarakhand; it wasn't just a casual statement; I had complete faith in you," he said.

The true essence of Uttarakhand lies in its spiritual power, he said, adding, "If Uttarakhand resolves, it can establish itself as the spiritual capital of the world in the next few years."

He said the picture of Uttarakhand that was 25 years ago has now completely changed. "Before coming here, I saw the exhibition at the Silver Jubilee celebrations. I urge every citizen to see it. It depicts Uttarakhand's journey over the last 25 years. The success stories in many areas such as education, tourism, industry, health, energy, and rural development are inspiring," he said.

The prime minister spoke of Uttarakhand's progress in various sectors. **PTI**

PM Modi greets people of Uttarakhand on 25th foundation day

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday greeted the people of Uttarakhand on the 25th anniversary of its foundation, and said the state was progressing in every field, including tourism.

Nestled in the lap of nature, the hill state fondly called as Devbhoomi is today setting a new pace of progress in every field along with tourism, the prime minister said. "On the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Uttarakhand, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to all my brothers and sisters of the state," Modi said in a post on X.

"On this special occasion of the state, I pray for the happiness and prosperity, good fortune, and excellent health of the humble, hard-working, and divine-like people here," he said.

The prime minister will be in Uttarakhand on Sunday to join the silver jubilee celebrations of the state and is scheduled to announce a slew of development projects. **PTI**

CM flags off first batch of buses carrying devotees to Amritsar

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Dhuri (Sangrur), November 9



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday flagged off the first batch of buses carrying devotees for paying obeisance at holy city of Amritsar under the Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra Scheme.

Interacting with the devotees, the Chief Minister said that this pilgrimage is dedicated to the 350th martyrdom anniversary of the ninth Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. He said that this scheme was launched on October 29 from the village Bararwal and the selection of these devotees has been done in a transparent manner through a draw. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that this is a humble initiative to strengthen social and religious harmony among Punjabis by facilitating pilgrimages to holy places.

The Chief Minister said that this initiative fulfills the heartfelt wish of the elderly people who have long desired to visit sacred religious sites. He said that under the scheme the Devotees will be taken to visit Sri Harmandir Sahib, Durgiana Temple, Bhagwan Valmiki Tirath Sthal, Jallianwala Bagh, the Partition Museum, and other religious and historical places in Amritsar. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that this scheme is for people of all castes, religions, income groups, and regions.

Divulging more details, the Chief Minister said that the state government has made elaborate arrangements for free three-day and two-night stay for the pilgrims. He said that devotees aged 50 years or above have been registered for the pilgrimage and a voter ID card has been made mandatory for registration. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the pilgrims will be provided with AC buses, AC hotel accommodations and meals free of cost.

The Chief Minister said that each bus will have an attendant to assist the passengers and a medical team will also accompany the pilgrims to provide immediate assistance in case of any emergency. He said that after the completion of the pilgrimage, all devotees will be given prasad. Meanwhile, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Punjab is the sacred land of great Gurus, deities, saints, and martyrs who gave us the message of brotherhood, unity, and communal harmony.

The Chief Minister said that he considers himself blessed that God has bestowed him the duty of serving the people through this noble cause.

Deeply moved by warm welcome accorded to Lord Buddha's sacred relics in Bhutan: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Sunday that he was "deeply moved" to see the warm welcome accorded to sacred relics of Lord Buddha that arrived in Bhutan from India.

Sharing pictures from the ceremony on X, EAM Jaishankar stated: "Deeply moved to see the warm welcome accorded by the Government and the people of Bhutan to the Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha."

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the people of Bhutan for giving a grand welcome to the sacred relics of Lord Buddha.

In a statement shared on X, PM Modi said: "Heartfelt appreciation to the people and leadership of Bhutan for the reverent welcome accorded to the Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha from India. These relics symbolise the timeless message of peace, compassion and harmony. The teachings of Lord Buddha are a sacred link between our two nations' shared spiritual heritage."

The sacred relics of Lord Buddha, enshrined at the National Museum in New Delhi, reached Bhutan for a public exposition from November 8-18. The Indian delegation, led by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Virendra Kumar, comprises senior Buddhist monks and officials. The exposition marks another milestone in the enduring cultural and spiritual partnership between India and Bhutan, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Culture on Saturday.

Upon arrival at Paro International Airport, the sacred relics were received with deep reverence by Bhutan's Home Minister Tshering, Tshoki Lopen of the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan, and the Mayor of Paro (Dzongkhag) Norbu Wangchuk, India's Ambassador to Bhutan Sandeep Arya and senior officials and monks from Bhutan. **IANS**

RSS is recognised as body of individuals, Bhagwat tells critics

BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 9



In a veiled remark against the Congress leaders criticising RSS for operating without registration, the Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said his organisation is recognised as a body of individuals.

"RSS was established in 1925, so do you expect us to have registered with the British government?" Bhagwat asked while replying to a question during an in-house question and answer session organised by the RSS.

He added that after the independence, Government of India did not make registration compulsory. "We are categorised as body of individuals, and we are a recognised organisation," Bhagwat explained.

According to him, IT department and courts have termed RSS as a body of individuals and the organisation was exempted from income tax.

"We were banned thrice. So government has recognised us. If we were not there, whom did they ban," the RSS chief asked.

Bhagwat added there are many things, which are not registered. "Even Hindu Dharma is not registered," he remarked.

On the issue of RSS respecting only the saffron flags and not recognising the Indian tri-colour, Bhagwat said while saffron is treated as a Guru in RSS it has high respect for the Indian tri-colour.

"We always respect, offer tribute and protect our tricolour," the RSS chief said. **PTI**

Rajnath hits out at Revanth, alleges Congress trying to divide nation on religious lines

AURANGABAD/SASARAM, NOVEMBER 9



Hitting out at Telangana CM Revanth Reddy for his "Congress means Muslims" comment, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday alleged the opposition party was trying to divide the country on the basis of religion.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Bihar's Aurangabad and Sasaram on the last day of the campaign for the assembly elections, Singh claimed that the BJP-led NDA does not divide people on the basis of religion, caste or creed, as it believes in the "politics of humanity".

"Have you heard what the Telangana chief minister said? He said that 'Congress means Muslims and Muslims means Congress'. What is the meaning of this statement? This statement is aimed at dividing the country. Is this the kind of politics you stand for? This is Congress culture," he said.

Singh alleged that the Congress and RJD were trying to defame the NDA for "their politics of appeasement".

"The Congress and RJD are trying to divide the society based on caste, creed and religion. This election is a fight between good governance and 'jungle raj' (lawlessness). The same people who plunged Bihar into an era of caste conflict and massacres are now seeking votes. People must remain alert about such forces," he said. **PTI**

Campaign ends for high-stakes Bihar polls, drawing curtains on battle of words and nerves

PATNA, NOVEMBER 9

Campaign ended on Sunday evening for the second and final phase of the high-stakes assembly elections in Bihar, bringing to a close a nearly month-long fierce battle of words and nerves among rivals vying for power in the state.

While the first phase of polls, which registered a record 65 per cent turnout, was held on November 6, voting for the second phase will be held on November 11, followed by the counting of votes on November 14.

Elections will be held in 122 seats in the second phase, while polling happened in 121 assembly segments in the first round.

Among the significant seats going to the polls in this phase are Chakai, from where JD(U) minister Sumit Kumar Singh is seeking a re-election, BJP MLA Shreyasi Singh's Jamui, JD(U) minister Leshi Singh's Dhamdaha, and BJP minister Neeraj Kumar Singh's Chhatapur.

Finishing touches were given to the blitzkrieg on the closing day by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

The former Congress president addressed rallies in Kishanganj and Purnea districts in the Seemanchal region, which has a sizeable population of Muslims, whose support is vital for the opposition INDIA bloc. **PTI**

Gujarat ATS nabs three conspiring to carry out terror attack; chemicals, weapons seized

AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 9

The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested three persons, including a doctor, allegedly involved in a conspiracy to carry out a major terrorist attack with weapons and chemicals, an official said on Sunday.

The accused, one of whom hails from Telangana and two from Uttar Pradesh, were in Gujarat to exchange weapons and had conspired to carry out terrorist activities involving a potent poison, 'ricin', Gujarat ATS DIG Sunil Joshi said. The accused men have also disclosed that their handler sends the arms consignment via a drone across the Pakistan border, he said.

Acting on a tip-off, an ATS team arrested Dr Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed, a resident of Hyderabad in Telangana, on November 7 with two Glock pistols, a Beretta pistol, 30 live cartridges and four litres of castor oil, near Adalaj in Gandhinagar, Joshi told reporters.

On interrogation, Saiyed revealed that he was plotting to carry out terrorist activities and had collected the weapons from an isolated place at Kalol in Gandhinagar district.

The official said that Saiyed's handler, Abu Khadija, was a resident of Afghanistan associated with the ISKP (Islamic State Khorasan Province), and he has also been in contact with several individuals from Pakistan.

"To execute a major terrorist attack, Saiyed, who earned his MBBS degree in China, has been preparing a highly lethal poison named 'ricin'. He had already started necessary research, procured equipment and raw materials, and initiated the initial chemical processing," Joshi said. **PTI**

Counter-Intelligence Kashmir nabs nine during anti-terror raids across Valley

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 9

Nine people, including a woman, were detained on Sunday as Counter Intelligence Kashmir carried out raids across the Valley as part of its crackdown on online terror networks.

Acting on credible intelligence about the online glorification of terrorism and the radicalisation of youth, a spokesperson said the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) teams targeted 10 specific locations in Srinagar, Kulgam, Baramulla, Shopian, and Pulwama.

"In a sweeping crackdown on online terror networks, CIK launched coordinated raids across Kashmir Valley today, sending a decisive message against extremism and cyber abuse," the spokesperson said in a statement.

"This robust operation, conducted with support from local police, focused on individuals alleged to be misusing social media platforms to incite violence, spread anti-national propaganda, and foster communal hatred," he said. **PTI**

Panic spreads in Jaisalmer villages as part of missile falls during defence exercise

JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 9

A part of a missile fell during a routine defence training exercise at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district on Saturday, landing near a village outside the range limits, officials said.

No casualties or damage to property were reported.

According to defence sources, the incident occurred when a missile fired as part of a scheduled military drill veered off its intended target and fell about 500 metres from Bhadariya village, located near the Lathi area of Jaisalmer.

The impact caused a loud explosion that was heard kilometres away, triggering panic in nearby villages.

"It fell within the field firing range. It was during the routine exercise," Lathi SHO Rajendra Kumar said.

Soon after the incident, Army and Air Force teams, along with local police, reached the site and cordoned off the area. **PTI**

DC inspects road construction works in Hoshiarpur, orders strict quality checks

DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, November 9



Deputy Commissioner Aashika Jain on Sunday conducted an extensive inspection of ongoing road construction and repair works across Hoshiarpur district, in line with the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann. She was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) Nikas Kumar and senior officials from the concerned departments.

During her visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of multiple road projects being executed by the Municipal Corporation, particularly in the Bahadurpur area, where she inspected the quality of construction materials, drainage systems, and road alignment. She later visited various project sites in the Dasuya region, issuing on-the-spot directions to ensure timely completion and adherence to quality standards.

Reiterating the Punjab government's commitment to providing safe, durable, and well-connected road infrastructure, Jain emphasized that coordinated efforts were being made by the PWD, Punjab Mandi Board and Municipal Corporation to accelerate road development across the district.

She made it clear that no laxity would be tolerated in maintaining the quality and strength of the roads.

"Roads are the backbone of development, and any compromise in their quality directly affects the district's progress," the Deputy Commissioner stated, directing all departments to strictly follow government norms and technical guidelines while executing projects.

To ensure transparency and accountability, Jain announced the formation of monitoring committees at the sub-divisional level.

Legal awareness seminar and camp organised on 'Legal Services Day'

ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 9

A district-level legal awareness seminar and camp was organised at the Community Hall, Usmanpur near Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar on the occasion of 'Legal Services Day' under the directions of the Punjab State Legal Services Authority. The event was held under the supervision of District and Sessions Judge, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Priya Sood, and Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-Chief Judicial Magistrate and Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Dr Amandeep.

During the programme, Para Legal Volunteer Baldev Bharti addressed the gathering and shared detailed information about the significance of 'Legal Services Day' and the establishment of the Legal Services Authorities Act. He informed the participants that the Authority provides free legal aid to economically weaker and needy citizens to ensure that no one is deprived of justice due to lack of financial resources. As part of these services, the Authority appoints lawyers at no charge for eligible beneficiaries. He also highlighted that a toll-free helpline 15100 has been launched to facilitate access to free legal services.

Para Legal Volunteers Jarnail Singh Khurd and Kumari Simranjot Kaur Bharti also sensitized the public regarding emergency support helplines. They informed that incidents of crimes against children can be immediately reported at Child Helpline 1098, while women facing harassment or violence may seek assistance through Women Helpline 1091. For police-related emergencies, citizens can contact Helpline 112.

Additional District& Session Judge Aprajita Joshi told that a National Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held on 13 December 2025 at the New Court Complex, Nawanshahr, where long-pending cases will be taken up for settlement to reduce litigation burden and provide speedy justice.

On this occasion, the participants were also made aware of various welfare schemes aimed at improving the social and economic status of women, children, and workers. Informational material and pamphlets were distributed to enhance public awareness and encourage people to avail the benefits of legal aid and government welfare initiatives.

Three-day fest ECTOPIA-2025 concludes at DMCH

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 9

The second and concluding day of ECTOPIA 2025 at DMCH witnessed a vibrant showcase of talent, intellect, and cultural enthusiasm, perfectly resonating with this year's theme "Pixel and Pop."

The morning began with a series of engaging events including Brain Battle, Own the Floor, Feast Quest, and DMC Got Latent, that brought out the competitive spirit and creativity of participants. Each event saw enthusiastic involvement and impressive performances from students across different departments.

Bipin Gupta, Secretary DMCH Managing Society and Mukesh Verma congratulated to DMCH Cultural committee and students of organizing committee Ectopia 2025.

Dr G S Wander, Principal DMCH appreciated all the students for their active participation and beautifully portraying the theme "Pixel and Pop." Dr Monika Singla, Chairperson, DMCH Cultural Committee and Secretary delivered vote of thanks and concluded the three day fest. As the evening unfolded, the campus came alive with music, fashion, and drama. The soulful tunes of Raaga Band set the tone for a mesmerizing night, followed by the much-awaited Ramp It Up fashion show that lit up the stage with style and confidence. The event concluded on a high note with a captivating skit performance by the DMC Theatre Club, leaving the audience spellbound.

CP Ludhiana conducts major search operation in Sarabha Nagar area



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 9

Under the directions of Commissioner of Police Swapan Sharma and Deputy Commissioner of Police (City/Rural) Rupinder Singh, the Commissionerate Police Ludhiana carried out a large-scale search operation in the Sarabha Nagar area as part of a special drive to ensure public safety and strengthen law and order.

Providing details, Karnvir Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police–3, informed that the operation was conducted under the supervision of Jatinderpal Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police (West) Ludhiana, and Gur Ikbal Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Civil Lines), along with the Station House Officer (SHO) of Sarabha Nagar Police Station.

The police teams conducted extensive searches in local parks and parking areas, thoroughly checking parked vehicles. Vehicles that had been stationary for long periods were also verified using vehicle-tracking applications. During the operation, 75 challans were issued and 5 motorcycles were impounded for various violations. Special checking was also carried out at rickshaw and taxi stands to detect and deter any suspicious activity. The identities of suspicious individuals were verified, and the public was encouraged to cooperate fully with the police for maintaining safety and discipline.

Officials stated that such search and checking operations will continue in the coming days to ensure the safety of residents and to further strengthen the law and order situation in the city.

British Army delegation participates in Military Literature Festival in Chandigarh

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, November 9



As part of the ongoing British Army India Heritage Visit 2025, a 12-member delegation from the British Army attended the Military Literature Festiva in Chandigarh.

The visit underscored the deep and enduring ties between the Armed Forces of India and the United Kingdom, founded on shared military history, mutual respect, and continued professional cooperation. The delegation was led by Major Munish Chauhan, a surgeon in the British Army and Project Officer for the India Heritage Visit 2025, who highlighted the significance of such exchanges in fostering professional growth and strengthening bilateral defence relations.

Speaking at the event, Major Chauhan said, "The Military Literature Festival is not only a celebration of courage and history, but also a platform to reflect on leadership, resilience, and the shared values that unite soldiers across nations. It is a privilege for us to be part of this gathering that honours those who served with distinction and those who continue to serve with dedication."

The British Army delegation stated that their participation offered valuable opportunities for professional military development and for gaining insights into India's military traditions, operational experiences, and strategic scholarship.

A delegation spokesperson added, "The United Kingdom and India share a long-standing military relationship. We continue to collaborate across multiple domains including defence education, leadership development, and cultural exchange. This visit further strengthens those enduring bonds."

150 patients examined in camp on Gurpurab



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ambala, November 9

On the auspicious occasion of the 556th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, a free mega health check-up camp was organized at Healing Touch Hospital, Ambala, where over 150 patients were examined.

During the camp, a team of doctors from cardiology, neuroscience, cancer care, bone and joint diseases, gastro care, kidney diseases, general surgery, spine and brain surgery, general medicine, and urology examined the patients and offered necessary medical advice.

Various types of tests and counseling services including blood pressure, blood sugar, ECG, bone density tests, as well as diet and physiotherapy counseling were provided free of charge during the camp. The hospital also offered special concessions on other tests, enabling people to easily avail themselves of quality treatment.

Patiala Foundation marks 17th Foundation Day

BALINDER SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, November 9

Patiala Foundation, established on November 9, 2009, celebrated its 17th Foundation Day with an inspiring VIII Mega Heritage Walk under its iHERITAGE Initiative at Musafir Memorial Central State Library, Patiala.

This milestone event brought together an energetic cross-section of Patiala's civil society, with notable participation by Theatre Forum Patiala, PCMS Association Patiala, Book Lovers Retreat and Jagat Guru State Open University, Patiala, RGNUL Legal Aid Clinic, Thapar University, Punjabi University and other educational institutions, all reaffirming their unwavering commitment to the city's living heritage.

A highlight of the occasion was the unveiling of a cutting-edge digital resource: a virtual heritage walk specially designed for MMCSL by interns of Patiala Foundation under its iHERITAGE initiative. chief guest Anindita Mitra, Administrative Secretary, Department of Higher Education and School Education, Government of Punjab, dedicated the resource for community use, noting: "This new community resource is dedicated for the use and benefit of Patiala's citizens, offering broader access to the library's historic archives and legacy. Heritage belongs to each of us, and its preservation requires bold partnership.

Two booked under NDPS Act

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 9

In two separate incidents under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Punjab Police have registered cases following the recovery of a mobile phone from a jail inmate in Kapurthala and heroin from a youth in Mohali.

During a search operation conducted by the jail security staff, a prohibited mobile phone was recovered from an undertrial prisoner at the Central Jail, Kapurthala. The inmate was identified as Manjit Singh alias Baba, a resident of Chamiara village in District Jalandhar. During a routine checking of inmates by the internal jail guard, officials found an ACE company mobile phone containing a SIM card and battery, concealed in his clothes.

Following the recovery, a case was registered against the inmate under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act and the Prison Act for unlawful possession of a communication device inside the jail premises.

In a separate operation the same day, a police team in Mohali intercepted a suspicious individual during routine patrolling. The suspect, who was riding a black Yamaha R15 motorcycle (registration number PB09 AP 1239), reportedly panicked upon seeing the police and tried to dispose of a small polythene packet by throwing it on the roadside.

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Two youths crushed to death as iron pipes fall from moving vehicle in Phillaur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phillaur, November 9

In a tragic accident near village Mao Sahib under the Phillaur subdivision, two young men lost their lives after iron pipes loaded on a Tata Magic (commonly known as Chhota Haathi) fell onto their scooter on Saturday evening.

According to reports, the incident occurred when the rope used to secure the heavy iron rods snapped**, causing the pipes to tumble off the vehicle and crash onto the scooter that was approaching from behind.

The victims, identified as Saurav and Yuvam, both residents of village Nangal, were reportedly on their way to Bilga to get a kurta-pajama stitched when the accident took place. Local residents rushed to the spot and immediately informed the police.

Both injured youths were shifted to Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMC), Ludhiana, where doctors made efforts to save their lives, but they succumbed to their injuries during treatment.

Police said the driver of the Tata Magic, bearing registration number PB-08-EF-6529, fled the scene after the mishap, abandoning the vehicle. A case has been registered against the unidentified driver, and efforts are underway to trace and arrest him.

Ferozepur Border Marathon–2025 organised

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, November 9

The historic border town of Ferozepur, known as the Land of Martyrs, witnessed an inspiring spectacle of unity and patriotism as the Indian Army's Golden Arrow Division successfully conducted the 'Ferozepur Border Marathon 2025'. The event, held with the twin objectives of honouring India's martyrs and combating the growing menace of drug abuse, drew overwhelming participation and acclaim from across the nation.

The marathon was flagged off by Maj Gen RS Manral, SM, VSM, General Officer Commanding, Golden Arrow Division, in the presence of distinguished guests including Olympian Pargat Singh (Padma Shri & Arjuna Awardee), Ranvir Singh Awla, Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi, Virender Mohan Singhal, Sameer Mittal, Anirudh Gupta, Prof Jagmohan Singh, Col Krishan Badhwar (Retd) Ultra Marathon Runner; and Maj DP Singh (Retd), India's renowned Blade Runner. Senior civil administration officials and representatives of Punjab Police also graced the occasion, extending their wholehearted support to the noble cause.

Thousands of runners from diverse walks of life – including elite athletes, serving soldiers, youth influencers, and patriotic citizens – came together to reaffirm a collective pledge for a drug-free and united India. Set against the symbolic backdrop of Ferozepur's proud heritage, the marathon route passed through locations of deep national significance.

Participants ran past the historic Ferozepur Fort and culminated their run at the National Martyrs Memorial, Hussainiwala – the sacred resting place of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Sukhdev, and Shaheed Rajguru. The atmosphere was charged with emotion and reverence as participants paid floral tributes to the immortal heroes.

Foolproof security arrangements for Tarn Taran bypoll: CEO

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9



Comprehensive security measures are in place for the upcoming bypoll in the Tarn Taran assembly, scheduled for November 11, Punjab Chief Electoral Officer Sibin C announced on Sunday.

He further said 12 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have been deployed in the assembly constituency, marking one of the largest CAPF deployments ever made by the Election Commission for bypolls.

According to the plan, all 114 polling station locations, encompassing 222 polling stations, will be secured by CAPF personnel.

In addition to the CAPF presence, all polling stations will be equipped with CCTV cameras and webcasting facilities, which will be monitored closely by the returning officer, the district election officer, and the chief electoral officer, under the overall supervision of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The CEO confirmed that all essential minimum facilities have been provided at each of the 222 polling stations.

Furthermore, critical polling station locations will be overseen by 46 micro observers, according to an official release.

The CEO confirmed that all essential minimum facilities have been provided at each of the 222 polling stations. He emphasised that any violations of law and order will be dealt with strictly by the election authorities. He urged voters to exercise their right to vote freely and without fear.

Polling will take place on November 11, from 7 am to 6 pm, with results expected to be announced on November 14.

The Tarn Taran assembly seat fell vacant following the death of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Kashmir Singh Sohal in June.

350TH MARTYRDOM ANNIVERSARY OF SRI GURU TEGH BAHADUR JI

Light and Sound shows to be organised in Amritsar, Ferozepur, Mohali and Sangrur on November 11: Sond

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9



Punjab Tourism and Cultural Affairs Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond on Saturday announced that the next phase of Light and Sound Shows, dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, will be held on November 11 at Amritsar, Ferozepur, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), and Sangrur. These shows are being organized by the Punjab Government as part of the ongoing series of events commemorating the sacred occasion.

He said that the show at Amritsar's Mela Ground, Ranjit Avenue, will be attended by Public Works Minister Harbhajan Singh. In Ferozepur, the event will take place at the Cantonment Stadium, where Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr Baljit Kaur will grace the occasion. The Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) event at Saras Mela Ground will see the presence of Education, Information and Public Relations Minister Harjot Singh Bains and Member of Parliament Malvinder Singh Kang. At Sangrur's Ranbir College, Finance, Planning, Excise and Taxation Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema, Employment Generation, Skill Development and Training Minister Aman Arora, Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal, and Member of Parliament Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer will attend.

On November 14, shows will be held at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, in the presence of Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond, Power, Industries and Commerce Minister Sanjeev Arora, and Housing and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian. On the same day, Defence Services Welfare Minister Mohinder Bhagat will attend the event at Guru Nanak Stadium, Kapurthala, while Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian will attend the show at Guru Gobind Singh Stadium, Sri Muktsar Sahib. At Baba Kala Mehar Stadium, Barnala, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, Minister Aman Arora, and MP Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer will grace the occasion.

350TH MARTYRDOM ANNIVERSARY OF SRI GURU TEGH BAHADUR JI

Kirtan darbars and spiritual congregations at shrines immersing devotees in divine ambience

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9

In heartfelt respect to the supreme sacrifice of Hind Di Chadar Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the Punjab Government has rolled out an extensive calendar of Kirtan Samagams and spiritual congregations across historic Gurudwaras associated with the sacred footsteps (Charan-chhoh) of the Ninth Sikh Guru. The month-long events which has begun on November 1 and continue till November 25, resonating with the Guru's message of self-sacrifice, peace and communal harmony.

An official spokesperson said that the commemorative journey has entered its mid-phase with spiritually charged programmes, bringing together Sangats in large numbers across various districts. Giving further details, he said that on November 10, Kirtan Samagams will be held at Gurudwara Sahib Seel (Patiala), Gurudwara Sahib Lang (Patiala) and Gurudwara Patshahi Nauvin, Jakhwali (Fatehgarh Sahib). The following day, November 11, holy congregations will take place at Gurudwara Sahib Harpalpur and Gurudwara Sahib Agaul (Patiala) alongside Gurudwara Sri Nauvi Patshahi, Kalour (Fatehgarh Sahib).

The spiritual fervour will continue on November 12 with gatherings at Gurudwara Sahib Kale Ke, Sri Amritsar Sahib; Gurudwara Sahib Magar Sahib (Patiala) and Gurudwara Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, Bassi Pathana (Fatehgarh Sahib). The same day, devotees will assemble at Gurudwara Sri Manji Sahib Nauvin Patshahi, Mullowal (Sangrur) and Bhai Maha Singh Diwan Hall, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

At these sacred places, Gurbani Kirtan, Katha Vichar Samagams and Ardas will immerse devotees in the divine teachings of Guru Sahib, whose unparalleled sacrifice for the protection of faith and human dignity continues to inspire humanity, he added.

YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH

On day 253, Punjab Police nab 106 drug smugglers with 700gm heroin, ₹58 k drug money

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 253rd day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 303 locations on Sunday leading to the arrest of 106 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 35,925 in 253 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 700 grams heroin, 3050 intoxicant pills and Rs 57,910 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 900 police personnel, under the supervision of 70 gazetted officers have conducted 303 raids across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 322 suspicious persons during the day-long operation.

Over 120 Police teams, comprising over 900 police personnel, under the supervision of 70 gazetted officers have conducted 303 raids across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 322 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 32 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

Raja Warring's mockery of Sikh Kakars deeply shameful; Sri Akal Takht must take strict notice: Malvinder Kang

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Member of Parliament Malvinder Singh Kang and MLA Dr Inderbir Singh Nijjar strongly reacted to the incident in which Punjab Congress President Amarinder Singh Raja Warring mocked the hair (juras) of two Sikh children. They said that Warring's act has deeply wounded the sentiments of the entire Sikh community and that he deserves to face a social boycott.

MP Malvinder Singh Kang launched a direct attack on Raja Warring over his viral video, asking what problem the Punjab Congress President has with Sikhs. He said that almost every day, Congress makes statements or commits acts against Sikhs, the Guru Sahiban, or dalit leaders like Buta Singh, which deeply hurt Sikh sentiments. Kang said that the way Raja Warring publicly mocked the juras of two Sikh children today is completely intolerable. He reminded that these juras and hair are sacred Kakars bestowed upon Sikhs by the Guru Sahiban.

He further said that on one hand, Warring claims that he is a follower of the Guru, but on the other hand, his mindset appears to be anti-Sikh. A mistake can happen once, but repeating such acts regularly proves that he harbors hatred for the Sikh Panth in his heart, a hatred that has now extended even to innocent children. Kang warned that the Sikh community will never forgive those who mock the sacred Kakars. He added that Congress has been exhibiting its anti-Sikh mentality for the past five decades, but the people of Punjab will soon give them a befitting reply and teach them a lesson.

INTACH hosts quiz on culture, heritage

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, November 9

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) conducted a state-level cultural heritage quiz at Army Public School, Beas to engage students with India's rich cultural legacy. Maj Gen Balwinder Singh, INTACH Punjab State Convener, highlighted that the annual quiz aims to instil awareness of cultural heritage among the younger generation.

He added that the top-performing team at the state level will represent Punjab in the national-level competition in Delhi. Over the past two years, Spring Dale Public School, Amritsar, has consistently won the national trophy.

This year, students from 11 districts of Punjab participated: Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Sangrur, Faridkot, Hoshiarpur, Bathinda, Malerkotla, Patiala, Jalandhar, and Kapurthala. The competition follows a three-stage format. At the school level, teams from classes 7 to 10 are selected by their respective schools. The district-level round involves written and oral rounds conducted by INTACH district conveners, generally with 10 to 15 participating schools.

OPEN DUMPING OF GARBAGE

Night patrolling continues; civic body teams issue over 100 challans to violators in last week

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 9



Tightening noose around the violators, Municipal Corporation (MC) teams continue night patrolling in the city and challans are being issued to the residents over open dumping of garbage.

Working on the directions of Mayor Principal Inderjit Kaur and MC Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal, the teams have been keeping check day and night and over 100 challans have been issued to the violators in different parts of the city.

Challans were also issued to over 16 violators on Ferozepur road, near Pavilion mall, Middha chowk among other areas on Saturday night.

Mayor Principal Inderjit Kaur and MC Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal have appealed to the residents to stop dumping waste in open otherwise strict action would be taken against the violators.

Urging the residents to stop burning the waste too, the officials stated that challans of upto Rs 25000 would be issued to the violators, if anyone is caught burning the waste. MC Commissioner Dachalwal stated that apart from issuing challans, strict legal action including FIR would also be lodged over repeated violations by residents.

Dachalwal further stated that the civic body will soon launch a helpline number with the help of which the residents would also be able to submit complaints regarding open dumping of garbage.

Tarn Taran bypoll: ECI asks DGP to review all FIRs registered during poll code period

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9

Ahead of polling in Tarn Taran assembly bypoll, the Punjab chief electoral officer has written to the DGP, asking him to review the alleged wrongful registration of FIRs during the period of the Model Code of Conduct and take necessary action within 36 hours.

The direction came after the Election Commission suspended the district's Senior Superintendent of Police Ravjot Kaur Grewal on Saturday.

The action against the IPS officer came following a complaint by Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal who had accused Grewal of using the police to lodge false FIRs against his party leaders and workers to stop them from campaigning for the November 11 bypoll.

In a letter to the Punjab director general of police (DGP) on Saturday, the chief electoral officer (CEO) pointed out that the EC suspended Grewal after taking cognisance of the serious lapses in impartial conduct during the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) period.

"The report submitted by the police observer to the Election Commission of India (ECI) also highlighted that there had been coordinated and concerted actions by the state police, involving not just Tarn Taran police but also those from the neighbouring districts like Amritsar, Batala, Moga and other adjoining districts, raising serious concerns about impartiality of law enforcement during the election period," said the letter. PTI

Canal-based water supply project achieves 20 pc progress; work at WTP site in full swing

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 9



With the civic body committed to ensure potable water supply to every household in the city, the world bank (WB) and AIIB funded canal based water supply project Ludhiana Surface Water Supply Scheme (LSWSS) has achieved 20 pc physical progress within eight months of its commencement.

Reviewing the progress under the project recently, Municipal Corporation (MC) Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal stated that different components under the project are moving on at a fast pace including the work to establish a world class water treatment plant (WTP) in village Bilga (near Sahnewal).

Stating that strict orders have been issued to the contractor firm to complete the project within the stipulated time period, the civic body officials said that recently the Additional Chief Secretary, Local Bodies department Tejveer Singh had also reviewed the project and appreciated the pace of works.

A flagship initiative of the Government of Punjab, the project is being implemented by the Municipal Corporation Ludhiana (MCL) with technical support from the Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company (PMIDC). It is jointly financed by the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The first phase of the project has a budget of Rs 1,305 crore, with an additional Rs 154 crore earmarked for 10 years of operations and maintenance and Rs 84 crore reserved for quality assurance.

MC Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal stated that officially launched on 25 February 2025, the project has achieved 20 pc physical progress as of now.

SC to hear MP Amritpal Singh's plea challenging detention under NSA today

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Monday a petition filed by Punjab's Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh challenging his continued detention under the National Security Act (NSA), while he remains lodged in Assam's high-security Dibrugarh Central Jail. According to the causelist published on the apex court's website, a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N.V. Anjaria will take up the matter on November 10. The plea argued that restraining an elected Member of Parliament from performing his constitutional duties constituted a violation of his fundamental rights as well as the collective rights of his electorate. Amritpal Singh, the chief of 'Waris Punjab De', was arrested on March 18, 2023, following a crackdown, and subsequently shifted to Dibrugarh jail under NSA provisions.

Despite being incarcerated, the 31-year-old Sikh radical won the Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha seat as an Independent candidate by a margin of 1,97,120 votes over Congress rival Kulbir Singh Zira. He was briefly granted a four-day parole to take oath in the Lok Sabha, a move cleared after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) offered no objection. His case has drawn comparisons to other incarcerated leaders permitted to take the oath, including Engineer Rashid from Jammu and Kashmir. IANS

WW 1 Sikh heroes remembered at Sarwali village memorial

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, November 9

A remembrance ceremony was organised in Gurdaspur in memory of bravehearts of World War 1 (WW1) from Sarwali village, including Havildar Kala Singh of the 45 Rattray Sikhs (now 3 Sikh Battalion) and Sepoy Hazara Singh of the same battalion on their martyrdom anniversary. The event was also held to mark the 107th Armistice Day of the First World War, during which floral tributes and homage were offered to the martyrs.

Major General Balwinder Singh, VSM (retd), convener, INTACH Punjab, who addressed participant at the event, said the legacy of Sikh soldiers of WWI remained invaluable and intangible heritage of Punjabis. A ceremonial guard was presented by the 4 Sikh (Saragarhi) Battalion of the Sikh Regiment under the command of Subedar Harpreet Singh, representing the Station Commander, Tibri Cantonment, on the occasion.

"The brave soldiers of the Indian Army which was the British Indian Army at the time, who laid down their lives during the war are the priceless heritage of our nation and must always be remembered with reverence. At a time when immigration from Punjab is increasing, youth and all responsible sections of society must rethink and work collectively to shape a better present and future," said Maj Gen Balwinder Singh.

17th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme concludes

- 200 YOUTH CREATED MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN CHANDIGARH, CELEBRATING CULTURAL UNITY AND THE SPIRIT OF INSPIRATION.



A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9

The 17th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, organized by Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Chandigarh, concluded on Sunday. The programme was held from 2nd to 8th November 2025 at the Department of Youth Welfare, Panjab University, Chandigarh, with the objective of promoting national unity, cultural understanding, and personal development among tribal youth from different parts of the country.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Mahendra Singh, Joint Director Sports, Chandigarh Administration, as the Chief Guest. He addressed a gathering of 200 tribal youth participants from Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Jharkhand.

In his inspiring address, Mahendra Singh extended best wishes to all participants for a bright future. He urged the youth to imbibe the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and to play an active role in the nation's development. Emphasizing that the youth are the true strength of the nation, he encouraged them to move forward with confidence and determination.

A major highlight of the closing ceremony was the award distribution segment. Cultural teams and debate winners who showcased outstanding performances during the week-long program were felicitated by the Chief Guest.

Throughout the week, participants had the opportunity to explore the educational, technical, and cultural dimensions of Chandigarh, broadening their knowledge and deepening their understanding of each other's traditions. Organized by Mera Yuva Bharat, Chandigarh, the program proved to be a significant step toward connecting tribal youth with mainstream development opportunities and nurturing their leadership potential. The 200 participants utilized this platform to gain knowledge, exchange experiences, and build lasting friendships.

PU starts process for Senate elections

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9



HIGHLIGHTS

- SUBMITS DRAFT SCHEDULE FOR APPROVAL OF PU CHANCELLOR & VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA
- VC APPEALS FOR PEACE ON CAMPUS

Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh has initiated the process for Senate elections under the previous mode of Senate. The university on Sunday submitted the detailed schedule for the forthcoming Senate elections to the Chancellor and Vice-President of India for approval, in accordance with the provisions of the Panjab University Act, 1947 and the University Calendar, Volume I (2022).

PU Vice-Chancellor Professor Renu Vig has appealed to all students and campus organisations to withdraw their proposed protest and help maintain peace and normalcy on the campus. With the formal initiation of the Senate election process now underway, there is no place for doubts or uncertainty. Students and all stakeholders have been urged to cooperate in ensuring the smooth conduct of academic and administrative activities in the University.

The Deans Student Welfare (DSWs) and Warden today held a meeting with representatives from around 20 student organisations. During the meeting, DSW informed the students that the request for approval of the Senate election schedule has been sent to the Hon'ble Vice-President's Office. He urged the students to lift their dharna and call off the proposed mass protest of November 10, 2025. During the meeting, the students were apprised that the University has already initiated the Senate election process by formally submitting the schedule for statutory approval. It was clarified that the earlier delay in notification was due to the Senate reform process then under consideration. The DSW further explained that previous requests for approval of the Senate election schedule got delayed owing to the proposed reforms in the governing bodies of the University. With complete clarity now achieved, the current request, however, is expected to be approved within a definite timeframe.

In conclusion, when students did not agree to withdraw the protest call for November 10, 2025, the DSW appealed for a peaceful demonstration. The PU Bachao Morcha stated that it would take responsibility for maintaining order during the protest.

Gunshots fired at hotel employee in Zirakpur

- THREE SUCH INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE PAST NINE DAYS

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Zirakpur, November 8

In a daylight attack on the Zirakpur-Patiala National Highway, unidentified bike-borne miscreants fired five gunshots at Gagan, son of the owner of MM Crown hotel.

Victim Gagan identified one masked youth as Shubham Pandit of Yamunanagar. Two cars parked outside were also damaged. After the incident, miscreant fled the spot even as panic spread in the area.

Firing incidents have become common in Mohali district with three incidents have been reported in the past nine days.

Locals immediately informed the police after which SHO and police personnel reached the spot and began investigation. Cops are scanning the CCTV footage of the area and questioning the hotel officials.

Zirakpur SHO Satinder Singh said, "The incident seems to be a fallout of an old rivalry. We are verifying the fact of the matter."

On Thursday night, two bike-borne men fired 25 rounds at a Phase-7 house and damaged three cars parked outside. Kala Rana gang claimed the responsibility for the attack.

PHDCCI organises roundtable on 'Happiness and Well-Being at Workplace 2025'



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9

Haryana Chapter, PHDCCI in association with HappifyU organized a roundtable on "Happiness and Well-Being at Workplace 2025" at PHD House, Sector 31, Chandigarh. The session brought together thought leaders, HR professionals, psychologists, and organizational heads to deliberate on the importance of mental wellness and holistic happiness at workplaces.

Adv. Lokesh Jain, Co-Chair, Haryana State Chapter, PHDCCI, emphasized that employee happiness and emotional well-being have become critical drivers of productivity, engagement, and retention. Bharti Sood, Senior Regional Director, PHDCCI, highlighted the growing need for emotional intelligence and mental resilience in rapidly changing work cultures.

Alok Saxena, Co-Founder, HappifyU, underlined the significance of structured well-being programs and explained how technology-enabled platforms can help organizations monitor and improve employee happiness. Mr. Rajneesh Singh, CEO, Simpli Group, shared that leadership transparency and open communication play an instrumental role in nurturing motivation and a sense of belonging among employees. Delivering the vote of thanks, Divya Shah, Co-Founder, HappifyU, expressed gratitude to PHDCCI for creating a meaningful platform to promote happiness and well-being as core pillars of organizational excellence.

The first panel discussion, titled "Challenges Faced by Employees at Workplace," was moderated by . Alok Saxena. Speakers included Purva Chiber, Director – People & Culture, Greystar Services India Pvt. Ltd., who discussed the importance of proactive HR interventions; Aarun Raghav, Vice President – HR, ER, Admin & CSR, Mahindra & Mahindra Swaraj Division, who emphasized the need for flexible and empathetic workplace policies; and Tanushree Gupta, Founder, Think People First, who urged organizations to move beyond symbolic gestures and implement authentic mental well-being practices.

PGIMER hosts 65th convocation of National Academy of Medical Sciences

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9



"The spirit of medical science must always be anchored in ethics. In an age where technology can outpace morality, where commercial pressures can blur the line between service and profit, your integrity will be your compass," said Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh, Governor of Haryana, delivering the Convocation Address at the 65th Convocation of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), hosted by the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, on Saturday.

The event marked a moment of pride and reflection in India's medical academic journey, bringing together approximately 300 leading physicians, researchers, and academicians to celebrate knowledge, excellence, and service to humanity. Prof. Ghosh graced the ceremony as Chief Guest, with Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, as Guest of Honour. Dr. Digambar Behera, President, NAMS (India), alongwith Prof. Vivek Lal, Director, PGIMER, Dr. Radha Kanta Ratho, Dean (Academics), PGIMER, Chandigarh, senior faculty, and NAMS Fellows and Members from across the country.

Congratulating the new Fellows and Members, Prof. Ghosh urged them to uphold compassion and conscience as the bedrock of their profession. "Every prescription you write, every diagnosis you make, and every experiment you conduct must be guided by your moral compass," he said. Lauding NAMS as "the moral and academic conscience of India's medical fraternity," he reminded the gathering that the physician's duty extends beyond science to service, humility, and empathy.

NAMSCON 2025: PGIMER hosts CME on 'Sleep Disorders and Hands-on Workshop on Allergy'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9



The Department of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, PGIMER, Chandigarh, under the aegis of National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), organised a Continuing Medical Education (CME) on "Sleep-Related Breathing Disorders (SRBD)"* and a *Hands-on Workshop on Allergy as part of the 65th Annual Conference of NAMSCON 2025.

Coordinated by Prof. Sandeep Bansal, Department of Otolaryngology, PGIMER—an internationally recognised Sleep Surgeon—the event drew participation from distinguished faculty and delegates representing leading medical institutions across India. The CME, accredited with 4 PMC credit points, focused on enhancing diagnostic and therapeutic expertise in managing sleep-related and allergic airway disorders through interactive lectures and demonstrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Vivek Lal, Director, PGIMER, underscored the growing burden of sleep disorders in India and the urgent need for awareness and collaborative care as he stated, "Sleep deprivation and disordered breathing have emerged as a silent epidemic with far-reaching health consequences," noted Prof. Lal. "At PGIMER, our emphasis is on deepening research, fostering multidisciplinary understanding, and translating scientific evidence into better patient outcomes."

Prof. Sandeep Bansal, in his remarks, highlighted the need for early recognition and specialised interventions for patients with sleep-related and allergic conditions. as he stated, "Sleep-disordered breathing often remains underdiagnosed and undertreated," he said. "Through such CMEs and workshops, we aim to equip clinicians with the skills and insights to address these conditions effectively and improve quality of life for patients."

The academic sessions brought together eminent experts, including Padma Shri Prof. Mohan Kameswaran (MERF, Chennai), Dr. Rahul Modi (Hiranandani Hospital, Mumbai), Dr. Vijayakrishnan (MERF, Chennai), and Dr. Srinivas Kishore (AIG, Hyderabad), who discussed advances in the pathophysiology, evaluation, and management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and related disorders.

Live show of poetess & singer organised by HAP Media and Aryans Group at Mohali

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, November 9

An enchanting evening of music and poetry titled "Dour-e-Zindagi" was organized by HAP Media in collaboration with Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura (near Chandigarh) here. Vimal K. Setia, Director, Information and Public Relations, Punjab, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, attended as the Guest of Honour. Popular Punjabi singer Param also marked his special presence, adding melodic splendour to the evening.

The event marked the first-ever live performance of the acclaimed poetess and singer Roop Kaur Kooner, jointly organized by HAP Media and Aryans Group. Roop Kaur Kooner enthralled the audience with her soulful poetry and melodious renditions, seamlessly blending rhythm, emotion, and lyrical depth into a truly mesmerizing experience.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mandeep Kaur W/o Harkirat Singh Sandhu R/o 12/10, Type-12, P.A.U. Campus, P.A.U., Ludhiana have changed my name to Mandeep Kaur Sandhu

I Simran W/o Sahil Kashyap R/o 93, Pink City, St. No. 4, Near Sant Nagar, Kakowal Road, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana have changed my name to Simran Kashyap

I Harpreet Kaur Ghuman W/o Gurwinder Singh R/o H.No.74, Urban Estate Phase 3, Lata Green Enclave, Patiala have changed my name to Harpreet Kaur

I Tehil Singh Alias Tahal Singh S/o Naurang Singh R/o Thaggan Patti, Badrukhan Distt Sangrur I have known as both names

I Satnam Singh Hehar S/o Mehar Singh R/o Village Morthikri Tehsil Dera Bassi, Distt SAS Nagar have changed my name to Satnam Singh

I Shivani Chabbra W/o Gourav Mehta R/o Street No 13 Back Side Railway Diggi Rampura Phul Bathinda Have Changed my name from Shivani Chabbra To Shivani Mehta after marriage

I, Jaspreet D/o Baljit Singh R/o VPO Ajnoha Tehsil Garhshankar district Hoshiarpur Punjab(India)have changed my name from Jaspreet to Jaspreet Jaspreet. All Concerned Note please

I, Baljeet Kaur W/O Gurpreet Singh R/O Village Alamgir Ludhiana changed my name to Baljit Kaur.

I, Pradeep S/O Joginder Pal Sharma R/O H.no. 13 Pvt Colony Inside Janta Enclave Basant Avenue Ludhiana changed my name to Pardeep.

I, Parmjit Kaur W/O Guriqbal Singh R/O Village Jodhan Ludhiana changed my name to Paramjit (Given name) Kaur (Surname).

I, Imtiaz S/O Mohammad Jamaluddin R/o H.no. 4645/4 Daba Road Khan Tailor Kwality Chowk Shimlapuri (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Mohammad Imtiaz.

I, Amrik Pal S/o Baldev Raj R/o B-23 MCH 611 Near Ravi Dass Mandir Ravi Dass Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146001 have changed my name from Amrik Pal to Given Name as Amrik & Surname as Pal. All concerned please note.

I, Dinesh Duggal S/o Gurbachan Lal R/o H.No.121, Gali No.8, Shiv Nagar, Cantt Road, Garha, Jalandhar, Punjab-144022 have changed my name from Dinesh Duggal to Dinesh. All concerned please note.

I, Vijay Kumar Chahal S/o Kabal Ram R/o VPO. Chitti, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name as Vijay Kumar Chahal to Vijay Kumar. All concerned please note.

I, Kimti Lal S/o Janak Raj R/o House No. 109, Street No. 7, Kala Sangha Road, Green Avenue, Basti Sheikh, Jalandhar, Punjab-144002 have changed my name from Kimti Lal to Kimti Singh Sandhu. All concerned please note.

I, Jyoti W/O Yugraj Kumar R/O H.No. 103, Gali No.2. Bachint Nagar, PO Nurpur, Jalandhar-144012, Punjab have changed my name from Jyoti to Jyoti Kumari after my marriage. All concerned please note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Phool Chand S/o Kedar Yadav R/o Near Vishvkarma Mandir New Durga Colony Dhandari Khurd, Dhandari Kalan Ludhiana declare that my son Shivam Kumar is out of my Control so I disown him from my movable and immovable properties anybody deal with him at their own risk.

ਮੈਂ, ਜਗਦੀਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਨਾਜਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਜੰਡਿਆਲਾ, ਪੱਤੀ ਰਾਮ ਕੀ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਫਿਲੌਰ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਜਲੰਧਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਹਰਮਨਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਨ ਮਰਜੀ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ ਵਾ ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਫੇ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਦਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

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General Surgery PGIMER and Vascular Society of India organise Walkathon 2025



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9

An awareness event about amputation prevention by Vascular Society of India (VSI) was conducted in Chandigarh to promote vascular health and public awareness.

The walk began from PGI Karoin Block and concluded at Sukhna Lake, covering approximately 5 km. The event was flagged off by Professor L. Kaman, Head, Department of General Surgery, PGIMER, Chandigarh.

The walk saw enthusiastic participation from vascular surgeons Dr. Ajay Savlania, Dr Ravul Jindal, Dr Vishal Attri and Dr. Ankur Aggarwal, along with enthusiastic participants from PGI, Fortis Hospital, Chandigarh University and Ryat Bahra Institute along with with more than 500 participants from across the city.

> The walk began from PGI Karoin Block and concluded at Sukhna Lake, covering approximately 5 km. The event was flagged off by Professor L. Kaman, Head, Department of General Surgery, PGIMER, Chandigarh.

The event was graced by Mr. Bhupinder Singh Babbal, the celebrated two-time IFA Award-winning singer, best known for his hit "Arjan Vailly" from the movie Animal. He captivated the audience with his live performance and inspiring message on health and amputation prevention.

Thrilling matches and impressive wins mark 5th day of Sardar Bhagwant Singh Memorial Basketball Trophy

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9



The fifth day of the Sardar Bhagwant Singh Memorial Basketball Trophy witnessed exciting and action-packed matches across various categories, with players displaying remarkable skill and sportsmanship to secure victories for their teams.

In the Girls Under-10 category, Learning Paths School (LPS), Mohali defeated Vivek High School, Chandigarh 11–7. Chahat from the winning team put up an outstanding performance, scoring all 7 points, while Rehmat contributed 5 points for her team.

In the Boys Under-12 category, YPS, Mohali outplayed St. Kabir, Chandigarh 19–4. Samarth led YPS with 13 points, while Rajbir scored 4 points for St. Kabir.

In the Girls Under-12 category, YPS, Mohali beat DPS, Chandigarh 27–6. Leana from YPS scored 16 points, while Tiana contributed 4 points for DPS.

In the Girls Under-14 category, GNPS, Chandigarh registered a thrilling 20–8 win over Saupins School, Chandigarh. Priyanka scored 12 points for GNPS, while Nayasha made 4 points for Saupins. In another match of the same category, Sacred Heart, Chandigarh defeated Manav Mangal School, Mohali 32–4. Vanshika from Sacred Heart scored 6 points, while Amreen scored 4 points for Manav Mangal.

In the Boys Under-14 category, Strawberry Fields School triumphed over KV High Ground School, Chandigarh 32–20. Riyansh was the top scorer for Strawberry Fields with 15 points, while Anshum scored 10 points for KV High Ground.

In the Boys Under-17 category, Saupins School, Chandigarh beat St. Joseph, Chandigarh 53–42. Samarth once again shone for Saupins with 22 points, while Tanay scored 16 for St. Joseph. In another fixture, Vivek High School, Chandigarh outperformed GNPS, Chandigarh 34–10. Aditya scored 14 points for the winners, while Manan added 4 points for GNPS.

In the Girls Under-17 category, KV High Ground School, Chandigarh recorded a one-sided 29–17 victory over Vivek High School, Chandigarh. Ritika top-scored with 10 points for KV High Ground, while Ayesha from Vivek High scored 15 points.

Ludhiana Management Association hosts industry interaction session with Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 9



The Ludhiana Management Association (LMA) organized an Industry Interaction Session at Radisson Hotel, Ludhiana, featuring Sanjeev Arora, Cabinet Minister, Government of Punjab (Industries & Commerce, Investment Promotion, NRI Affairs, and Power), as the chief guest and Keynote Speaker.

The event began with the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by a welcome address by Lokesh Jain, General Secretary, LMA, who also moderated the session. Munish Avasthi extended a formal welcome gesture to the Minister. In his keynote address, Arora lauded LMA's contribution in fostering constructive dialogue between industry and government. He announced that Punjab will align its thrust sectors with national priorities and offer additional incentives to drive industrial growth. Highlighting the importance of synergy between agriculture and industry, he emphasized collaboration for productivity enhancement and sustainable development.

Discussing environmental initiatives, the Minister shared that substantial progress has been achieved in dairy waste management and the revitalization of Buddha Nala, with new biogas plants planned across the state.

He also elaborated on the Punjab Development Commission's work and the formation of sector-wise industrial committees to ensure effective representation of industry stakeholders. The state government, he said, aims to roll out sector-specific industrial policies by January 2026.

Arora further announced over Rs 250 crore investment to upgrade research and development (R&D) centers across Punjab, adding that the state's landlocked geography should not hinder industrial expansion. He confirmed that Halwara Airport is fully ready and awaiting final operational clearance.

The Minister also spoke about enhanced Centre–State coordination on infrastructure projects and upcoming initiatives such as a Private Industrial Park Policy and incentives for modernization of existing industries.

All arrangements finalised for Tarn Taran by-election on Nov 11: DC reviews preparations

INDER PAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, November 9



Ahead of the Tarn Taran Vidhan Sabha by-election scheduled for November 11, the district administration has completed all necessary arrangements as per the directions of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Rahul, IAS, chaired a review meeting with group nodal officers at the District Administrative Complex to assess the preparedness for the upcoming polls. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Rajdeep Singh Brar, Returning Officer Gurmeet Singh, Assistant Commissioner Karanveer Singh, Election Tehsildar Arminderpal Singh and other concerned officials.

Presiding over the meeting, District Election Officer Rahul said that all instructions issued by the Election Commission are being implemented in a phased manner 72 hours, 48 hours, and 24 hours before polling day. He informed that election campaigning will cease at 5 PM on November 9, and after this deadline, no rallies or public meetings will be allowed. However, candidates may continue door-to-door campaigning while adhering strictly to ECI guidelines.

He further directed that any election advertisements intended for publication in newspapers on November 10 and 11 must be pre-certified by the District-Level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC). He also clarified that opinion polls and surveys are strictly prohibited in all media forms until the completion of the voting process on November 11.

Highlighting the security arrangements, the DC said that in view of the district's proximity to the international border, stringent measures have been taken to ensure peaceful polling. A total of 12 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have been deployed across the Vidhan Sabha constituency, covering 114 polling station locations and 222 polling booths.

CCTV cameras and web-casting will be installed at all polling stations for real-time monitoring by the Election Commission, District Election Officer, Returning Officer and Chief Electoral Officer. Additionally, 46 micro observers have been assigned to sensitive polling locations to ensure smooth conduct of the election.

Ludhiana Police arrest two robbery accused; recover seven mobile phones and motorcycle



GURKIRPAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 9

In a major breakthrough against street crimes, the Ludhiana Commissionerate Police arrested two accused involved in robbery incidents and recovered seven stolen mobile phones along with one motorcycle used in the crimes.

The arrests were made under the directions of Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, Swapan Sharma, IPS, and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rural), Rupinder Singh, IPS, as part of a special drive to curb snatching and robbery cases across the city.

Giving details, Sameer Verma, PPS, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police–I, Ludhiana, and Anil Kumar Bhanot, PPS, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Central), said that a police team led by Inspector Gurjit Singh, SHO, Police Station Division No. 2, apprehended the accused during a naka (checkpoint) operation near Children's Park, backside Old Jail, Ludhiana,

The accused have been identified as Shiv Kumar, son of Jagraj Singh, resident of Chhidi Chowk, Jamalpur, Ludhiana, and Rohit Sharma, son of Yashpal Sharma, resident of Kuliawal, Jamalpur, Ludhiana.

From their possession, the police recovered seven mobile phones of various brands and one motorcycle allegedly used in the robberies.

A case (FIR No. 131 dated 07.11.2025) has been registered under Sections 304(2) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Police Station Division No. 2, Ludhiana.

The accused were produced before the court, which granted two days' police remand for further interrogation.

Police officials added that Shiv Kumar has a previous case registered under the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway to trace their past criminal record and involvement in other similar crimes.

Ferozepur to host Light and Sound show on 'Hind Di Chadar'; MLA appeals for public participation

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, November 9



A special Light and Sound show dedicated to the supreme sacrifice of Hind Di Chadar Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib Ji, along with Bhai Mati Das, Bhai Sati Das and Bhai Diala Ji, will be organised on November 11 at 5 PM at the Cantonment Board Stadium in Ferozepur Cantonment. This was stated by Ferozepur Urban MLA Ranbir Singh Bhullar, who has appealed to the residents of the district to attend the event with their families in large numbers.

MLA Bhullar said that this unique programme aims to remind people of the unparalleled sacrifices made by Guru Sahib and the revered martyrs, while also inspiring the younger generation to stay connected with their spiritual, cultural and historical heritage. The Light and Sound presentation will depict the life and martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib through visual and audio narration. He added that the Punjab government is committed to strengthening the spirit of faith, cultural pride and national unity by organising such meaningful events. "The teachings and sacrifices of our Guru Sahibaan are external sources of inspiration, guiding humanity towards tolerance, righteousness and compassion," he said.

MLA Bhullar urged citizens, students, youth, teachers and social organisations to reach the venue along with their families on November 11 at 5 PM, and contribute to making this spiritually enriching event a grand success.

Ludhiana Police crack down on drunk driving; 93 challans issued during weekend drive

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 9



In a bid to promote road safety and curb drunk driving, the Ludhiana Commissionerate Police launched a special weekend drive across the city, resulting in 93 challans being issued to motorists found driving under the influence of alcohol. The intensive checking operation was carried out by the Traffic Police on Friday and Saturday evenings at major road junctions and nightlife areas. Breath-analyzer tests were conducted on a large scale to identify offenders.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, Swapan Sharma, IPS, and ADCP Traffic, Gurpreet Kaur Purewal, PPS, with on-ground monitoring by ACP Traffic–I, Jatin Baansal, and ACP Traffic–II, Gurdev Singh. "Driving after consuming alcohol is not just illegal it's a danger to everyone on the road," said Commissioner of Police Swapan Sharma. He added that the police would continue such enforcement drives, especially on weekends and festive occasions, to ensure safer roads for all. Officials also appealed to citizens to opt for cabs or designated drivers if they plan to consume alcohol, stressing that these efforts aim to save lives, not merely penalize violators.

Additional Commissioner reviews bioremediation work at Bhagtanwala dump in Amritsar

RAMAN CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, November 9



Acting on the directions of Municipal Commissioner Bikramjit Singh Shergill, Additional Commissioner Surinder Singh inspected the ongoing bioremediation work at the Bhagtanwala dumpsite, where the Amritsar Municipal Corporation (MC) is engaged in the clearance of legacy waste last evening.

During the inspection, the Additional Commissioner reviewed the progress of the project and instructed representatives of the executing company to expedite the work to ensure its timely completion. He emphasised on the need to deploy additional machinery and manpower to accelerate the treatment process and directed firm officials that the daily progress be properly recorded and maintained. Surinder Singh also instructed officials to maintain regular on-site monitoring, ensure proper segregation of recovered material and strictly adhere to environmental standards throughout the operation.

According to official data, a total of 37,935 metric tonnes of legacy waste has been treated so far, including 6,792 metric tonnes processed during the first week of November 2025.

The bioremediation work is being carried out under the close supervision of the MC and is showing steady progress.

Man in Nihang attire creates ruckus, held

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 9

Tension erupted late on Friday night near a chicken shop on GT Road, Phagwara, after a man dressed in Nihang attire was allegedly found consuming liquor and eating meat inside a parked Scorpio vehicle along with a woman.

According to Sikh organisations in Phagwara, they received a call from another town informing them that a Scorpio car, bearing the name of Taruna Dal Doaba Nihang Singh Jathebandi, was parked outside the shop. When representatives of the Sikh groups reached the spot, they found a man in traditional Nihang dress and a woman inside the vehicle.

Leaders of the Sikh groups claimed that the man, identified as Surinder Singh, a resident of Hoshiarpur, was consuming meat and alcohol in the vehicle. When confronted, he allegedly misbehaved and attempted to attack them with a kirpan. Members present at the spot also claimed to have recovered a fake pistol and sharp-edged knife from him.

Witnesses said that during the scuffle, Sikh volunteers removed the man's Nihang attire. Some locals reportedly assaulted him before the police arrived.

The woman accompanying the accused reportedly told bystanders that she was picked up by the man from outside Basra Palace and was supposed to be paid for accompanying him.

The man, meanwhile, apologised on camera and said the woman was a relative.

Passport Adalat on Nov 12

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 9

The Regional Passport Office, Jalandhar, will organise a Passport Adalat on November 12 (Wednesday), at its premises to assist applicants whose passport cases are pending due to incomplete compliance or other reasons.

Regional Passport Officer Yashpal informed that the initiative aims to facilitate applicants of all categories who had applied for passports on or before August 31, 2025, and whose applications remain unresolved.

Applicants meeting this criterion are advised to visit the RPO office at SCO No. 42-51, Pocket 1, Near Bus Stand, Jalandhar, between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm on the scheduled date, carrying all relevant documents.

Election expenditure observer reviews candidates' expense registers for Tarn Taran by-election

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, November 9



As part of the monitoring process for the upcoming Tarn Taran Vidhan Sabha by-election, Election Expenditure Observer Manzarul Hasan, IRAS, conducted a thorough review of the election expenditure registers of all contesting candidates on Friday. The exercise took place in the presence of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) at the District Election Office, Tarn Taran, where the candidates' official expense registers were merged with shadow registers for the third time.

On this occasion, Dr Amandeep Singh, Nodal Officer of the Expenditure Cell and Statistical Advisor, was also present.

During the inspection, Observer Hasan carefully examined the entries made by each candidate and verified the expenses incurred during campaigning. He reiterated that the maximum expenditure limit for each candidate in the Vidhan Sabha by-election has been fixed at Rs 40 lakh and no candidate is permitted to exceed this limit. He also reminded that daily entry of election expenses is mandatory, while the election office maintains a parallel record through shadow registers for cross-verification.

Paddy procurement less than last year in Shahkot



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Shahkot, November 9

The total purchase of paddy by the state government and private agencies from farmers have crossed 12.19lakhs quintals under the jurisdiction of the Shahkot market committee on Thursday which is less by 25 percent of purchase last year on this date.

Committee secretary Tejindar Kumar said we are expecting 2 percent more purchase of paddy this season and may not achieve targets of 16.52 lakhs quintals purchased last year. He said this is due to fall of yield per acre due to various reasons.

Accused of rape, MLA Pathanmajra flees to Australia

PATIALA, NOVEMBER 9

Punjab AAP MLA Harmit Singh Pathanmajra, who has been on the run since September 2 in a rape case, is learnt to have fled to Australia after his appearance in a video interview.

The development came as an embarrassment for the police, as the Sanour MLA remained elusive despite raids at his possible hideouts.

Patiala police also issued a look-out notice against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA.

Pathanmajra appeared in the video interview on Friday with an Australia-based Punjabi web channel in which he claimed that he would "return home only after securing bail".

Denying all allegations, he termed the case a "political conspiracy", aimed at silencing voices that speak for Punjab's people. "In Punjab, ministers and MLAs are not consulted on key matters. Freedom of speech is being curtailed. After losing in Delhi, those leaders have now taken over Punjab, and they are ruining it the same way," he alleged, while expressing full faith in the judiciary.

A Patiala court has already initiated proclaimed offender proceedings against Pathanmajra after he failed to appear in connection with the rape case. PTI

bright Punjab Express

In the fast lane

Thanks to the cut in GST rates, the country's auto industry has posted its strongest month on record in October, underscoring a sharp rebound in domestic consumption that could offset the impact of the slowdown in exports to the U.S.

Total retail sales across all vehicle segments from cars to tractors were up 40.5% from a year earlier, data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations showed.

According to car trade bodies, both passenger vehicles and two-wheelers achieved lifetime highs, signaling renewed consumer confidence and strong economic undercurrents. India's automotive industry contributes 7.1% to the nation's gross domestic product and nearly half of manufacturing GDP, according to government data. The country is the fourth-largest automobile producer globally. Exports to the U.S. account for 2% of India's GDP.

Passenger vehicle sales grew 11% year on year to 557,000 units in October, while sales of scooters and motorcycles surged 52% to 3.15 million, driven by rural demand, goods and services tax reductions, and the festive rush. Dealers reported "stronger footfalls and better sentiment leading to extremely high conversion," FADA noted.

Private and household spending now accounts for more than 60% of India's GDP in fiscal year 2025 — a level comparable to developed economies such as the United States and the United Kingdom reducing the country's reliance on exports.

The rebound in domestic demand could help offset the negative impact of the steep U.S. tariffs on Indian goods imposed since August, analysts say. In September, the Indian government announced widespread GST cuts to spur demand, including lowering taxes on small cars and two-wheelers to 18% from 28%.

According to FADA data, rural demand stood out: sales of passenger vehicles in smaller towns grew over three times faster than in urban centers, while two-wheeler sales nearly doubled urban growth. Dealers of two-wheelers and cars, especially in rural India, expect strong demand to continue over the next three months, said the trade body of automobile dealers. Any city with more than 40% of its male population working in agriculture is considered a rural area by FADA.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



India's labour codes: From informality to inclusion

Take wages. For years, India had thousands of minimum wage rates, varying across states and industries. Workers in districts with close proximity could earn vastly different amounts for the same work. The Code on Wages establishes a national floor wage and a uniform definition of "wages." This ensures that no one is paid below a dignified threshold and that equal pay for equal work becomes a rule, not rhetoric. It also helps labour mobility. A worker moving from one state to another can be assured that his wage rights move with him.



Kartik Narayan,
CEO, Apna Jobs (Apna.Co)

As the world turns inward, India must turn upward by building formal, fair, and dignified jobs at home.

Across the world, anxiety about immigration is reshaping economies and politics. Countries that once welcomed global talent are turning inward, building barriers instead of bridges. In this changing world, India cannot solely depend on exporting its people for prosperity. We must be Atmanirbhar not just in production, but in opportunity ensuring that domestic growth translates into well-paying, standardised, and dignified jobs at home.

Martin Luther King Jronce said, "All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." India's new Labour Codes are a step toward realising that ideal ensuring that the millions who build, move, and power this country are not just workers, but participants in progress. The Codes aim to restore dignity to work by replacing informality with inclusion, discretion with data, and vulnerability with visibility.

For decades, India's labour ecosystem resembled a patchwork quilt stitched together by 29 separate laws each well-intentioned but collectively confusing. The result was an equilibrium of inefficiency: workers remained vulnerable, and employers remained wary. The Government's decision to consolidate these into four clear codes on wages, industrial relations, social security, and workplace safety is not merely administrative reform. It is an act of modernisation, recognising that protection and productivity must rise together.

At its heart, the reform is about visibility. A worker with no appointment letter, no wage slip, and no digital record is invisible to both the state and the market. Formalisation corrects that. Every job documented is a life recognised. Every digital record becomes a bridge to benefits from social security to insurance and mobility. For employers too, this shift replaces uncertainty with structure and discretion with data. When every employment relationship has a record, trust has a foundation.

Take wages. For years, India had thousands of minimum wage rates, varying across states and industries. Workers in districts with close proximity could earn vastly different amounts for the same work. The Code on Wages establishes a national floor wage and a uniform definition of "wages." This ensures that no one is paid below a dignified threshold and that equal pay for equal work becomes a rule, not rhetoric. It also helps labour mobility. A worker moving from one state to another can be assured that his wage rights move with him.

The Industrial Relations Code brings a similar balance between flexibility and fairness. India's economy is now a blend of manufacturing, services, and a rapidly growing gig sector. Many industries logistics, retail, construction operate with seasonal demand and project-based work. Fixed-term contracts, now legitimised and standardised, allow companies to hire with agility without compromising on equality of pay or benefits. For workers, flexibility no longer means insecurity. The creation of a reskilling fund signals a shift from reactive welfare to proactive employability. Losing a job no longer means falling off a cliff; it becomes a bridge to learning and re-entry.

The Social Security Code recognises that India's workforce is no longer confined to factory floors. Drivers, delivery partners, and freelancers - the new builders of the digital economy now find a place within the protection net. Platforms will contribute to a central fund for their welfare, acknowledging that while the nature of work changes, the need for security does not. Self-assessment, unified filings, and digital records replace piles of paperwork with transparency and traceability. Compliance becomes simpler, and policymaking becomes smarter.

Equally significant is the focus on dignity and safety. The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions is not just about helmets and handrails. It is about respect at work. Appointment letters become mandatory, health checkups standard, and women can now work in all sectors and shifts, provided safety measures ensure a single provision that can unlock a vast expansion in female workforce participation. Migrant workers, long treated as outsiders in their own country, will now access welfare benefits wherever they work. This is inclusion made tangible.

Simplification may be the most underestimated dividend. One registration, one licence, one return instead of 29. Inspectors are now facilitators. The compliance conversation moves from penalty to partnership. For small enterprises - the backbone of India's jobs this means less time chasing approvals and more time building business. Formalisation is not paperwork; it is productivity.

Implementation will take time. States must align their rules, digital systems must function smoothly, and both employers and workers must adapt. But direction matters. These Codes send a clear signal: India wants to be a country where jobs are not just created but counted; where flexibility and fairness co-exist; and where workers and employers are partners, not adversaries.

As the global tide turns inward, India's path must be to strengthen its domestic foundation's labour system that is transparent, portable, and fair. The true dividend of these reforms will be felt when India's growth is powered not only by more jobs, but by better one's formal, well-paid, and dignified.

If implemented with care and consistency, these reforms can reshape how India works turning informality into inclusion and work into dignity. Few ideas capture this better than Basavanna's timeless reminder from 12th-century Karnataka: "Kayakave Kailasa" work itself is heaven. His movement saw every profession, from cobbler to scholar, as sacred when done with sincerity. The new Labour Codes carry that spirit forward that dignity lies not in status but in effort. Because in the end, the true test of reform is not in its passage, but in its practice.

The author is CEO, Apna Jobs (Apna.Co) and writes on the future of work, technology, and India's labour transformation.

Union government earns about ₹800 crore from scrap material in nationwide cleanliness drive

In a remarkable outcome of the Centre's month-long swachhta campaign, the government has generated over Rs 800 crore by selling scraps from various ministries/departments.

The drive, conducted from October 2 to 31, was the largest since the initiative began in 2021, freeing up a record 232 lakh square feet of office space and clearing 29 lakh physical files, according to officials.

As per reports, nearly 11.58 lakh office sites were covered under the campaign, coordinated by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG).

Three Union Ministers Mansukh Mandaviya, K. Ram Mohan Naidu, and Dr Jitendra Singh supervised the massive inter-ministerial effort that saw participation from 84 ministries and departments, including India's missions abroad, said officials.

The annual cleanliness and efficiency campaign, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Swachhata



and good governance, has now become a cornerstone of administrative reform.

Since its inception, the government has earned nearly Rs 4,100 crore by selling scrap material and obsolete assets. Between 2021 and 2025, five editions of the campaign have helped institutionalise cleanliness and streamline administration. The cumulative achievements include the coverage of 23.62 lakh offices, clearance of 166.95 lakh files, and freeing up 928.84 lakh square feet of space.

This year's edition also focused on reducing pendency in government work.

Cabinet ministers personally reviewed progress and interacted with officials to ensure targets were met. Regular review meetings were held to track the disposal of pending files and grievances.

Last month, Union Minister Singh said that the government generated Rs 3,296.71 crore from the disposal of e-waste and scrap, while more than 696.27 lakh sq. ft. of office space has been cleared and put to productive use over the last four years.

Speaking at the launch of the "Special Swachhta Campaign 5.0" at Nehru Park in the national capital, Dr Singh said the campaign has brought visible changes in governance and public services.

He emphasised that during earlier stages of the campaign, more than 12.04 lakh cleanliness sites nationwide had been cleaned and more than 137.86 lakh outdated files had been removed.

For their part in attaining these outcomes, the minister commended the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) as well as other departments. He also took part in the event's weeding out of outdated files, a plantation drive under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative, and Shramdaan activities. **IANS**

Centre sets Jan 1 deadline for states to ensure pharma firms meet global norms

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has directed state drug controllers to carry out inspections at all pharmaceutical factories to ensure that they comply with international manufacturing standards by January 1, 2026.

In the directive dated November 7, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) Rajeev Raghuvanshi has asked all state and union territory (UT) drug controllers to submit a monthly report on the observations made during the checking, and action taken after such inspections are carried

"In case any manufacturing unit is found non-complying with the requirements of revised Schedule M during inspections, strict action shall be initiated," the notice states.

CDSCO Schedule M norms are India's guidelines for pharmaceutical companies on good manufacturing practices, which were revised in 2023 to align with international standards.

Large pharmaceutical firms met a June 2024 deadline, while smaller manufacturers were given until December



2025 as part of an earlier extension. Industry groups had sought further extensions, warning that compliance costs could bankrupt small businesses.

The new directive brings to an end the one-year grace period that was extended to micro, small and medium pharma firms, or those with an annual turnover of less than or equal to Rs 250 crore, for compliance with the revised Schedule M.

"You are requested to initiate planning for carrying out relevant inspections of manufacturing units that have applied for extension of revised Schedule M, and the effective date for revised Schedule M implementation for them is January 1, 2026, to verify their compliance with the requirements," Raghuvanshi said in his letter

The Central drug regulator has rejected industry pleas for more time after toxic cough syrup from a Chennai factory was linked to child deaths in Madhya Pradesh in September. **IANS**

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NEWSBRIEFS

Udhayanidhi Stalin to launch special temple service scheme for elderly couples

CHENNAI: Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin will inaugurate a distinctive welfare initiative the "Special Temple Service Scheme" for senior couples aged 70 and above at the historic Arulmigu Sri Parthasarathyswamy Temple in Triplicane on Monday (November 10). The scheme, aimed at honouring elderly devotees, is being rolled out under the guidance of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin as announced in the State Budget for 2025–26, said Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Minister P.K. Sekarbabu on Sunday. According to the Minister, the initiative seeks to recognise and celebrate the spiritual devotion of 2,000 senior couples across 20 HR&CE joint commissioner divisions. **IANS**

Facing 'life threat', Tej Pratap Yadav gets Y+ security cover

PATNA: Amid the ongoing Bihar Assembly elections, the Central government has upgraded the security cover of Tej Pratap Yadav, chief of Janshakti Janata Dal and elder son of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, to Y+ category. Tej Pratap, who is contesting from Mahua, had recently written to the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging a threat to his life and seeking enhanced protection. The Centre has now accepted that request. When asked by reporters at Patna Airport on Sunday about the upgraded security cover, Tej Pratap appeared displeased and said, "Aap log hamesha mere peeche hi padhe rehte ho (You people are always after me)." **IANS**

TN to roll out ₹41-crore mobile health drive for women's cancer screening

CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 9



Tamil Nadu is set to roll out an ambitious women's health initiative aimed at early detection and prevention of cancer among women across the state.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Ma Subramanian on Sunday announced the launch of the 'Women Wellness in Week' (WWW) project, a Rs 41-crore initiative, aimed at bringing breast and cervical cancer screening to the doorstep of women in all districts.

The programme, to be operational within the next ten days, will deploy specially designed mobile medical units in each district to conduct exclusive cancer screening camps for women. These units will be equipped with diagnostic tools and staffed by trained personnel to facilitate early detection, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where access to preventive healthcare remains limited.

Announcing the initiative at an event under the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme in Saidapet, Subramanian said the government's focus is to make healthcare accessible and equitable for all women.

"Every district will have one dedicated vehicle that will travel to different localities to screen women for breast and cervical cancer. This will help us reach those who are often unable to visit hospitals for regular check-ups," he said.

The Minister also revealed that a free vaccination drive against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - a major cause of cervical cancer - will soon be launched for all girls below 14 years of age.

The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) has already floated tenders for vaccine procurement.

"Once the supply is finalised, vaccination will be rolled out through government schools and primary health centres," he added.

During the Saidapet event, the Minister distributed maturity deposits and savings bonds to beneficiaries under the Girl Child Protection Scheme, reaffirming the government's commitment to empowering women through education, health, and financial inclusion.

On the broader public health front, Subramanian said that dengue cases remain under control in Tamil Nadu due to sustained vector-control drives by local bodies.

"Preventive measures have significantly reduced dengue-related fatalities. We have instructed civic officials to continue intensive mosquito eradication efforts," he said.

The WWW project is part of a larger state vision to improve women's health outcomes through early intervention, preventive care, and community-level outreach, positioning Tamil Nadu as a national model in public health innovation. **IANS**

Manipur to host 4-day National Tribal Film Festival from November 12

IMPHAL, NOVEMBER 9



The four-day National Tribal Film Festival will be held in Manipur from November 12, featuring 23 tribal films representing nine states.

Manipur's Additional Chief Secretary Anurag Bajpai said that the festival, being organised as part of the celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, aims to promote and celebrate tribal cinema, culture, and creative expressions from across India's diverse tribal communities.

The festival will be held from November 12 to 15 at the City Convention Centre and the Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS), Imphal. Bajpai said that the National Tribal Film Festival 2025 will feature 23 tribal films representing Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur.

The selection includes six feature films, two documentaries, 14 short films, and one animation film, the latter being a 15-minute NFDC (National Film Development Corporation) production on the life of Rani Gaidinliu.

The official said that the festival will host 16 national guests, 27 state delegates, and representatives from five tribal film forums and associations. The four-day celebration will also feature two master classes, panel discussions, and two "In-Conversation" sessions with filmmakers and cultural experts.

Bajpai said that the opening ceremony on November 12 (Wednesday) will begin with film screenings, while the closing ceremony on November 15 (Saturday) will coincide with the observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada and commemorating the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the great tribal freedom fighter with floral tribute along with cultural performances, and a special film screening to mark the occasion.

Another senior official of the Tribal Affairs and Hills Department said that Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh is the Union government's commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of tribal leader Bhagwan Birsa Munda, celebrated from November 15, 2024, to November 15, 2025, to celebrate the heritage and contributions of India's tribal communities. **IANS**

Stalin warns of 'dangerous' voter roll revision, urges DMK cadre to guard people's franchise

CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 9



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President M.K. Stalin on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting with district secretaries, MPs, MLAs, and constituency observers to review the ongoing special intensive revision of the state's electoral rolls.

The meeting, held through video conferencing, focused on ensuring transparency and vigilance during the revision process amid what Stalin described as "serious threats to voter rights".

During his address, the Chief Minister expressed concern that many people including polling station officials were unaware of the details and implications of the ongoing voter list revision.

"There is a lack of proper awareness about the process even among polling officers in several places. We must act responsibly and stay alert to prevent errors or deliberate omissions," Stalin said, according to a statement released after the meeting.

He instructed DMK functionaries to ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the list and that no ineligible name is added.

Warning that political opponents might attempt to manipulate the process, he alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was "strategically planning ways to prevent the DMK from returning to power".

He urged district secretaries to personally monitor every polling station and to remain vigilant. "The field is ours and we must protect it," he declared. **IANS**

SIR in Bengal: ECI crackdown on BLAs, BLOs over 'irregularities'

KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 9

The Election Commission of India has launched a crackdown against booth-level officers (BLOs) over the alleged gross irregularities and violations of prescribed norms related to enumeration forms for the Special Intensive Revision in West Bengal.

To begin with, sources in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, and the commission have registered FIRs against eight BLAs for allegedly interfering in the distribution of enumeration forms, taking possession of the forms from BLOs, and distributing them themselves.

At the same time, the commission has slapped showcause notices to eight BLOs who have reportedly adopted the shortcut process of distributing the enumeration forms from a particular place, violating the commission-prescribed norm of making door-to-door visits for distribution of the forms, the sources in the CEO office said.

On Friday, the commission issued an ultimatum to the BLOs who adopted such shortcut methods for the distribution of enumeration forms.

However, even after the commission's ultimatum, these eight BLOs were reported to have adopted the same shortcut path, after which the poll panel issued show-cause notices to them.

These eight BLOs, commission sources said, are from Cooch Behar, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts.

The commission, sources in the CEO's office said, has once again directed the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) to keep a close watch on the activities of the BLOs during the revision process, so that the latter perform their duties in accordance with ECI guidelines. **IANS**

Telangana Cyber Security Bureau nabs 81 fraudsters in multi-state operation

HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 9

In the first-ever simultaneous multi-state special operations, the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) arrested 81 cyber fraudsters, including seven women.

The coordinated special operation was conducted for 25 days in October across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh. Shikha Goel, Director, TGSCB, said on Sunday that this multi-state cybercrime crackdown reflects the Bureau's zero-tolerance policy towards cybercrime and its firm commitment to dismantling organised online fraud networks operating across India. **IANS**

DELHI/NCR

Smog chokes Delhi-NCR as AQI breaches 400 mark in several places



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

Delhi-NCR woke up to a thick blanket of smog on Sunday as the Air Quality Index (AQI) plunged into the 'very poor' category across several parts of the city. In some areas, the situation was even grimmer, as AQI readings slipped into the 'severe' zone.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported that the 24-hour average AQI stood at 361. Data revealed that 24 out of 39 monitoring stations in the region recorded AQI levels above 400 marking the highest pollution spike of the season so far.

Stations at Wazirpur (424), Bawana (424), and Vivek Vihar (415) were among those registering alarming figures.

Areas worst affected included Rohini (435), Nehru Nagar (426), Bawana (426), RK Puram (422), and ITO (420). The average AQI was recorded at 391 in Delhi, 391 in Noida, 366 in Greater Noida, 387 in Ghaziabad, and 252 in Gurugram.

On Saturday, CPCB data had already flagged Delhi as the most polluted city in India. Neighbouring NCR cities mirrored the crisis, as Noida (354), Greater Noida (336), and Ghaziabad (339) reported hazardous air quality levels.

According to the latest report from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday, the minimum temperature is expected to remain around 13 degrees Celsius for the next seven days. Cold morning and evening winds are further intensifying the winter chill. Rain is not expected at present, and the weather is likely to remain foggy.

According to health advisories, prolonged exposure to such poor air quality can significantly increase the risk of lung and respiratory diseases, especially for children, the elderly, and individuals with asthma or heart conditions.

The IMD stated that the worsening pollution is linked to falling temperatures, which make the air heavier and reduce wind speed, causing pollutants to remain trapped near the surface. The combination of fog and smog is making the haze denser. Construction activities and vehicular emissions continue to be major contributing factors. **IANS**

CJI B R Gavai leads walkathon to promote 'Justice for All'

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai gave the message of "Justice for All" as he flagged off and led a 4-km walkathon organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) here on Sunday.

"All institutions of the democracy – the executive, legislature, and judiciary – exist for the citizens; therefore, justice for all should be our motto," CJI Gavai told reporters as he joined the walkathon in sports gear, amid tight security.

The event featured 4 km and 8 km runs and a 4 km walk in which CJI also participated along with other Supreme Court judges, including Justices Sanjay Karol, Vikram Nath, JK Maheshwari, and lawyers, said a representative of the SCBA.

On Saturday, CJI Gavai described legal aid as an act of nation-building. "An act of legal aid is an act of nation building," he said at the National Conference on Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms.

The CJI said that the legal aid movement is aimed at realising the dream of Dr B.R. Ambedkar to transform lives.

"The aim of the legal aid movement is to give voice and dignity to those unheard," he said, adding that Dr Ambedkar had said that our struggle is not for wealth or freedom but to transform lives.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also echoed the sentiment, saying: "Under the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS) launched by the Government of India, in just three years, around 8 lakh criminal cases have been settled. These efforts of the government have ensured ease of justice to the poor, Dalits, oppressed, exploited and deprived people of the country." **IANS**

Centre launches ₹1,000 crore Hill and Himalayan Cities Focused Fund

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



The Centre on Sunday launched a Rs 1,000 crore Hill and Himalayan Cities Focused Fund to accelerate solid waste management in these ecologically sensitive regions under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

Announcing the launch of the fund at the National Urban Conclave here, Union Minister of State, Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said: "We are moving beyond the model of poverty alleviation towards one of empowerment and entrepreneurship. To sustain this transformation, we must maintain coordination and commitment among the Centre, states, urban local bodies, and the private sector."

During the valedictory session of the two-day conclave, the minister also launched an exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Uttar Pradesh government, the Osmania University, the IIPA and the AIILSG. The MoU is expected to catalyse the development of resource material and meet the training and research-related needs of the urban sector of states and Union Territories.

Besides, Sahu rolled out the IIRS Sankalan App aimed at making urban surveys smarter and faster through GIS-based planning, enabling on-site editing and geo-tagging to enhance data accuracy, reduce delays, and improve reliability.

The minister also launched the Centre for Public Policy on Habitat and Housing at the National Institute of Urban Affairs, Delhi. The centre will be established at NIUA to build a strong knowledge base and promote research that supports affordable housing in urban India. The centre will focus on policy support, advocacy, capacity building, data collection, and knowledge sharing to help make housing more inclusive and accessible for all. **IANS**

168 Arogya Mandirs functional, 187 more to start by Dec: Delhi CM Rekha Gupta

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Sunday that 168 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are currently operational across Delhi, while 187 additional centres are proposed to be inaugurated by December.

Slamming the previous AAP government for running health centres, CM Gupta said that the Delhi government will no longer operate its health centres from rented premises, as adequate government-owned spaces are available for the Arogya Mandirs.

The Chief Minister said that the Delhi government is making consistent and concrete efforts to provide quality healthcare to its citizens.

"The aim is to ensure that residents receive adequate medical facilities close to their homes, reducing the need for repeated hospital visits," she said.

The Chief Minister said that these Arogya Mandirs are being established under the Ayushman Bharat programme, through which sub-health centres, primary health centres, and urban primary health centres are being upgraded into comprehensive primary health facilities.

She said the purpose of these centres is not only to treat common ailments and ensure necessary referrals but also to deliver standardised, respectful, and high-quality healthcare tailored to local community needs.

The Chief Minister explained that the earlier "Mohalla Clinics" offered limited healthcare services, as deteriorating infrastructure restricted the expansion of medical facilities. "In contrast, the Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are equipped with advanced infrastructure and modern facilities to provide wider and more effective health services," she said. **IANS**

Centre sets ball rolling on monetisation of power transmission assets

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has circulated a concept note to the Forum of Regulators, a joint body of central and state electricity regulatory commissions, to outline the key aspects for monetising public sector transmission assets.

This proposal comes under the Acquire, Operate, Maintain, and Transfer (AOMT) model of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework that was issued by the Power Ministry in 2022. It allows the temporary transfer of public transmission assets to private entities for a defined period, aiming to enhance efficiency and unlock the financial value of existing infrastructure as part of the government's asset monetisation strategy.

The proposed framework will be adopted by state electricity regulators to promote transmission asset monetisation. It aims to help determine tariffs in a manner that provides investors with reasonable revenue certainty and transparency over project details at the time of bidding. **IANS**

CM Saini takes part in 18th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition in Gurugram



RAJENDRA KHATYRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 9

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that the Urban Development and Mobility Programme creates an integrated model for urban growth. Such an integrated model helps in building robust cities, which in turn contribute to building a stronger nation.

Conferences like these are instrumental in implementing innovative methods for providing better urban facilities and play a crucial role in advancing the nation's Vision 2047 of becoming a developed country.

The Chief Minister was addressing representatives from various states at the 18th Urban Mobility India Conference held in Gurugram. He also visited the developmental exhibition showcasing urban development and mobility initiatives. The CM, while welcoming representatives from across the country, said that it is a matter of pride and honour that Haryana has, for the first time, got the opportunity to host this national conference. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal for their able guidance and support in making this three-day event possible.

The CM said sustainable mobility and transit-oriented development are being prioritised in urban planning. The Central and State Governments are working expeditiously to make transit-oriented development the central pillar of city planning. He added that mobility is not just about moving from one place to another — it is the foundation of citizen empowerment, economic strength, and environmental protection. The Chief Minister said that the Urban Mobility India platform serves as a powerful forum for discussing challenges and proposing solutions. The main objective of this conference, he said, is to familiarise cities with the best urban transport services.

He added that to address the specific mobility needs of cities, plans are being implemented to introduce smart bus services to make transport systems more eco-friendly, efficient, reliable, transparent, and accountable. City buses, he said, form the backbone of economic growth — better connectivity promotes business expansion, increases employment opportunities, and accelerates economic activity.

He said that Haryana has prioritised green and inclusive urban transport. The metro network in Haryana is being expanded to Gurugram, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh, and Sonepat to ensure smooth and timely movement between major cities. In addition, the RRTS and Namo Bharat Rail System have been given key importance in Haryana's development vision.

This high-speed rail network will directly connect Delhi, Gurugram, Karnal, and Jewar International Airport, thereby creating a new economic corridor within the National Capital Region and offering people a safe, comfortable, and energy-efficient travel option. He further stated that along with major infrastructure projects, the government is also focusing on last-mile connectivity.

Electric and CNG buses, e-rickshaws, and cycle tracks are being promoted in urban areas. During the event, the Chief Minister also released three important booklets — Mobility Zone, Remarkable Young Voices in Transport, and Reimagining Urban Mobility for a Sustainable, Smart, and Inclusive Future.

State govt encouraging farmers to cultivate horticultural crops

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9



The Haryana government is introducing new provisions to encourage farmers to cultivate horticultural crops. Under the initiative, farmers are being motivated to engage in the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and spices, a spokesperson of the Horticulture Department said. Giving details about the scheme, he said it includes activities such as establishing new fruit orchards, cultivating vegetables through an integrated model, growing fruit crops, spices, and aromatic plants.

"The farmers will be provided subsidies as follows: Rs 24,500 to Rs 1,40,000 per acre for establishing new orchards, Rs 15,000 per acre for vegetable cultivation under the integrated model, Rs 25,500 per acre for Scheduled Caste farmers, Rs 15,000 to Rs 30,000 per acre for spice cultivation, Rs 8,000 to Rs 40,000 per acre for flower cultivation, and Rs 8,000 per acre for aromatic plant cultivation. "The subsidy amount will be directly transferred to the farmer's bank account. The maximum limit for subsidy assistance is up to 5 acres," he said.

Farmers interested in availing the benefits of these schemes, including information about the application process and area limits for subsidy, can register themselves on the Meri Fasal-Mera Byora and Hortnet portals (hortnet.hortharyana.gov.in). "In addition, applicants must have the required documents such as the application form with personal details, family ID (Parivar Pehchan Patra), complete bank account information, and Scheduled Caste certificate (if applicable)," the spokesperson said. **PTI**

Governor praises Chandigarh 'Tamil Sangam' spirit of service on 55th anniversary

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9



Haryana Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh on Sunday lauded the Chandigarh Tamil Sangam, a socio-cultural body, for its enduring contribution to social welfare, education, and cultural harmony at the 55th anniversary celebration of the organisation.

Addressing a gathering, Governor Ghosh expressed immense pleasure in being part of the milestone celebration, recalling how members of the Tamil community arrived in Chandigarh around six decades ago, when the city was taking shape after Independence. "Your contribution to building and maintaining the 'City Beautiful' is highly appreciable," he remarked. Applauding the Sangam's initiative of marking its 55th anniversary as a "Festival of Charity", Ghosh commended its efforts to promote education among underprivileged children through the "Vidhya Dhaanam" initiative.

"It is heartening to see your dedication to nation-building by supporting the education of children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds," he said. **PTI**

Two Class XI students fire at classmate with licensed pistol in Gurugram, detained

GURUGRAM, NOVEMBER 9

In a shocking incident, two Class 11 students allegedly shot at their classmate using a licensed pistol belonging to the father of one of the accused at a posh housing society in Haryana's Gurugram, police said on Sunday.

The victim, a 17-year-old student, is undergoing treatment at a private hospital, while both the accused have been detained by the police. The incident occurred on Saturday night at Central Park Resorts in Sector 48 when one of the accused called the victim to an apartment rented by his father. According to police, a preliminary investigation revealed that the accused attacked the victim following a quarrel that had taken place earlier. All three teenagers are students of a school, which is located near the housing society.

In her complaint filed at the Sadar Police Station, the victim's mother stated that the main accused, whose father's pistol was used in the incident, had called her son several times asking him to meet. Initially, the victim refused but eventually agreed after repeated insistence. The accused then arrived at the victim's home to pick him up. **PTI**

Anil Vij seeks action against 2 travel agents who sent Ambala youths abroad illegally

AMBALA, NOVEMBER 9



Haryana minister Anil Vij has directed police to take strict action against two travel agents who allegedly sent two youths from Ambala Cantt's Defence Colony abroad through illegal means. Vij, the state's Energy and Transport Minister, issued the direction while hearing grievances of people from his constituency at his residence in Ambala Cantt, an official statement said.

A complainant from Defence Colony stated that two agents from Panjokhra Sahib and Dayalbagh lured him with a promise to send him to Georgia and demanded Rs 5 lakh. After receiving the payment, the agents first sent him to another country and later to Russia on a tourist visa, where he was arrested by local authorities. He was imprisoned for nearly two months before being deported to India. The complainant claimed that the agents cheated him of around Rs 8.5 lakh, the statement said. Similarly, another youth accused the same agents of fraud. He said that after reaching Russia, he did not receive the promised work permit.

When he contacted the agents, they threatened him, and soon after, he was detained by Russian police and deported to India. He claimed to have been cheated of approximately Rs 9 lakh. Taking serious note of both incidents, Vij instructed police to launch an immediate investigation and take stringent action against the culprits. **PTI**

HIMACHAL/J&K

SIM vendor inspection drive launched in Kishtwar, Kathua to curb illegal distribution

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 9

Jammu and Kashmir police on Sunday launched an extensive inspection drive across SIM vendor outlets in Kashmir district to enhance security and curb unauthorised distribution, an official said. All gazetted officers and station house officers carried out the inspections of SIM vendor outlets in their respective jurisdictions as part of this coordinated district-wide exercise, a police spokesman said.

During the drive, he said, vendors were directed to maintain complete records of all issued SIM cards, strictly follow KYC (Know Your Customer) guidelines, and refrain from selling fake or pre-activated SIM cards. The inspections also emphasised the importance of keeping detailed records related to recharges, duplicate SIM issuance, and logs for lost or damaged SIM cards, along with the corresponding customer details, the spokesman added. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Naresh Singh, reiterated the importance of transparency and integrity in the SIM issuance process to prevent potential misuse. He also advised mobile phone sellers and repair technicians to maintain accurate transaction records, including customer identification details, to ensure accountability and public safety.

Police will continue to monitor vendor activities and conduct similar inspections in the future to strengthen compliance and reinforce telecom-related security measures across the district, the officer said. **PTI**

BSF DG leads Jammu Marathon, first such initiative since Operation Sindoor

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 9



BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary on Sunday flagged off the Jammu Marathon, marking the first major public event by the force post Operation Sindoor. The marathon, organised by the BSF, Jammu frontier to commemorate the 60th Raising Day of the force, was meant to promote physical fitness and a drug-free lifestyle among the youth and witnessed enthusiastic participation from civilians, security personnel and students.

According to the Border Security Force (BSF), over 6,000 people from across the country have registered for the marathon covering 42 km, 21 km and 10 km race categories besides the 5 km run for fun. Some foreigners also took part in the marathon. Many runners were seen holding national flags and also chanting slogans in praise of the country and the BSF. "This is for the first time that BSF is organising a marathon in Jammu to promote physical fitness and a drug-free India. When we become fitness conscious, it naturally has a positive impact on our nation. The prime minister's Fit India initiative will truly be fulfilled when every citizen adopts a healthy lifestyle," the DG BSF told reporters. Highlighting the BSF's vital role in Operation Sindoor, he said the operation was widely hailed and had strengthened public trust in the force.

"Many young people are joining the BSF, and this successful marathon is a small yet meaningful example of how the force remains connected with the public in its mission to make the nation drug-free," he said. The BSF chief said the growing interest in joining the force reflects the increasing faith citizens have in the force. "We will continue to safeguard the country with even greater dedication and zeal."

> 'Many young people are joining the BSF, and this successful marathon is a small yet meaningful example of how the force remains connected with the public in its mission to make the nation drug-free'

Thanking the people for joining the marathon, Chawdhary said they have come from far off places and also lauded the cooperation of the J-K government and local administration. Several runners from Kenya also joined the marathon and lauded the BSF for providing them an opportunity to visit the place. **PTI**

BJP chief Bindal urges workers to ensure historic win in 2027 HP polls

NAHAN, NOVEMBER 9

Himachal Pradesh BJP president Rajiv Bindal on Sunday asked party workers to gear up for ensuring a historic victory in the 2027 assembly elections in the state. He said the people of Himachal Pradesh were frustrated due to three years of Congress "misrule" and were ready to give them the biggest defeat in the political history of the state.

Addressing a large gathering of BJP workers at a "block-level workers' meet" held in Sainwala Mubarakpur village of the Nahan assembly constituency in Sirmaur district, Bindal said the BJP had decided to take the "breach of election promises and anti-people policies" of the Congress government to every doorstep. He alleged that the state government had spent the past three years pushing Himachal backwards in development, increasing inflation, and harassing people by imposing various taxes, abolishing employment opportunities for youth, and closing government institutions. "If any development work has been done during its three-year tenure, the government should disclose it," he said. Bindal said that the people of Himachal were distressed by the "anti-people policies and actions" of the current Congress government, adding that every section of society felt the state had regressed significantly during this period.

"The government's anti-people decisions have hit every person in the state," he said, alleging that development activities had come to a standstill on every front. The BJP leader also posed several sharp questions, asking why 2,000 schools, colleges, and other government institutions were closed in the state, and why the government had abolished 1.5 lakh sanctioned posts of government employees, betraying unemployed youth. **PTI**

Man held for drunken torching of two govt buses

DHARAMSHALA, NOVEMBER 9

A 34-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly setting two government buses on fire under the influence of alcohol in Baijnath town, police said on Sunday.

Superintendent of Police (Kangra) Ashok Ratan said the accused, Sushant, a resident of Bharwana Dhar village in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district, was taken into custody on Saturday based on technical evidence and CCTV footage. During interrogation, the accused confessed to committing the act under the influence of alcohol and was arrested, the officer said.

The incident took place around 1:15 am on November 6, when a Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) bus and a Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU) bus parked near the Government Senior Secondary School in Baijnath suddenly caught fire and were reduced to ashes in minutes. According to HRTC driver Sunil Kumar, who was resting in a nearby room with the conductor, he heard noises outside and stepped out to find both buses engulfed in flames. He suspected that an unidentified person had deliberately set the vehicles ablaze, police said.

A case was registered at Baijnath police station under Section 326(G) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984. **PTI**

Campaigning ends for Nagrota assembly bypoll; 10 candidates in fray

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 9

Campaigning for the high-stakes Nagrota Assembly by-election in Jammu region concluded on Sunday evening, with all 10 candidates making their final appeals to voters ahead of polling on November 11.

The bypoll was necessitated by the death of BJP legislator Devender Singh Rana last year and has shaped up into a triangular contest among BJP's Devyani Rana, National Conference's (NC) Shamim Begum, and J&K National Panthers Party president Harsh Dev Singh. The Aam Aadmi Party's Joginder Singh, Apni Party's Bodh Raj, and five others, including three independents, are also trying their luck from the constituency, which has 97,893 registered voters and 150 polling stations. Campaigning began on October 13 with the issuance of the election notification and saw leaders from several parties, especially the NC and the BJP, crisscross the constituency over the last four weeks to garner support. **PTI**

Make temples in Himachal responsible for running cow shelters: Ex-CM Shanta Kumar

DHARAMSHALA, NOVEMBER 9

Former chief minister Shanta Kumar on Sunday urged the Himachal Pradesh government to enact a law making it mandatory for major temples in the state to operate cow shelters.

In a statement issued here, Kumar, a former union minister, pointed out that with the rapid increase in population and vehicles, stray cattle on the roads have become a major concern. The proposed move will help address the growing problem of stray animals, which are "increasingly causing road accidents and loss of lives", he said.

Highlighting the significant wealth of temples in Himachal Pradesh, Kumar stated that six major shrines — Mata Chintpurni, Mata Naina Devi, Mata Jwalamukhi, Mata Chamunda Devi, Mata Brajeshwari Devi (Kangra), and Baba Balak Nath Ji — collectively hold assets worth about Rs 2,000 crore, including Rs 85 crore in cash, Rs 300 crore in fixed deposits, Rs 500 crore in gold, and Rs 200 crore in silver.

"There are 36 temples under government control in the state, and all possess assets worth crores. If each major temple is given the legal responsibility to run a gaushala, Himachal could become the first state in the country where no stray cattle roam on the roads," Kumar said. **PTI**

NEWSBRIEFS

Pak's 27th Constitutional Amendment paves way for Gen Asim Munir to be 1st chief of defence forces

ISLAMABAD: After Pakistan approved the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill, Army Chief General Asim Munir is set to assume the powerful new position of Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), a post designed to ensure "greater coordination and unified command" among the three services, local media reported. According to Dawn, the amendment, presented in Parliament after Cabinet approval, introduces major changes to Article 243 of the Constitution, which governs matters related to the armed forces. Under the new framework, both the Army Chief and the Chief of Defence Forces will be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. **IANS**

Police seize 170 kg opium poppy, arrest 2 smugglers in Western Afghanistan

KABUL: Afghan counter-narcotics forces have confiscated 170 kg of opium poppy and apprehended two suspected smugglers in western Afghanistan's Nimroz province, provincial police spokesman Gul Mohammad Qudrat announced on Sunday.The seizure took place during a targeted operation in the Zanjer Sharqi area along the Zaranj-Delaram highway, the official said, Xinhua News Agency reported. The Afghan government has intensified its nationwide campaign against illicit drugs, pledging to eradicate poppy cultivation and dismantle trafficking networks.On November 4, the provincial police office said that police in eastern Afghanistan's Ghazni province seized 225 kg of opium from a car. **IANS**

Japan's weather agency issues tsunami alert for Iwate Prefecture after 6.7 magnitude earthquake

TOKYO: The Japanese weather agency on Sunday issued a tsunami advisory for Iwate Prefecture after an earthquake of magnitude 6.7 struck in the Pacific off northeastern Japan, causing a power outage and a temporary partial suspension of Shinkansen bullet train services, local media reported. The Japan Meteorological Agency stated that a tsunami of up to 1 metre could reach the prefecture due to the temblor, which struck off the Sanriku coast at a depth of about 10 kilometres, Japan-based Kyodo News reported. **IANS**

Police personnel injured after assailants target checkpost in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD: A police personnel was injured after a checkpost was targeted by unidentified assailants in Tangi area of Khar tehsil of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, local media reported on Sunday.An official said that the injured police personnel has been identified as Azad Khan, adding that a fire from an unknown location hit him on Saturday, Pakistan's leading daily Dawn reported. The official stated that police personnel was first taken to the District Headquarters Hospital in Khar for treatment. **IANS**

Boat from Myanmar with hundreds of migrants capsizes off Malaysia; 1 body found, 10 rescued

KUALA LUMPUR, NOVEMBER 9



A boat carrying about 300 migrants from Myanmar capsized last week in the Indian Ocean close to the maritime border between Thailand and Malaysia, with at least one body recovered floating in the sea, 10 rescued and dozens missing, officials said Sunday.

The timing and the exact location where the boat sank sank were not immediately known.

A Malaysian official said the vessel likely capsized in Thai waters, warning that cross-border syndicates are becoming increasingly active in exploiting migrants using perilous sea routes.

A police chief said some of those rescued were Rohingya Muslims, who mainly live in Myanmar where they have faced persecution for decades.

First Adm Romli Mustafa, from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, said a preliminary investigation indicates the boat had departed from the town of Buthidaung, in Myanmar's Rakhine state. and that it sank three days ago.

The agency launched a search and rescue operation on Saturday, after several survivors were found drifting in the waters near Malaysia's northern resort island of Langkawi.

The body of a woman, believed to be from Myanmar, was found floating in the sea, he added.At least 10 people were rescued from the incident, including a man from Bangladesh and several from Myanmar, he said.

"There is a possibility that more victims will be located as the operation continues," Romli said in a statement.

A Malaysian state police chief Adzli Abu Shah told national Bernama news agency the vessel likely sank in Thai waters before the victims drifted into Malaysia.

In January, Malaysian authorities turned away two boats carrying nearly 300 people believed to be Muslim Rohingya refugees who were trying to enter the country illegally.

Malaysia is a popular destination because of its dominant Malay Muslim population.

Malaysia has accepted Rohingya in the past on humanitarian grounds but has tried to limit their numbers, fearing a mass influx of people arriving on boats.

There are around 117,670 Rohingya refugees registered with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Malaysia — about 59% of the total refugee population in Malaysia. **AGENCIES**

Taliban warns Pakistan after Istanbul peace talks collapse again

KABUL, NOVEMBER 9



The latest round of Afghanistan-Pakistan peace talks in Istanbul ended without agreement, with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan accusing Islamabad of insincerity and attempting to shift blame onto Afghanistan.

In an official clarification released by Zabihullah Mujahid on November 8, the Taliban government expressed gratitude to "the Republic of Turkey and the State of Qatar - the two brotherly countries - for hosting and mediating the talks."

It added that Afghan representatives had attended "in good faith and with appropriate authority" on November 6 and 7, expecting Pakistan to approach the matter "seriously and constructively."

The statement said Pakistan displayed an "irresponsible and non-cooperative attitude," trying to "refer all responsibilities regarding its security to the Afghan government," while showing "no willingness to assume responsibility for either Afghanistan's security or its own."Acting on leadership instructions, the Afghan delegation had aimed for "a fundamental solution," but Pakistan's actions made the talks fruitless.Criticising Islamabad's stance, the Taliban reiterated its "principled position" that Afghanistan will not allow its territory to be used against another country, nor permit any foreign nation to violate its sovereignty and independence. The statement emphasised that defending Afghanistan's people and territory remains "the Islamic and national duty" of the Emirate, vowing to "firmly defend against any aggression with the help of Allah and the support of its people."

While reaffirming ties with the "Muslim people of Pakistan," the Taliban stated it would only cooperate "within the limits of its responsibilities and capabilities."

The statement reflected Afghanistan's frustration at Pakistan's repeated attempts to externalise internal security issues and its reluctance to commit to regional stability. **AGENCIES**

At least two dead as Super Typhoon Fung-wong nears landfall in the Philippines

ISABELA (PHILIPPINES), NOVEMBER 9



At least two people died in the Philippines as Super Typhoon Fung-wong lashed central and eastern parts of the country, with heavy rains and strong winds cutting power in large areas of the Bicol region ahead of its expected landfall in northern Luzon.

More than a million people have evacuated vulnerable areas ahead Super Typhoon Fung-wong's projected landfall in Aurora province as early as Sunday night, with officials urging residents to heed evacuation orders.Sustained winds of 185 kph and gusts of up to 230 kph are already battering many parts of Luzon with the Fung-wong's massive rain bands, the authorities said.

A large wave rises before crashing onto a structure on the coastline, as Typhoon Fung-wong approaches the Philippines, in Dingalan. X/@exevincii/via Reuters

More areas across Luzon, the Philippines' most populous island, have been placed under the highest and second-highest storm warning levels while Metro Manila and nearby provinces remain at typhoon intensity, said weather bureau PAGASA. By Wednesday, it is projected to move towards the Taiwan Strait, weakening before landfall in western Taiwan on Thursday.

It is then forecast to lose strength rapidly before emerging over the waters of Ryukyu Islands as a weak tropical system.Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro urged residents in the storm's path to heed evacuation orders, warning that refusing to comply was dangerous and unlawful.

As a safety precaution, the civil aviation regulator has closed several airports, including Bicol International Airport and Sangley in Metro Manila.

The civil defence office reported that one person drowned in Catanduanes and firefighters recovered the body of a woman trapped under debris of a collapsed home in Catbalogan City.Named locally as 'Uwan', Fung-wong is the 21st storm this year to hit a nation that normally has about 20 a year and threatens to place further strain on disaster response efforts as the Southeast Asian archipelago recovers from Typhoon Kalmaegi, which killed 224 people in the Philippines and five in Vietnam.Fung-wong is expected to head northwest from Monday and then

"We ask that people to preemptively evacuate so that we don't end up having to conduct rescues at the last minute, which could put the lives of police, soldiers, firefighters and coast guard personnel at risk," he said in a public address.Authorities hope to avoid casualties this time, civil defence official Raffy Alejandro told a press conference.The military has redirected about 2,000 troops from field training to focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster response.Residents who were evacuated ahead of Typhoon Fung-wong take shelter at an evacuation center in Cauayan. **AGENCIES**

Over 12,000 Afghan refugees forcibly deported from Iran, Pakistan in single day

KABUL, NOVEMBER 9



More than 12,000 Afghan refugees have been forcibly repatriated from Iran and Pakistan in a single day, according to a Taliban official, local media reported on Sunday. In a statement shared on X, Taliban deputy spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat stated that 2,098 families, comprising 12,455 individuals, were deported to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan on Saturday, Afghanistan-based Pajhwok Afghan News reported. He stated that Afghan refugees returned home through Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Bahramcha in Helmand, Torkham crossing in Nangarhar, Islam Qala crossing in Herat, and Pul-i-Abresham in Nimroz.He said that some returnees were taken to their home areas, while 2,051 others were provided humanitarian assistance.

He further said that telecommunication firms distributed 1,652 SIM cards to refugees who were deported from Iran and Pakistan.

Earlier in October, Afghan refugees voiced concerns over escalating challenges and growing fear amid the ongoing crackdown in Pakistan, local media reported.

They alleged that the Pakistani police have recently made announcements in some mosques warning that anyone assisting the refugees, including by renting homes or shops in Pakistan, would be considered a criminal by the government.

"A large number of Afghan refugees, including children, women, and the elderly, have been held in Pakistani detention centres for over 15 days, living in extremely harsh conditions," Afghanistan's leading media outlet TOLO News quoted Atiqullah Mansoor, an Afghan refugee in Pakistan, as saying. **IANS**

Impact felt across US as Republican-Democrat standoff on government funding drags on

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 9



Hundreds of flights, including several private jet services, have been cancelled, millions of federal workers have not received their salaries, and millions of poor Americans are losing access to free or subsidised food.

That illustrates the crisis hitting the entire spectrum of US life because the Republican-Democrat standoff in the Senate over a resolution to temporarily fund the government is paralysing most government operations.Only the most essential government operations are continuing. Many of those running them, like air traffic controllers, have not been paid. As a result, many are not coming to work.

This led to the cancellation of about 1,000 flights on Saturday, after the government ordered a ten per cent reduction in flights at 40 major airports.

The Senate met on Saturday, the 39th day of the government shutdown, to break the impasse but failed again and is scheduled to meet again on Sunday for another unusual weekend sitting.

The regular budget, which should have been ready on October 1, marks the start of the US fiscal year. **IANS**

New Zealand national park fights against large fire

WELLINGTON, NOVEMBER 9

New Zealand's Tongariro National Park has been fighting against a large fire since Saturday, which has now covered 1,600 hectares.

There was no report of casualties or structural damage yet.

However, operations have been carried out to evacuate tampers in the national park and people in the nearby facilities.

The fire has not been controlled yet.

New Zealand Fire and Emergency Assistant Commander Craig Gold said air operations were prioritised to fight the fire, with additional aircraft being used. Five fixed-wing planes and 12 helicopters are being deployed.

In the meantime, four teams of firefighters are fighting on the ground with additional crews supporting the aircraft operations, Xinhua news agency reported.

The forest fire was reported to the Fire and Emergency New Zealand on Saturday afternoon, initially covering 50 hectares.

Fire brigades and three helicopters were deployed to fight the fire. **IANS**

Houthis arrest Yemeni nationals accused of spying for Israel

SANAA, NOVEMBER 9

Yemen's Houthi group announced that they have arrested several Yemeni nationals accused of spying for Israel in the capital Sanaa. In a statement, the Houthis claimed the detainees were collaborating with the Israeli foreign intelligence service, Mossad, through a Saudi-based joint operation room that allegedly involved three foreign intelligence agencies -- those of Israel, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, Xinhua news agency reported.also claimed that the arrested were trained to write intelligence reports, spy on civilian and military locations, and monitor the movements of the group's officials.

The Houthis did not tell how many people they have arrested, nor provide evidence of the alleged espionage accusations.

The statement said "confessions" of the arrested were to be broadcast later in the day on its official satellite television channel, al-Masirah.According to a source close to the group, most of the newly arrested are employees with the United Nations aid agencies, including the World Food Program (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).This came weeks after the UN body secured the release of 20 foreign aid workers through a mediation of Iran and Oman, and flew them out of Yemen, according to a UN statement at that time. UN Special Envoy to Yemen Hans Grundberg said in a recent statement that at least 53 UN aid employees of Yemeni nationals remain in Houthi prisons, as well as dozens of other Yemeni employees working with non-governmental organizations and those who had worked with foreign diplomatic missions. **IANS**

EU urged to review Pakistan's GSP+ status over worsening human rights abuses

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



Mounting evidence of systematic human rights abuses in Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan, has prompted renewed calls for the European Union to reassess Islamabad's preferential trade status under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+).

Rights groups and observers warn that Pakistan's record remains "highly problematic", marred by enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, torture, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression.

According to a report by EU Today, such violations directly contradict Pakistan's obligations under international conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture -- both core components of the GSP+ framework.

The report further adds that the situation in Balochistan is described as a "human rights black hole", where state forces continue to suppress peaceful dissent.

Activists like Dr Mahrang Baloch, a leading voice against enforced disappearances, have faced repeated harassment and intimidation for organising peaceful protests. **IANS**

Russian Embassy slams Pakistani newspaper over 'anti-Russia' articles, urges people of Pakistan to rely on credible sources

ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 9



The Russian Embassy in Pakistan has criticised Pakistani daily, The Frontier Post, for publishing a series of "anti-Russia" articles and repeating "worn-out Western propaganda narratives such as "weak economy," "vulnerability in the face of sanctions," and "military superiority of Western countries", while urging people of Pakistan to obtain information from credible sources and not depend on those "engaged in fulfilling the dubious aims of foreign patrons".In a statement shared on X recently, the Russian Embassy in Pakistan stated: "We have taken note of and expressed deep concern regarding the series of anti-Russia articles published in The Frontier Post, a Pakistani newspaper in the English language. First and foremost, we wish to clarify that this publication can scarcely be called 'Pakistani', as its international news service is based in Washington.

It is this very US-tinged team that is responsible for selecting global news and consistently prioritises authors who hold anti-Russia views and are critics of Russian foreign policy and President Vladimir Putin." **IANS**

lifestyle



Madhuri

enjoys 'silence & a moment just to be' during her latest vacay amidst nature

Madhuri Dixit is presently making the most of her time amidst nature. Treating the netizens with a glimpse of her time out, Madhuri was seen taking a stroll in the middle of lush green streets with a beautiful lake in the middle.The 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!' actress was seen wearing a leather jacket with a matching skirt, a complementary scarf, and a woolen cap, indicating she is on a vacation at a place where the temperatures are low. Uploading the clip on her official Instagram handle, Madhuri penned the caption, "Ye waadiyan, this silence, and a moment just to be (Dizzy and white heart emojis) (sic)."

> THE FOOD WAS DIVINE. AND CHEF TAKES SUCH PAINS TO INSURE EVERY GUEST IS WELL SERVED PERSONALLY. VIKAS IS MORE THAN A FRIEND AND AS A FAMILY MEMBER AND BROTHER, WE HAVE SHARED MANY MEALS TOGETHER.

While Madhuri did not disclose the location of her latest holiday, it seems to be aesthetically pleasing. Madhuri loves to share glimpses from her life with her InstaFam, and her admirers love her for it. Recently, Madhuri and her husband, Dr. Shriram Nene, were seen relishing a 'divine' meal at celebrity chef Vikas Khanna's Manhattan restaurant.Dr Nene took to his official instagram handle, and posted video of him, Madhuri, and their kids enjoying a variety of cuisines. Expressing his admiration for Vikas Khanna and his restaurant, he penned, "It was our pleasure to visit with @vikaskhannagroup Bungalow in Manhattan.

It has grown so much since we visited with a Michelin star and NYTimes 3 star rating. Grateful to get a table as the waitlist is 4-8 mos.

The food was divine. And chef takes such pains to insure every guest is well served personally. Vikas is more than a friend and as a family member and brother, we have shared many meals together. But what resonates is the love he pours into his creations and his humility with which he delivers it. Bravo chef and thank you for a delightful evening. (sic)."

IANS



Sonakshi

takes mistakes with a pinch of salt, says it helps a person learn

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who can be seen in the recently released film 'Jatadhara', has said that it's good to make mistakes because that's where true learning happens. The actress spoke with IANS during the promotional campaign of the show, and said that she isn't afraid of making mistakes or failure.Sonakshi told IANS, "You learn by making mistakes. How else would you learn? Even as children, that's how it is. When a child falls, they learn. So I feel that applies to every phase of life and every profession people are in. Mistakes are nice, they keep things exciting. The learning process, I feel, should never stop. The day you think, 'You know, I know everything', that's your end, it's over, go away, sit down". "So I feel the learning process should never end, and I feel we're in a profession where every day is a learning experience, you learn something every day", she added. Earlier, Sonakshi had shared her opinion on cross-pollination of artistes and technicians in pan-India films.

The whole pan-India film movement started much earlier with films of Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan being broadcast on satellite.

It gained prominence after the 'Baahubali' franchise. When asked if pan-India films do add up to the pressure as a performer given they have to appeal to a new set of audience beyond their set audience, she replied in negative. How does it play out for her as an actor?She earlier told IANS, "The more the merrier, I guess.

IANS

Hrithik

congrats Farhan for 'pushing limits & conquering new peaks' with 120 Bahadur

Hrithik Roshan congratulated his buddy Farhan Akhtar for constantly 'pushing his limits and conquering new peaks' with his forthcoming war drama "120 Bahadur". Taking to his official Insta handle, Hrithik penned on social media, "Farhan & Ritesh.. my buois, pushing your limits and conquering new peaks is what I have watched you both relentlessly do for so many years now. (sic)."

Recalling the time when he was working with Farhan on their 2004 release "Lakshya", Hrithik added, "I remember the vigor and toil that went into lakshya, but the passion I see in 120 BAHADUR promises something even bigger and better in every way." Sending his wishes to the "120 Bahadur" team, the 'War' actor wrote, "All my love to the brilliant cast, director Razneesh, the excel team .. & a big hug to my bahadur friend Farhan. Marked my calendar for 21st November (hugs and red heart emoji) @faroutakhtar @ritesh_sid."

Elated by all the love, Farhan thanked Hrithik in the comment section using the following words, "Hrithikkkkk .. thank you (red heart emojis) this means so much. Can't wait for you to see the film .. big big hug man. (sic)" The leading lady of "120 Bahadur", Raashii Khanna, also pitched in saying "Thankyou..!", followed by a red heart emoji.Farhan's better half, Shibani Akhtar, commented, "Hrithik this is so sweet (Red heart, hug, and heart eyes emojis)" Filmmaker Zoya Akhtar also left a red heart and a hug emoji in the comment section.

IANS



Kareena

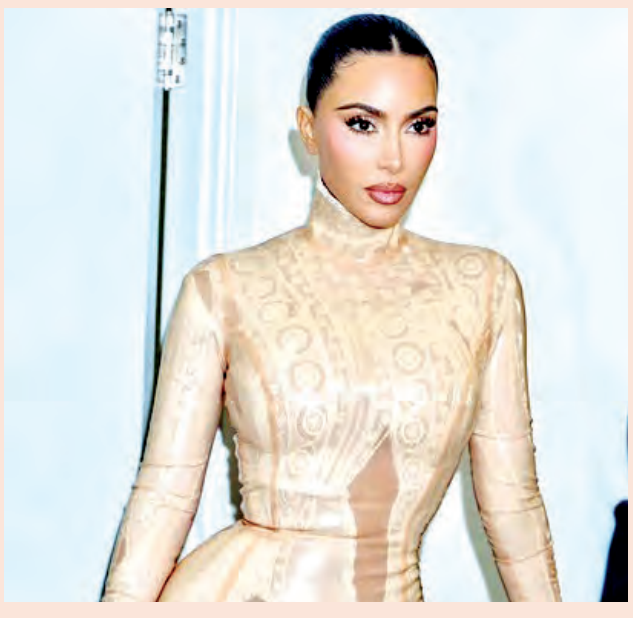
drops rare family moments

Actress Kareena Kapoor gave a glimpse into her family life as she shared rare and heartwarming pictures with her parents, Randhir Kapoor and Babita, to celebrate her cousin Nitasha Nanda's birthday. The unseen moments captured the close-knit bond of the Kapoor family. On Sunday, Bebo took to her Instagram handle and posted a couple of images featuring her parents, husband Saif Ali Khan, sister Karisma Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor and other family members. Sharing the post, the 'Udta Punjab' actress wrote, "Happy birthday to our dearest darling Tashu love you @nandanitasha." One of the images features Saif Ali Khan striking a happy pose with Nitasha. Other photos show the Kapoor family posing together for group pictures.

Kareena Kapoor and Nitasha Nanda share a close family bond as first cousins. Nitasha is the daughter of Ritu Nanda, the sister of actors Randhir Kapoor and Rishi Kapoor. This makes Nitasha the daughter of Kareena's paternal aunt, which is why the two are first cousins. Nitasha Nanda has always been a familiar presence at Kapoor family celebrations and get-togethers. She shares a warm and affectionate bond with her cousins, Kareena and Karisma Kapoor. Notably, every year, the actress marks her cousin's birthday with a heartfelt post.

Last year too, the 'Singham Again' star shared a sweet message along with unseen pictures, celebrating their special bond.Kareena had shared adorable photos of Nitasha with her son Jeh and her parents.

IANS



Kim says 'not a lawyer yet' as she reveals the results of her Bar exam attempt

Reality star Kim Kardashian revealed she's "not a lawyer yet" as she shared the result of her Bar Exam attempt. Months after she took the California bar exam on July 29 and July 30, the SKIMS founder shared via an Instagram post that although she did not pass the exam, she is still determined to achieve her goal.Kim's post went like this, "Well...I'm not a lawyer yet, I just play a very well-dressed one on TV (sic)." Looking back at her journey, she added, "Six years into this law journey, and I'm still all in until I pass the bar. No shortcuts, no giving up - just more studying and even more determination."

"Thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged me along the way so far. Failing short isn't failure - it's fuel. I was so close to passing the exam and that only motivated me even more. Let's go!," the businesswoman concluded. Earlier, Kim revealed that her legal aspirations commenced in 2018 when she decided to take on an apprenticeship with a San Francisco-based law firm. This was an alternative to the traditional college route available in California and three other U.S. states.Later, in 2021, Kim disclosed that she had finally passed the baby bar exam, also called the First-Year Law Student's Examination. It took her four tries to pass the examination. Sharing the exciting update with the netizens, Kim wrote on her X (Previously known as Twitter) handle, "OMFGGGG I PASSED THE BABY BAR EXAM!!!!" "Looking in the mirror, I am really proud of the woman looking back today in the reflection. For anyone who doesn't know my law school journey, know this wasn't easy or handed to me," she added.

IANS

NEWSBRIEFS

RGCIRC highlights recent updates breast & childhood cancer at CME Ludhiana

LUDHIANA: RGCIRC (Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre), organized a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program in Ludhiana, in association with the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Ludhiana. The CME, hosted at IMA House, BRS Nagar, brought together medical professionals from across Punjab to engage in knowledge sharing on some of the most pressing issues in oncology. The sessions featured two eminent speakers from RGCIRC. Dr. Pankaj Goyal, Senior Consultant and Unit Head - Medical Oncology, delivered a talk on "Recent Updates in Breast Cancer Management", whereas Dr. Sandeep Jain, Senior Consultant - Pediatric Hematology Oncology and BMT, addressed "Frequently Asked Questions on Childhood Cancer." Both sessions were marked by interactive discussions, real-world insights, and evidence-based approaches to cancer treatment. **BPE**

Sun Foundation, led by MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney, completes massive de-silting, de-watering projects

AMRITSAR: Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Chairman Sun Foundation has marked the successful completion of critical De-Silting and De-Watering operations in the flood-ravaged Ajnala and Dera Baba Nanak region. The intensive project has reclaimed hundreds of acres of vital farmland buried under sand from the recent floods, allowing local farmers to sow their winter wheat crop and begin their economic recovery. Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney undertook visit to the flood-affected villages of Malakpur, Jatta, and Nangal Sohal near Ramdas, and Dharamkot Pattan village of Dera Baba Nanak reaffirming his commitment to rebuild lives and restore livelihoods in Punjab's rural heartland. **BPE**

All India Saini Sewa Samaj, Mohali Unit organises first Saini Community Conference and Felicitation Ceremony

MOHALI: Under the banner of All India Saini Sewa Samaj, Mohali Unit, the first Saini Community Conference and Felicitation Ceremony was organized at the national level in Mohali. The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including Ram Kumar Mukari, Chairman of Saini Welfare Board Punjab; Tejdeep Singh Saini (PCS), Joint Secretary; Dharamveer Singh Saini, DSP Mohali (Punjab); Mahesh Saini, DSP; and Gagandeep Singh Saini, SHO Mohali. The current President and Coordinator of the All India Saini Sewa Samaj, Mohali Unit, Preet Kamal Singh Saini, informed that the program was presided over by Sh. **BPE**

Saatvik Green Energy Limited delivers 133 pc revenue growth & 145 pc profit surge in H1 FY26

CHANDIGARH: Saatvik Green Energy Limited ("Saatvik" or "the Company"), one of India's leading integrated solar energy solutions providers, announced its unaudited financial results for the quarter ended 30 September 2025 (Q2 FY26) and for the half year ended 30 September 2025 (H1 FY26). The Company reported a striking step-up in scale and profitability, backed by expanding capacity, a richer product mix, and disciplined execution across its manufacturing footprint. **BPE**

Decade-long study by Fortis Memorial Research Institute Gurugram reveals breakthrough in treating children with sickle cell disease via stem cell transplant

CHANDIGARH: In a landmark advancement for Indian healthcare, doctors at FMRI, Gurugram, have reported exceptional success in curing children suffering from Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) through Bone Marrow (stem cell) transplantation, a development that places India among the leading nations in advanced paediatric transplant outcomes. The decade-long study, published in the international journal Haemoglobin, analysed 100 paediatric cases treated between 2015 and 2024. The results demonstrate an overall survival rate of nearly 87%, with 96% success among matched sibling donor transplants and 78% success among half-matched (haploidentical) family donor transplants. **BPE**

Elitecon International Ltd reports stellar H1FY26 earnings, Cons PAT at ₹207 cr

CHANDIGARH: Elitecon International Limited (EIL) (BSE: 539533), a fast-growing company engaged in the manufacturing and trading of a diverse range of tobacco products, has announced stellar earnings for quarter and half year ended 30 September 2025. For the quarter ended 30 September 2025 (Consolidated), the company reported Revenue from operations at INR 2192 Cr (Q2FY26), growing 318% QoQ. PAT came in at INR 117.19 Cr (Q2FY26), growing 62.58% QoQ. **BPE**

CII moots India Development and Strategic Fund to boost long-term growth

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



Apex business chamber CII on Sunday proposed the creation of an India Development and Strategic Fund (IDSF) as a sovereign-backed, professionally managed institution to finance India's long-term growth, resilience and global economic security.

Conceived as a twin-arm national fund, the IDSF would mobilise patient, long-horizon capital to build India's productive capacity at home and secure critical economic interests abroad, according to a CII statement.

The IDSF is envisaged as comprising two distinct but coordinated arms. The Developmental Investment Arm would focus on financing long-gestation domestic priorities such as infrastructure, clean energy, logistics, industrial corridors, MSME scale-up, education & skilling, healthcare and urban infrastructure.

This arm would provide patient equity and blended finance to commercially viable projects that require long-term commitment. It would act as an anchor investor, crowding in pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and institutional investors from India and abroad, according to the statement.

CII has suggested that India's existing National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) could be evolved into this Developmental Arm, leveraging its governance architecture and global investor base.

The Strategic Investment Arm would acquire and secure overseas assets critical for India's long-term economic and security interests. These include energy assets such as oil and gas fields, LNG infrastructure and green hydrogen partnerships; critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earths; frontier technologies including semiconductors, AI, and biotechnology; and key global logistics and port assets. This arm would give India the ability to act proactively, to own rather than merely buy, in critical supply chains and technologies shaping the future global economy.

The industry body believes that with disciplined design and funding, the IDSF could, over the next two decades, build a managed corpus in the range of $1.3 to $2.6 trillion by 2047, comparable in ambition and credibility to the world's leading sovereign investors.

The proposed capitalisation roadmap includes a modest initial budgetary allocation to establish credibility, followed by systematic channeling of a share of asset-monetisation proceeds, from roads, transmission lines, ports, and spectrum, into the Fund instead of one-time deficit reduction. Over time, a portion of the Government's equity in select public sector enterprises could be transferred to the Fund, turning these enterprises into instruments for India's global expansion rather than mere disinvestment candidates, according to the CII statement.

In addition, the Fund could issue thematic instruments such as infrastructure, green and diaspora bonds to mobilise long-term domestic and international savings, while co-investing with multilateral and bilateral partners. **IANS**

GST 2.0 comes as big boon for India's artisans

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



The next-generation GST 2.0 rate cuts on several handicraft items from 12 per cent to 5 per cent have come as a major boon for the country's artisans, as demand for their products has gone up, leading to higher earnings and also enabling them to compete with factory-made goods.

The tax cuts have benefited artisans producing items like wood-carved products, terracotta jute handbags, textile items, and leather goods.

The muga silk industry of Assam, operating mainly in Sualkuchi (Kamrup), Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, and Jorhat, along with other sericulture clusters across the state, is a legacy carried by women weavers. The reduced 5 per cent GST rate on handloom and handicraft items will bring relief to weavers, who can now sell in competitive markets and earn better margins. It will also boost exports, as niche luxury buyers may be more inclined to purchase when prices are marginally lower.

The entire handloom sector in Assam stands to gain from the GST reforms. In a state with more than 12.83 lakh weavers and about 12.46 lakh looms, the impact is far-reaching.

The GST rate cut on handlooms and crafts will also benefit Assam Jaapi, Asharikandi terracotta, Mishing handloom, Pani Meteka, and Bihu dhol, among others.

By lightening the tax load, the reforms will help build stronger markets for traditional handlooms and crafts. This can potentially boost incomes and ensure that handmade Assamese textiles hold their own in an age of factory-made fabrics.

West Bengal has long been known for traditional crafts and handlooms, from the terracotta temples of Bishnupur to the intricate embroidery of Nakshi Kantha. The GST cut from 12 per cent to 5 per cent directly benefits this sector by reducing prices and strengthening its competitiveness against machine-embroidered or mass-produced imitations in domestic and foreign markets such as Europe, the US, and Japan. **IANS**

AI to make more 'significant discoveries' by 2028 and beyond, says Open AI

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



In 2026, AI can make very small discoveries but in 2028 and beyond, OpenAI is confident that "we will have systems that can make more significant discoveries".

According to the US-based AI company, most of the world still thinks about AI as chatbots and better search.

"But today, we have systems that can outperform the smartest humans at some of our most challenging intellectual competitions. Although AI systems are still spikey and face serious weaknesses, systems that can solve such hard problems seem more like 80 per cent of the way to an AI researcher than 20 per cent of the way," according to OpenAI.

The gap between how most people are using AI and what AI is presently capable of is immense. Also, AI systems that can discover new knowledge either autonomously, or by making people more effective are likely to have a significant impact on the world.

According to OpenAI, in just a few years, AI has gone from only being able to do tasks (in the realm of software engineering specifically) that a person can do in a few seconds to tasks that take a person more than an hour.

"We expect to have systems that can do tasks that take a person days or weeks soon; we do not know how to think about systems that can do tasks that would take a person centuries. At the same time, the cost per unit of a given level of intelligence has fallen steeply; 40x per year is a reasonable estimate over the last few years," it mentioned in a blog post.

Soon, AI systems will help people understand their health, accelerate progress in fields like materials science, drug development, and climate modelling, and expand access to personalised education for students around the world.

Demonstrating these kinds of tangible benefits helps build a shared vision of a world where AI can make life better, not just more efficient.

"Although the potential upsides are enormous, we treat the risks of superintelligent systems as potentially catastrophic and believe that empirically studying safety and alignment can help global decisions, like whether the whole field should slow development to more carefully study these systems as we get closer to systems capable of recursive self-improvement," the company noted.

Obviously, no one should deploy super-intelligent systems without being able to robustly align and control them, and this requires more technical work, it added. **IANS**

KOSPI experiences record foreign sell-off in 1st week of Nov

SEOUL, NOVEMBER 9



South Korea's main stock index recorded its biggest-ever weekly sell-off by foreign investors in the first week of November as profit-taking and concerns over an artificial intelligence (AI) stock bubble spurred a market retreat, the Korea Exchange said on Sunday.

From Monday to Friday, foreign investors dumped a net 7.26 trillion won (US$4.98 billion) worth of shares on the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), the bourse operator said, reports Yonhap news agency.

The amount marked the largest weekly sell-off by foreign investors in KOSPI history, surpassing the previous record of 7.05 trillion won in the second week of August 2021.

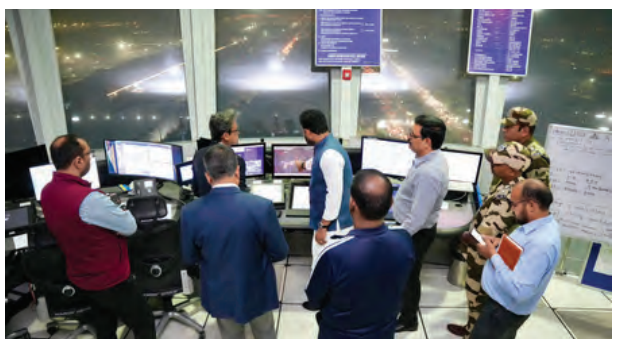
The KOSPI experienced sharp volatility last week, climbing to a record high above 4,200 on Monday before plunging nearly 3 percent Wednesday. After a brief rebound Thursday, the index shed 1.81 percent Friday, closing below the 4,000 mark.

The benchmark had been the fastest-rising major stock index among Group of 20 nations as of Oct. 27, buoyed by strong foreign buying of semiconductors and other blue chip stocks, according to data compiled by Yonhap Infomax, the financial arm of Yonhap News Agency.

But the rally fueled profit-taking among foreign investors, especially after Wall Street slumped last week amid revived fears of an AI bubble, analysts said. **IANS**

Civil Aviation Minister reviews on-ground situation at Delhi ATC towers after tech glitch

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu visited the Delhi Air Navigation Services (ANS) Centre near the airport to review the situation, after a technical glitch in the Air Traffic Control (ATC) messaging system at Delhi Airport led to delays and cancellations of several flights, an official statement said today.

He was accompanied by Secretary (MoCA) Samir Kumar Sinha, Chairman (AAI) Vipin Kumar, and senior officials.

The minister directed the ECIL CMD to deploy additional technical manpower to expedite the restoration efforts. To minimise passenger inconvenience, Naidu also directed that more ATC staff be deployed at Delhi Airport to support manual operations and ensure smooth handling of air traffic during the system downtime.

From the onset, teams from Airports Authority of India (AAI), Air Navigation Services (ANS), and Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) worked round the clock to identify and rectify the issue. ECIL promptly deputed additional manpower to assist in the restoration process. **IANS**

NITI Aayog moots roadmap for India's transition to circular water economy

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

NITI Aayog is drawing up a roadmap with international and private-sector collaborative business models, innovative financing and technology partnerships to accelerate India's transition toward a circular water economy through the reuse of wastewater.

In the context of emerging fresh water crisis, discussions on the issue were held at a two-day National Workshop on "Reuse of Treated Wastewater in India" hosted by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board on 6–7 November in Bengaluru under its state support mission, according to an official statement issued on Saturday. NITI Aayog member Vinod Paul emphasised the need for optimally utilising the potential offered by used water reuse for a win-win approach to the Viksit Bharat 2047.

He highlighted the need for state-level policies on the reuse and development of enforceable common standards for different uses, integrating the reuse of water for emerging areas of water requirement like data centres, health aspects of reuse and behaviour change.

Scaling up the reuse of treated waste-water, represents a transformative opportunity to ensure water security, reduce freshwater dependency, strengthen climate resilience and advance the principles of resource circularity, the statement said.

Best practices from several states were presented by senior State functionaries. Gujarat's scalable reuse models, Delhi's revenue-generating initiatives, Indore's multi-sectoral approach for popularising reuse. **IANS**

C-DOT, IIT-Gandhinagar to set up Centre of Excellence for next-gen telecom innovation

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-GN) on Saturday signed an MoU for setting up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) to promote cutting edge research, innovation and development of indigenous products in telecom and cybersecurity domain.

C-DOT's COE initiative aims to accelerate India's leadership in telecommunications and technology by synergising C-DOT's expertise with academic excellence of reputed institutes.

Dr Rajkumar Upadhyay, CEO, C-DOT, emphasised that the establishment of the CoE is aimed at creating a dynamic and collaborative environment by combining the strengths and resources of C-DOT and IIT Gandhinagar.

He stated that such initiatives play a vital role in advancing next-generation telecom technologies, encouraging the development of intellectual property, and strengthening India's position as a global leader in technological innovation in line with the vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Viksit Bharat".

Professor Rajat Moona, Director, IIT-GN said that "Self-reliance in Digital and Communication technologies along with cyber security are essential for the security, growth and development of our country".

This centre shall serve as a hub for both fundamental and applied research with a focus to excel in the domains of C-DOT's existing expertise in critical areas like Mobile Communications, Cyber Security, Quantum Communication, Advanced AI, and Advanced Telecom Applications, according to an official statement.

The mandate of this Centre will be to enable community of IIT Gandhinagar students, faculty, researchers and C-DOT researchers to come together and collaborate in Telecom and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) domain.

Overall, the Centre's work will enrich the research work and find practical solutions to problems/ use-cases in telecom & ICT domain and their related applications, while leveraging use of niche and emerging technologies.

The centre would also support incubation, mentoring, and collaboration with startups, industries, and academia to foster a robust innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

It would provide training, capacity building, and skilling programmes aligned with national telecom, semiconductor, and digital transformation missions to create an industry-ready workforce. Both institutions will also collaborate on scholarly publications, patent filing , joint seminars and final product development. **IANS**

SPORTS

SHAFALI VERMA
"THE LAST ONE YEAR WAS VERY TOUGH FOR ME. I FACED A LOT OF STRUGGLES, BUT I KEPT WORKING EXTREMELY HARD AND WAS REWARDED BY GOD FOR MY EFFORT."

Red-hot Jurel to play as pure batter in Kolkata Test, axe likely on all-rounder Reddy

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



Rishabh Pant will deservingly get his big gloves and batting position back but Dhruv Jurel's superb run of form is unlikely to be ignored by the Indian team management and national selection committee as he will purely play as a batter in the upcoming two-Test series against South Africa.

While Jurel had kept wickets in the last three Tests for India - London (Oval), Ahmedabad and Delhi - when Pant was recuperating from an ankle fracture, the vice-captain's comeback has made the selection of the playing eleven a bit dicey going into the first Test in Kolkata starting in less than a week's time.

Since the start of the home season, Jurel's sequence of scores are 140, 1 & 56, 125, 44 & 6, 132 & 127 not out. With three hundreds, including a Test ton, one half-century and one 40-plus score in last eight first-class knocks, Jurel couldn't have been ignored.

> **"The other place is Nitish Kumar Reddy and he can't be played ahead of Jurel considering that his bowling won't be required much in these Indian conditions."**

"Jurel is likely to play as a specialist batter. Ideally, there are two slots where he could be fitted in. One was Sai Sudharsan at No. 3 but he has a half-century in his last Test and the team management wants a settled No. 3," a BCCI source privy to the selection developments told PTI on condition of anonymity.

"The other place is Nitish Kumar Reddy and he can't be played ahead of Jurel considering that his bowling won't be required much in these Indian conditions," he added.

It is understood that there were serious deliberations about playing Devdutt Padikkal in the Delhi Test match after Reddy was given only four overs of bowling in Ahmedabad and that too in the first innings.

At the Kotla, he was promoted up the order to get some batting time but wasn't given a chance to bowl.

While Gautam Gambhir is bullish about batting till No.8, even the head coach is expected to give Jurel a longer run in the middle order considering that India will play with three spinners and two pace bowlers.

While Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Dinesh Karthik, Dhoni and Parthiv Patel, Dhoni and Rishabh Pant have been part of the same white-ball eleven for India at different times, there aren't too many instances of two specialist keepers in the Test playing eleven. In 1986, Kiran More and Chandrakant Pandit did play a couple of Tests (one in England and one in India) with the latter playing as a specialist batter. **PTI**

Worked extremely hard to overcome struggles in last one year: Shafali Verma

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9



India's women's World Cup winner Shafali Verma on Sunday said she has faced a lot of struggles in the last year and worked "extremely hard" to improve her game, which culminated in a historic World Cup glory.

Picked as a replacement for the injured Pratika Rawal, the 21-year-old Shafali was named player of the final for her 87 runs with the bat and 2/36 with the ball in the team's 52-run win against South Africa.

"The last one year was very tough for me. I faced a lot of struggles, but I kept working extremely hard and was rewarded by God for my effort," Shafali told reporters after a felicitation programme here.

Shafali was called in to the Indian squad on the eve of the semifinal against mighty Australia and while she could not fire in the last four clash, the Haryana girl shone in the title clash.

"When I joined the Indian team ahead of the semifinal, I was determined to contribute to the World Cup victory. The final is always a big stage. Initially, I was a bit nervous, but I calmed myself, focused on my strategy, and executed it well. That helped me deliver an all-round performance," Shafali said.

After receiving a grand welcome upon her arrival in her hometown Rohtak, the swashbuckling opener urged girls to have self-belief and work hard, saying results will come.

"They should always put in the hard work in whatever field they may choose and also have self-belief, and results will follow," Shafali said.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side scripted a defining moment for Indian women's cricket by winning its maiden global title the 50-over World Cup with victory over South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai last Sunday.

Shafali, who considers batting legend Sachin Tendulkar as her role model, talked about her family's support throughout to achieve her dreams.

Replying to a question about the final, she said, "I was trying to stay calm and execute my plans and things went as per plan.

"The only thought was that we have to give it all in those seven hours for our country."

She also said she does not have any regret on missing out on scoring a century and stressed that lifting the World Cup was more important.

About the team's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said the PM spent two hours with them and motivated them.

Shafali said she was now looking forward to meeting Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on November 12.

Meanwhile, Haryana minister Krishan Kumar Bedi, who was present when Shafali reached Rohtak and later felicitated her, said she had made the country and the state proud.

On Wednesday, PM Modi met the team at his residence and lauded the players for their landmark triumph after enduring a tough phase marked by three consecutive defeats in the round robin stage of the tournament. **PTI**

Washington Sundar named Impact Player of the Series in Australia

BRISBANE, NOVEMBER 9



Washington Sundar's growing stature as one of India's most versatile all-rounders was recognised when he received the 'Impact Player of the Series' medal following India's 2-1 win in the T20I rubber in Australia.

In a behind-the-scenes video titled 'Dressing Room BTS' posted by the BCCI on Sunday, Sundar was all smiles as team operations manager Rahil Khaja presented him with the award.

"Coming over here and getting an opportunity to play in Australia is amazing, and to have contributed to the team's victory makes me definitely happy," said the 26-year-old Sundar after receiving the medal.

Sundar's performances through the series underlined his value as a utility player in India's T20I scheme of things.

In the third T20I at Hobart, though he was not used as a bowler, Sundar was promoted up the order and he top-scored with a match-winning 49 off 23 balls, striking four sixes and three boundaries to guide India to a five-wicket win that levelled the series 1-1.

Then, in the fourth game, he was held back with the ball until the death overs, but responded by taking three wickets in five deliveries across two overs, triggering an Australian collapse that secured India's 48-run victory. The win eventually helped the Suryakumar Yadav-led side seal the series 2-1 after the fifth match was washed out at the Gabba on Saturday.

Sundar also acknowledged the contribution of the team's COO Khaja.

"It's such a great feeling to get this medal from him. We know the kind of work he (Khaja) puts in every single day to make a lot of our jobs very easy," he said.

An emotional Khaja, too, shared his delight: "I mean, the first time in my life... I'm just like, looking at this. Actually, we've done this."

Sundar's overall T20I record from 57 matches is impressive. He has a bowling average of just over 22 with an economy under seven, and a batting strike rate exceeding 134.

An all-format player, he is also an utility man for Team India in the Tests, having taken 35 wickets from 15 matches with three four and one five-wicket hauls. He also has one century and five fifties while averaging 44.76.

The 'Impact Player-of-the-Series' is a relatively new honour introduced by the BCCI to recognise individuals who make decisive contributions in a bilateral series. **PTI**

Tottenham and Man United both score stoppage-time goals in 2-2 draw in Premier League

LONDON, NOVEMBER 9





Tottenham and Manchester United both scored stoppage-time goals in a wild finish to their 2-2 draw in the Premier League on Saturday.

Just when it looked like Richarlison's glancing header in the first minute of added-on time had sealed victory for Tottenham, United equalized with a header of its own from Matthijs de Ligt five minutes later.

United extended its unbeaten streak in the league to five games three wins followed by two away draws — for its best run in the one-year tenure of Ruben Amorim, who is clearly benefitting from having more time to prepare for games because of no European involvement this season.

Tottenham has only won one of its six homes games so far, yet showed commendable resilience to fight back from conceding a 32nd-minute goal to Bryan Mbeumo — his fifth of the campaign.

The hosts dominated the second half and grabbed an equalizer in the 84th through substitute Mathys Tel's shot that deflected in off De Ligt. Tel had only been on the field for five minutes, having come on for Xavi Simons in a substitution that was jeered by some sections of the home crowd at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

When Richarlison glanced in Wilson Odobert's edge-of-the-area shot, Tottenham looked a big favorite for all three points — especially considering United was down to 10 men at that point because of an injury to substitute Benjamin Sesko. United had used all five substitutes and couldn't replace the striker.

There was still time for De Ligt to find space at the back post at a corner to direct a header goalward and over the line before Tottenham goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario clawed the ball away.

At the conclusion Tel said he had a "50-50" feeling.

"Second half, our reaction was good, we changed the game," the French forward said. "But we're also mad because we had to win today." **AP**

West Ham roar back to beat Burnley 3-2



LONDON, NOVEMBER 9

West Ham United substitutes Tomas Soucek and Kyle Walker-Peters scored second-half goals as their side came from behind to beat Burnley 3-2 at home in a pulsating Premier League clash between the two struggling sides on Saturday.

The win sees West Ham move level with Burnley on 10 points after 11 games and they remain one place behind their visitors in 18th spot due to their inferior goal difference, despite notching their second league win in six days.

Burnley got off to a bright start and deservedly went ahead in the 35th minute through Zian Flemming as the West Ham defence was caught flat-footed, and the Dutch forward was able to send a powerful downward header into the net.

That goal spurred the home side into action and Callum Wilson managed to level before the break with a close-range header after a shot from Crysencio Summerville bounced up off Burnley defender Maxime Esteve and into his path.

Boosted by the goal, West Ham continued to attack in the second half, but all too often their shots were blocked on the edge of the area, and it took the introduction of Soucek and Walker-Peters to change their fortunes.

Soucek came on in the 62nd minute and 15 minutes later he gave his side the lead, remaining calm to chest the ball into the net at the far post. Walker-Peters needed even less time to have an impact, coming on in the 83rd minute and scoring West Ham's third four minutes later.

Burnley showed little sign of mounting a comeback until Josh Cullen pulled a goal back in the seventh minute of stoppage time, but it proved too little, too late and the referee blew the whistle shortly after play restarted as West Ham held on to win. **AP**

Quiet comeback for Jemimah Rodrigues as Renegades outclass Heat in WBBL

BRISBANE, NOVEMBER 9



Jemimah Rodrigues' return to competitive cricket after the high of the World Cup triumph turned out to be a quiet one as the Indian batting superstar managed only six runs in her team Brisbane Heat's seven-wicket defeat against Melbourne Renegades in the Women's Big Bash League here Sunday.

Rodrigues, who was playing her first match since India's historic ODI World Cup win last week, looked eager to make an impact but got out after facing nine balls, edging Alice Capsey to Deandra Dottin at backward point.

Rodrigues' subdued return may have disappointed her growing fan base but her presence added star value to the contest.

Brisbane Heat posted a video on their X handle, showing a smiling Jemimah making he way to the pitch, saying," I am here in Brisbane, can you believe it, very excited for today, let's go."

Her early exit came at a crucial juncture as Heat could only post 133 all out in 20 overs. **PTI**

Arsenal winning runs ends after conceding late goal to draw 2-2 with Sunderland in Premier League

LONDON, NOVEMBER 9







Premier League leader Arsenal conceded its first goal in 881 minutes and then again in stoppage time to draw 2-2 with Sunderland, a result that potentially breathes new life into the title race.

Brian Brobbey's goal in the fourth minute of added-on time on Saturday ended Arsenal's winning run of five matches in the league and 10 in all competitions that had been built on one of the stingiest defenses English soccer has seen in a generation.

Arsenal hadn't let in a goal since Sept. 28 nine games ago before its former academy player, Dan Ballard, lashed in the opener for Sunderland in the 36th minute at the Stadium of Light. "I felt a pain in my tummy," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said.

"I don't want to concede any goals." Back in the Premier League for the first time in eight years, Sunderland gave the leaders their most uncomfortable game for some time but second-half strikes by Bukayo Saka and Leandro Trossard looked like earning Arsenal a battling victory.

Brobbey's late equalizer, after the substitute beat goalkeeper David Raya and defender Gabriel Magalhaes to the loose ball after a flick-on, meant Arsenal's lead was six points over second-place Chelsea, which beat managerless Wolverhampton 3-0.

Meanwhile, All of Chelsea's goals came in the second half against Wolves.

Malo Gusto and Pedro Neto converted crosses by Alejandro Garnacho either side of Joao Pedro's finish from a cross by lively substitute Estevao.

Wolves stayed in last place on just two points from 11 games and has yet to win a match so far.

West Ham beat Burnley 3-2 to secure back-to-back victories under recently hired manager Nuno Espirito Santo, after last weekend's win over Newcastle, and only remained in the relegation zone on goal difference.

After going behind, West Ham fought back through goals by Callum Wilson, Tomas Soucek and Kyle Walker-Peters before a last-gasp consolation from Burnley.**AP**

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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