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ਗੁਰਦਵ ਦੇ 350 ਸਾਲ
ਦਿਵ ਦੀ ਚਾਦਰ
ਸੀ ਰਾਸ਼ੂ ਤਤਾ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਜੀ

GOVT. OF PUNJAB

प्रधान मंत्री
आवास योजना-ग्रामीण
Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin

Chief Minister, Punjab S. Bhagwant Singh Mann hands over approval letters to 30,000 FLOOD-AFFECTED FAMILIES for the construction of new houses



To provide permanent housing and basic facilities under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) to landless families in rural areas and those living in kutcha houses, the following financial assistance is being provided

First installment	Second installment	Third installment
₹70,000	₹40,000	₹10,000
will be released within 15 days of house approval	will be released upon reaching the plinth level	will be released once the roof is completed.

₹31,000 for house construction and ₹12,000 for toilets will also be provided under the MGNREGA scheme

Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab

NEWSBRIEFS

HDFC Bank ranks no. 1 in Kantar BrandZ list of India's most valuable brands 2025

CHANDIGARH: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, has been ranked as the country's most valuable brand according to the Kantar BrandZ's Top 100 Most Valuable Indian Brands report. This valuation is driven by the Bank's commitment to digital innovation and customer-centric strategies. The brand value of HDFC Bank grew by 18 per cent to $44.9 billion from $38.3 billion in 2024. It has increased by 377 per cent since the first BrandZ India Report released in 2014. The Bank has been ranked no.1 in eight out of the 12 years that the report has been in existence. **BPE**

AU Small Finance Bank strengthens board with key appointments

CHANDIGARH: AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), India's largest small finance bank and the first to receive in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to transition into a universal bank, has appointed Mr. Narasinganallore Venkatesh Srinivasan ("N S Venkatesh") and Satyajit Dwivedi as Non-Executive Independent Directors for a term of three years, and re-appointed Malini Thadani as Non-Executive Independent Director for a second term for a term of three years. **BPE**

Kotak Private launches India's first-of-a-kind indicator of Luxury Index

CHANDIGARH: Kotak Private Banking today unveiled the Kotak Private Luxury Index (KPLI), a first-of-a-kind indicator, of price movements across 12 categories of luxury products and experiences. Kotak Private Banking has commissioned Ernst & Young LLP (EY) for support in publishing the index. The index offers a data-backed view into how India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs) are reshaping the meaning of luxury. As India's luxury market heads toward an estimated $85 billion by 2030, the KPLI reveals a clear shift: from ownership to experience, and from material to mindful living. For investors, brands, and advisors, the index is more than a price tracker—it is a cultural barometer. **BPE**

iQOO launches its premium flagship smartphone iQOO 15

CHANDIGARH: iQOO launched its premium flagship smartphone of the year - iQOO 15. Combining top-of-the-line hardware and software capabilities, iQOO 15 is a multitasking powerhouse built for young professionals who expect more from their smartphone - be it work productivity, socialising, or entertainment. Powered by India's fastest Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 processor and iQOO's proprietary Supercomputing Chip Q3 for unmatched speed and efficiency. iQOO 15 is supported by India's largest 8K Single Layer VC Cooling System, which keeps it cool even under the most intense pressure scenarios. **BPE**

Cinepolis India unveils its first future-ready cinema

CHANDIGARH: Cinepolis India announced the launch of its newest multiplex at Pacific Mall, Faridabad. The launch marks an important milestone for the company as it introduces its first Future Ready Cinema in Delhi, NCR, designed to redefine how audiences in the region experience movies. The new cinema features 4 state-of-the-art auditoriums with a total seating capacity of 788, including 44 premium recliner seats to prioritize comfort and enhance the moviegoing experience for our patrons. With two screens equipped with 3D technology, the multiplex enables audiences to watch films in their intended format, delivering superior picture quality and immersive sound alongside seamless digital journeys inside the cinema. **BPE**

Cordis unveils positive results for two selution SLR DEB trials

CHANDIGARH: Cordis announced the groundbreaking results from the SELUTION DeNovo and SELUTION4ISR trials at Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics (TCT) 2025, the annual scientific symposium of the Cardiovascular Research Foundation (CRF). Both randomized clinical trials demonstrated positive outcomes that met primary endpoints for the SELUTION SLR Drug-Eluting Balloon (DEB) compared to the current standard of care in treating de novo and ISR coronary lesions. These results highlight SELUTION SLR DEB as a compelling alternative to drug-eluting stents (DES), offering physicians the ability to minimize the need for stents. **BPE**

Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited and Punjab National Bank sign MoU for vehicle financing solutions

CHANDIGARH: Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited (MLMML), India's No.1 electric commercial vehicle manufacturer and Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's second-largest public sector bank, have announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for vehicle financing solutions. By enabling easier access to financing options, MLMML and PNB are poised to drive positive change and innovation in last-mile connectivity. **BPE**

Apple to surpass Samsung in global shipments for 1st time in 14 years

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26



Apple's smartphone shipments have performed strongly throughout 2025, particularly in Q3, Counterpoint Research said on Wednesday, adding that the iPhone maker shipments will reach a global share of 19.4 per cent in 2025, making Apple the world's top smartphone company for the first time since 2011.

Samsung's shipments are also expected to grow 4.6 per cent (year-on-year) and reach a global share of 18.7 per cent, yet the company will relinquish the top spot it has held for more than a decade, the report noted.

iPhone shipments exceeded expectations in Q3 2025, posting a solid 9 per cent YoY growth for the quarter. The launch of the iPhone 17 series marked a shift in Apple's usual lineup, with the new iPhone Air replacing the Plus model, accompanied by adjustments in memory configurations and pricing tiers.

Meanwhile, global smartphone shipments are expected to grow 3.3 per cent on-year in 2025, according to the report."Beyond the highly positive market reception for the iPhone 17 series, the key driver behind the upgraded shipment outlook lies in the replacement cycle reaching its inflection point. Consumers who purchased smartphones during the COVID-19 boom are now entering their upgrade phase," said senior analyst Yang Wang.Furthermore, 358 million second-hand iPhones were sold between 2023 and Q2 2025.These users are also likely to upgrade to a new iPhone in the coming years. These factors will form a sizable demand base, which is expected to sustain iPhone shipment growth over the coming quarters, Wang added.According to Counterpoint's latest weekly sell-through tracker, sales of the iPhone 17 series in the US, including the iPhone Air, during the first four weeks after launch were 12 per cent higher than those of the iPhone 16 series, excluding the iPhone 16e.

Elsewhere, Apple also benefited from lower-than-expected tariff impacts globally and a truce in the US-China trade and tech war.

This not only helped Apple's supply chain and the ongoing efforts to diversify manufacturing bases, but also aggregate demand in its key growth regions -- emerging markets.

"Appreciating domestic currencies versus the US dollar and a resilient economic outlook boosted consumer confidence. With these structural tailwinds, Apple is well-positioned to surpass Samsung in annual shipments in 2025," the report noted.

Samsung is expected to see a decent 5 per cent shipment growth in 2025, supported by a resilient supply chain that has absorbed much of the tariff impact, it added. **IANS**

India set to become global destination for aircraft MRO services: Aviation Minister

HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 26



Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu exuded confidence on Wednesday that with continued policy reforms, strong industry partnerships, and an emerging skilled workforce, India is set to become a preferred global destination for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services.

In his address at the inauguration of French aerospace major Safran's largest Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) centre for the CFM International LEAP engines, he said India has become the fastest-growing MRO market, which is three times the global rate."Our MRO market is projected to rise up to 4 billion US dollars by 2031 at an 8.9 per cent growth rate, which is far outpacing the global growth rate of 4.8 per cent. I see this as an unprecedented opportunity for global engine manufacturers looking to partner with India's rapidly expanding aviation ecosystem," he said.

Naidu revealed that during the last 11 years, India's aviation ecosystem has taken a decisive lead by doubling the number of airports, aircraft, and passengers.Spurred by rising passenger demand, the country's commercial aircraft fleet has expanded at a rate of 7.6 per cent Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR), which is three times the global average. This alone creates demand for over 2,500 Safran engines to power the new aircraft that are coming, he said.The Union Minister termed the inauguration of the MRO facility as a defining moment in India's ascent as a global aviation hub for aviation services.He said that this facility puts India well on the path to emerge as a leading MRO hub by 2030. Once fully operational, it will serve up to 300 engines annually, which presently go out of the country for service.

"Today's inauguration of the world's largest engine MRO facility by the Prime Minister is a resounding testament to deep trust and confidence which global OEMs now place in India's engineering capabilities and infrastructural excellence," he said. **IANS**

New Chandigarh emerges as a major Investment & residential hub: Real estate industry expert Jatinder Bajwa

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26



New Chandigarh is rapidly establishing itself as the Tricity's most dynamic and promising urban growth centre, attracting the attention of homebuyers, institutional investors and premium developers from across North India.

Jatinder Bajwa, who is a real estate expert and aware about the economic potential of New Chandigarh, while interacting with a select group of media, on the rise of New Chandigarh as the latest & most lucrative investment destination said, "I am upbeat about New Chandigarh, the township will spearhead the next phase of economic growth in the region."Bajwa who is also the Vice President of GB Realty – a fast growing real estate company, added: "Boosted by a sanguine outlook for New Chandigarh we are bringing the city's first iconic certified high-rise ultra-luxury residential towers under 'Opus One', these will be the tallest residential towers in the township.

We have received record-speed RERA approvals and are establishing contemporary design benchmarks in 'Opus One'."

He said that people are getting fed up with high pollution levels, deteriorating AQI's and grid locks in metro cities, and upcoming planned areas like New Chandigarh are becoming the automatic choice for them.Bajwa added, "Connectivity remains one of New Chandigarh's strongest drivers of growth.

The under-construction six-lane expressway directly linking the township to Chandigarh International Airport is expected to significantly enhance residential attractiveness and investment demand."Bajwa said, "Education City has been planned to host leading schools, universities and global institutions, while Medi City is emerging as a specialized healthcare cluster housing multi-specialty hospitals, wellness centres and research facilities."

Most importantly, the township's proximity to Chandigarh has emerged as one of its biggest strengths. Residents benefit from quick access to Chandigarh's business districts, retail hubs and cultural centres, even as they enjoy a more spacious and less congested lifestyle shaped by new-age infrastructure and contemporary design.With diverse real estate options, ranging from plotted townships and premium apartments to integrated developments and high-rise landmarks—New Chandigarh's appeal across investor categories is wide.

"New Chandigarh is giving long-term investors, first-time homebuyers, NRIs, luxury seekers and commercial buyers opportunities aligned with their objectives, supported by improved civic amenities and a fast-growing institutional ecosystem," concluded Bajwa.

India's lower-income states grow faster than richer states due to higher capex

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26



India's lower-income states are showing early signs of "growth convergence" after the pandemic, indicated by a rise in state public capital expenditure that has helped some lagging regions grow faster than richer states, a report said on Wednesday.

Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar are standout states with higher public capex and strong growth, the report from HSBC Global Investment Research said.

"Those states that have lower GDP per capita can display strong catch-up growth for several years if the conditions are right. This is what we call 'growth convergence' in economics and can be a driver of strong national growth," the report said.

HSBC's analysts found that when states are comfortable on the fiscal revenue front, they tend to raise capex, especially in the case of emerging states, adding that the centre's transfer of resources to states increased after the pandemic.

The report also flagged that slowing tax revenue growth at the centre could slow automatic transfers to states. Several states, especially those going into elections, are announcing new cash transfer programmes, which are not a concern so far in terms of crowding out capex, but remain a key watch point.The research firm suggested that the centre could raise the scope of its capex loans to state programmes. **IANS**

Luxury home prices up 40 pc in India's seven cities, affordable housing up 26 pc

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26



Luxury housing demand in India's top seven cities has outpaced other segments over the past three years, with average prices for homes priced above Rs 1.5 crore rising about 40 per cent from Rs 14,530 per sq. ft. in 2022 to Rs 20,300 per sq. ft. in 2025, a report said on Wednesday.

The luxury housing segment continues to rule the residential market in India's top 7 cities - not only in new supply and absorption but also in price appreciation, the report from real estate services firm ANAROCK said.Delhi NCR led gains in the luxury segment, posting a 72 per cent jump to Rs 23,100 per sq. ft., while Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Bengaluru saw gains of 43 per cent and 42 per cent respectively.

Affordable homes priced less than Rs 40 lakh saw just 26 per cent average price appreciation. NCR saw the highest price growth of 48 periods in this segment as well during the same period.

Mid and premium homes (Rs 40 lakh to Rs 1.5 Cr) appreciated about 39 per cent, with Bengaluru notching up the highest 62 per cent price appreciation."

Demand for luxury homes continues to outpace that in other segments because of the consistent appetite for bigger homes by branded developers in superior locations," said Anuj Puri, Chairman, ANAROCK Group.

"Our data finds that of the total sales of approximately 2.87 lakh units in these cities in the January to September period, nearly 30 per cent were in the luxury segment. **IANS**

Centre auctions 3 coal blocks, likely to attract ₹7,350 crore investment

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26



The Ministry of Coal on Wednesday successfully completed the auction of three coal blocks in Jharkhand and Odisha under the 13th round of commercial coal mine auctions, which are likely to attract a capital investment of nearly Rs 7,350 crore, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

These three blocks are poised to generate annual revenue of approximately Rs 4,620.69 crore and create 66,248 employment opportunities, the statement said. Damodar Valley Corporation has emerged as the highest bidder for the three coal blocks comprising Pirpainti Barahat and Dhulia North in Jharkhand, and Mandakini-B in Odisha.

The three fully explored coal blocks together hold geological reserves of approximately 3,306.58 million tonnes, with a cumulative Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) to produce 49 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).

Since the inception of commercial coal mining in 2020, a total of 136 coal blocks, with a production capacity of 325.04 Million Tonnes per year, have been successfully auctioned. Once operational, these blocks will substantially enhance domestic coal production and advance the nation's goal of becoming self-reliant in the coal sector. Collectively, these coal blocks are estimated to yield annual revenue of Rs 43,330 crore, mobilise capital investment of Rs 48,756 crore, and generate 4,39,447 employment opportunities across coal-bearing regions.The ministry launched the 13th round of commercial coal block auctions on August 21. Following this, the forward auctions were conducted from November 20 to November 25. The round offers both fully and partially explored blocks, and includes reforms like incentives for early production and updated penalties for delays.As part of the coal sector reforms, the government has moved from an earlier restrictive model to granting coal mining blocks pursuant to a competitive bidding process, and from prescribing specific end-use to permitting commercial sale of coal. **IANS**

Banks' lending rates fall in S. Korea on Oct despite uptick in mortgage rates

SEOUL, NOVEMBER 26

Banks' overall loan rates edged down in October amid the central bank's monetary easing cycle, though mortgage rates climbed due to authorities' tighter lending regulations, data showed on Wednesday.

The average interest rate on new bank loans came to 4.02 per cent last month, down 0.01 percentage point from September, according to data from the Bank of Korea (BOK), reports Yonhap news agency.

By sector, the average rate on corporate loans fell 0.03 percentage point to 3.96 per cent in October, marking the fifth consecutive monthly fall.

In contrast, the rate on new household loans rose 0.07 percentage point to 4.24 per cent, as home-backed mortgage loans and jeonse loans increased by 0.02 percentage point each.

"General credit loan rates fell by 0.12 percentage point to 5.19 per cent, but the share of the loans, which carry relatively higher interest rates, expanded, leading to an overall rise in household loan rates," a BOK official said.

Jeonse is a unique housing rental system in South Korea in which tenants make a large lump-sum deposit that is fully returned at the end of their lease agreement.

The rise in mortgage rates came as the government has rolled out stricter lending rules for home purchases to cool the overheated property market and rein in household debt.

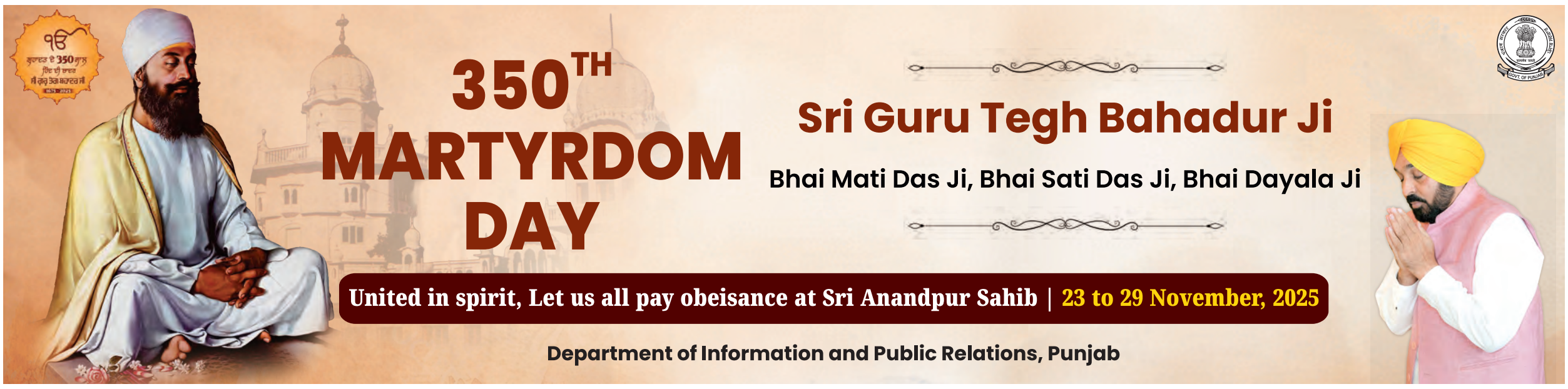
The average rate that banks pay for fresh deposits went up 0.05 percentage point to 2.57 per cent, marking the second consecutive month of gain. **IANS**

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ZELENSKY SIGNALS READINESS TO DEVELOP REVISED PEACE PLAN INTO 'DEEPER AGREEMENTS' P11

SOUTH AFRICA HAND INDIA BIGGEST DEFEAT TO CLINCH HISTORIC SERIES WIN P12



PM Modi launches Safran aircraft engine facility in Hyd, says India trusted partner for investors

HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 26



Highlighting India's investment potential, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the country is a trusted partner and investors are co-creators. After virtually inaugurating French major Safran's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facility for LEAP engines used in commercial aircraft, in the city, Modi said the facility will also help provide job opportunities for the youngsters.

Asserting that India has decriminalised hundreds of business-related provisions, he underlined that the National Single Window System has brought numerous approvals onto a single platform. He noted that GST reforms, faceless tax assessment, new labour codes, and the insolvency and bankruptcy code have all made governance simpler and more transparent than ever before.

"Because of these efforts, India is now seen as a trusted partner, a major market, and a rising manufacturing hub. India today has rapid growth, a stable government, a reform-oriented mindset, a vast young talent pool, and a large domestic market. And most importantly, for those investing in India, the country considers them not merely as investors but as co-creators, stakeholders in the journey of Viksit Bharat," he said.

In the last few years, India's aviation sector has taken a huge leap and today the country is one of the fastest growing domestic aviation markets in the world, Modi said adding that India's domestic market is the third largest in the world.

As the aspirations of the people of India are on a new level, the demand for air travel in India is continuously increasing prompting Indian carriers to continuously increase their active fleet. PTI

Freedom is not only about rights, but duties and unity too: PM

KARAMSAD (GUJARAT): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that Constitution Day reminds the countrymen that freedom is not only about rights, but also about duties and a call for unity. The PM's message was read out during the flag-off ceremony of 'Unity March' in Karamsad town of Gujarat's Anand district, the native place of India's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. PTI

As CM announces to increase sugarcane price at ₹416 per quintal, Punjab continues to lead country with highest rate

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Dinanagar, November 26



Continuing the tradition to give highest price to Sugarcane cultivators in the country Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday announced to increase sugarcane price of Rs 416 per quintal for the upcoming crushing season, reaffirming his government's firm commitment to safeguarding the interests of farmers across the state.

Interacting with the media persons after inaugurating the New Sugar Mill and Co-Generation Plant at Dinanagar, the Chief Minister said that Punjab has become the first state in the country to fix such a high price for sugarcane, setting a benchmark at the national level. He said that Punjab will be giving the highest rate of sugarcane across the country thereby immensely benefitting its farmers.

CM Mann bats for strategic tie up with Japan in key sectors

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday batted for strategic tie up with Japan in key sectors of advanced manufacturing, mobility, electronics, food processing, renewable energy, and global services. The Chief Minister, accompanied by Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora, virtually held a detailed deliberation with a high level delegation of Japan comprising representatives of the Embassy of Japan, JETRO, JCCII, and over 25 leading Japanese companies operating across India such as Panasonic, Sumitomo, Nippon, NEC, Toyota and others.

SC sets up medical board at Noida hospital to explore passive euthanasia for 31-yr-old

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Noida district hospital to constitute a primary board to explore passive euthanasia for a 31-year-old man suffering from 100 per cent disability quadriplegia and has been in a vegetative state for over a decade, saying his health condition has gone from bad to worse. Passive euthanasia is the intentional act of letting a patient die by withholding or withdrawing life support or treatment necessary for maintaining life.

A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan asked the district hospital at Noida in sector 39 to file its report within two weeks on an application filed by father of 31-year-old Harish Rana seeking passive euthanasia for him saying his health condition has gone from bad to worse.

"We want the primary board to give us a report that life-sustaining treatment can be withheld. Let the primary board place its report at the earliest, and once it is before us, we shall proceed to pass further orders. Let this exercise be done within two weeks," the bench directed. PTI

RED FORT BLAST

Accused Soyab sent to 10-day NIA custody

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was granted a 10-day custody of Soyab, the accused in the Delhi terror blast case, who was arrested in Faridabad earlier on Wednesday.

Soyab was presented before the Patiala House Court, which approved his transfer to NIA custody for 10 days.

Additionally, another key accused, Aamir Rashid Ali, had his NIA custody expiring on the same day. He was also presented before the court, which extended his custody by an additional seven days.

The NIA, earlier in the day, arrested Soyab, a resident of Faridabad's Dhoj, for harbouring terrorist Dr Umar Muhammad, also known as Umar Un Nabi, immediately before the Delhi terror bomb blast. PTI

CJI mulls virtual-only hearings in SC due to pollution, says felt unwell when he went for walk

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, while considering the possibility of shifting Supreme Court hearings to the virtual-only mode due to the severe air pollution, said he felt unwell when he went for an hour-long walk a day before.

Kant said he would decide after consulting the bar, even as the idea of allowing virtual hearings for lawyers above 60 years of age was floated in the court.

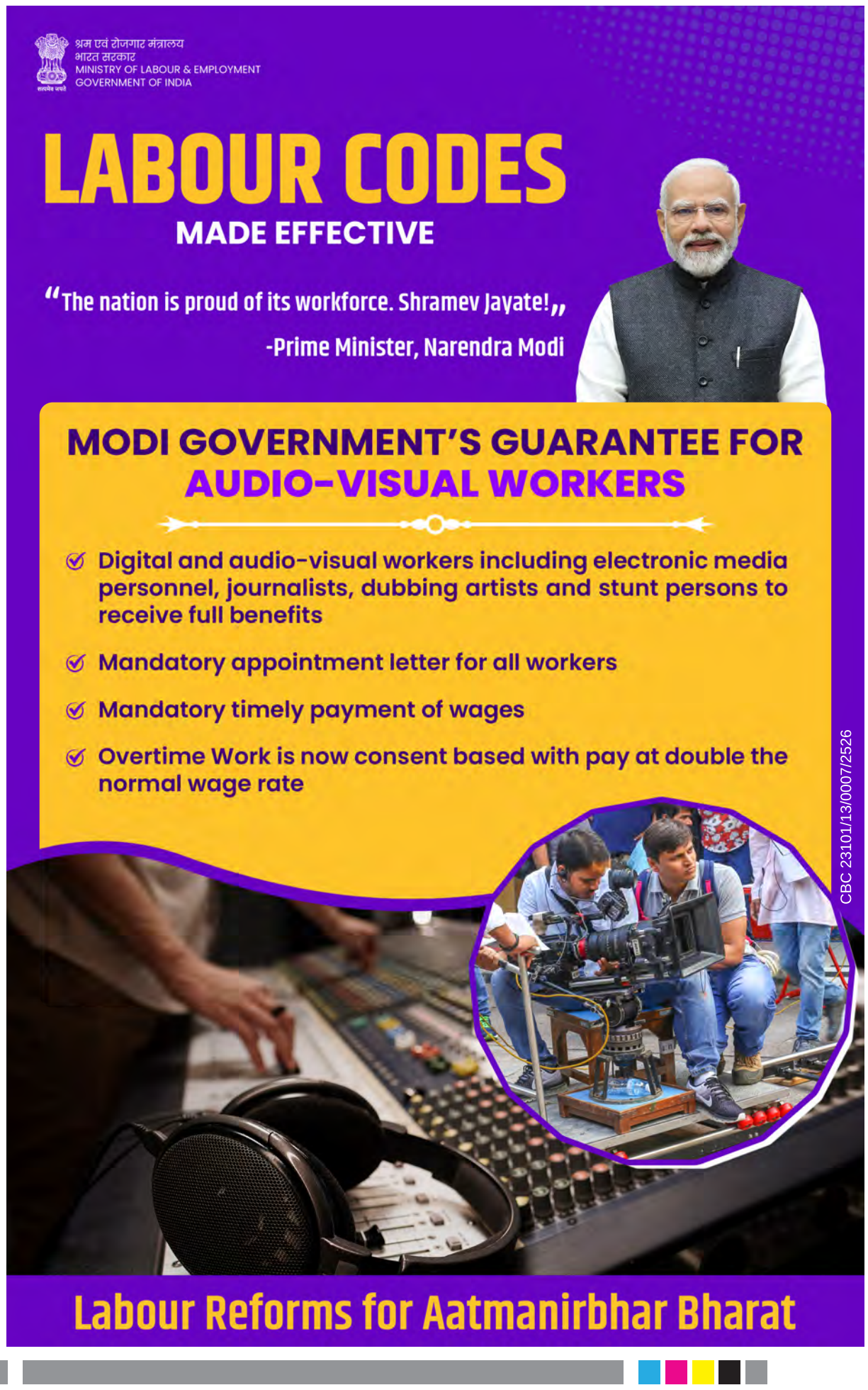
The observations were made by the CJI at the outset of the hearing on pleas — challenging the Election Commission's decision to conduct Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and other states — when senior lawyer, Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, sought exemption from personal presence. PTI

Karnataka power tussle: Kharge says issue will be resolved after discussions with Sonia, Rahul

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

Amid speculation over leadership change in Karnataka, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said the issue will be resolved after discussions at the top level with senior leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

The power tussle within the ruling party has intensified in the recent weeks amid murmurs about a CM change in the state after the Congress government reached the halfway mark of its five-year term on November 20 in the backdrop of an alleged "power-sharing" agreement involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar in 2023. PTI



Patiala district judiciary celebrates Constitution Day, reaffirms commitment to constitutional values

BALINDER SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, November 26



The Learned District and Sessions Judge, Patiala, Avtar Singh, led the Judiciary of District Patiala in celebrating Constitution Day of India at the District Courts Complex, Patiala. The event was organized to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949 and to re-affirm the commitment of the judiciary to uphold the values enshrined in it.

The programme commenced with the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution, followed by an address by the learned District & Sessions Judge, who highlighted the significance of the Constitution as the corner stone of the nation's democratic framework. He emphasized the importance of constitutional values such as justice, liberty, equality and fraternity and urged all judicial officers, staff members and stakeholders to carry out their duties with integrity and dedication. The District & Sessions Judge also encouraged the participants to promote constitutional awareness among citizens, especially the marginalized and vulnerable sections, in order to strengthen access to justice. He further urged them to actively participate in Mission Nasha Mukt Punjab, which is scheduled to be launched on December 6 and will continue until January 6. The programme concluded with a pledge to uphold the Constitution and to work collectively towards ensuring justice for all.On this occasion, ceremonial sapling was also planted in the court premises by the Learned District & Sessions Judge, Patiala, accompanied by all Judicial Officers and the staff.

Giaspura MLA lays foundation stone for 12 new sports grounds in Payal constituency

GURKIRPAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 26



In a major boost to sports infrastructure in the region, Payal constituency on Wednesday witnessed a significant development initiative as the foundation stones for 12 new sports grounds were laid across various villages. The project, to be executed by the Panchayat Department, aims to provide modern sports facilities to rural youth.

MLA Manwinder Singh Giaspura commenced the initiative on Wednesday morning by laying the first foundation stone at village Mallipur. He then visited Bishanpura, Jaipur, Buani, Ghudani Khurd, Aluna Tola, Ghurala, Karaudian, Rauni, Bhadowal, Rara Sahib and Ghangas, where similar ceremonies were held.

The series of events began at 9:30 am and continued throughout the day.

During the visit, the MLA also laid the foundation stone for a new Panchayat Ghar at village Jargari, where residents warmly welcomed him, terming the project a historic step for rural development.Addressing the gatherings, MLA Giaspura said that this initiative reflects the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and Panchayat Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond. He said the Mann Government is committed to strengthening village infrastructure, empowering youth, and promoting sports culture.

He added that due to the special support extended by Minister Sond, major developmental projects in the constituency are progressing rapidly.

"Earlier, youth had to travel to towns or cities due to the lack of proper playgrounds. Now, world-class facilities will be available in their own villages," he said.

Constitution Day observed by DLSA at New Court Complex, SBS Nagar



ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 26

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, marked Constitution Day with a special programme held at the New Court Complex on Wednesday. The event was organised in accordance with the directions issued by the Punjab State Legal Services Authority, SAS Nagar, and was conducted under the leadership of Priya Sood, Hon'ble District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairperson, DLSA, and Dr Amandeep, Civil Judge (Senior Division)/CJM-cum-Secretary, DLSA.

A large number of judicial officers, including S.S Kundra, President of the Bar Association, Rajinder Singh, Secretary of the Bar Association, advocates, DLSA staff and employees of various courts attended the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Chairperson Priya Sood underlined the significance of the Indian Constitution, describing it as a document enriched with unique features that guarantee freedom while ensuring that citizens function within the framework of law. She stated that the Constitution clearly defines the fundamental duties of every citizen, including safeguarding the unity and integrity of the nation, promoting social harmony, ensuring respect and safety for women, protecting the environment, developing scientific temper, safeguarding public property, and working collectively to elevate the country's achievements.

Senior Advocate J.D Jain delivered an informative address on the importance of Constitution Day, emphasising its historical and civic relevance. Panel Advocate Sapna Jaggi read out the Preamble to the Constitution and explained that the ideals enshrined within it are complementary to one another, collectively creating an environment in which every citizen is empowered to grow, contribute meaningfully to society, and support fellow citizens.

The event also saw the presence of Sonia Angrish, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee, SBS Nagar.

The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of commitment towards constitutional values and citizen responsibilities.

Powercom contract workers protest Electricity Amendment Bill, sale of govt land

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 26

Contract workers of Powercom and Transco staged a strong protest outside the local Powercom office on Wednesday, opposing the proposed Electricity Amendment Bill 2025 and the alleged move to sell government-owned Powercom land. The protest was held under the banner of the Powercom and Transco Contract Employees Union Punjab, which had given a statewide call for division-level demonstrations.

The protesting workers raised loud slogans against Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Power Minister Sanjeev Arora, accusing the government of pushing privatisation at the cost of employees' livelihoods. Outsourced and contract workers participated in large numbers.

Addressing the gathering, Division President Arshdeep Suman, GTS Union Sub-Division President Hansraj, President Mahinder Pal, Senior Meet President Maninder Billa, Press Secretary Sohan Lal, and other union leaders said that both the central and state governments were repeatedly amending laws to favour corporate profit under the broader privatisation policy. They alleged that the draft Electricity Amendment Bill 2025 was another step in the same direction.According to union leaders, the proposed bill threatens the job security of thousands of electricity workers, particularly outsourced and contract employees, who fear large-scale job loss. They further claimed that the bill could end pension guarantees for retired employees and eliminate subsidies currently provided to farmers, labourers, and small businesses.

The speakers demanded that the central and Punjab governments immediately withdraw the draft amendment bill, stop privatisation measures within Powercom and Transco, and halt the sale of land belonging to Powercom and other public institutions. They also urged the central government to roll back policies promoting centralisation and corporatisation of public-sector units, repeal the labour codes allegedly designed to weaken worker protections, and restore the earlier labour laws. The union reiterated the demand to reintroduce the old pension scheme for all employees recruited after 2004.Issuing a warning, the leaders declared that if the government fails to withdraw the draft bill and accept their demands, workers across all unions along with farmers, labour organisations, and other groups will intensify the agitation. They also announced that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Power Minister Sanjeev Arora would face stiff protest from contract workers during their field visits.

Vet Varsity Youth Festival starts with creativity, knowledge sharing and spiritual recital

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 26



The 14th Youth Festival of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana, commenced with vibrant events celebrating creativity, fine arts, intellectual engagement and spiritual recital. The off-stage segment of the festival was inaugurated by Dr Jatinder Paul Singh Gill, Vice-Chancellor.

Extending best wishes, Dr Gill emphasized that participation in extracurricular activities plays a vital role in the holistic development of students. He encouraged students to make full use of such platforms to sharpen their skills and express their creativity.Dr RS Aulakh, Director Students' Welfare, highlighted that youth festivals serve as an important medium for students to express their inner talents.

He added that the university continues to provide excellent facilities to nurture students' abilities, and the enthusiasm among participants reflected their eagerness to perform.Dr SPS Ghuman, Organizing Secretary of the festival, informed that five events marked the opening day: Photography, Quiz, Shabad Gayan, Poster Making and Cartooning.

The theme for Poster Making was " Youth Festival." The Photography competition centered on the topic of "Colours of Winters."

Massive fire guts fast-food shop in Goraya's Guru Bazaar; heavy losses incurred

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 26



A major fire broke out on Wednesday morning at a fast-food shop named Vez Parlour in Guru Bazaar, Goraya, causing losses worth several lakh rupees. According to shop owner Mani, smoke suddenly began emerging from the shop shortly after 8 am. Local residents immediately informed Ward Councillor Prof. Rishu, who alerted the Phillaur Fire Brigade and requested a fire tender.

Before the fire brigade arrived, people from the neighbourhood tried to control the blaze, but the flames spread rapidly. Firefighters eventually managed to extinguish the fire, but by then the kitchen constructed above the shop had been completely destroyed. All kitchen items were reduced to ashes, though one gas cylinder in the kitchen and another below the shop remained intact. Three additional cylinders were stored inside the premises at the time of the incident. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.Ward Councillor Prof. Rishu expressed sympathy towards the shop owner and criticised the lack of timely fire-service access in the town. He said that although a fire tender has been allotted for Goraya—its operational costs borne by the Nagar Council the vehicle remains stationed at the Phillaur Fire Station, resulting in delayed response. He added that had the fire tender reached on time, the damage could have been minimised. Prof. Rishu said he would raise the issue in the council meeting and strongly demand that the fire tender be stationed permanently in Goraya to ensure prompt emergency response.

Blood donation camp organised



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mandi Gobindgarh, November 26

A blood donation camp was organized at Sri Anandpur Sahib to commemorate the martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, drawing a large number of volunteers and donors who came together to honour the Guru's legacy of sacrifice, courage, and service to humanity. The event witnessed active participation from students of the School of Nursing, Desh Bhagat University, under the guidance of PNRC Registrar Dr Puneet Girdhar and in accordance with PNRC guidelines.A total of 48 nursing students from the university generously donated blood, while many others supported the medical teams by assisting with registration, screening procedures, and donor care. Their dedicated involvement added immense value to the initiative and highlighted their strong commitment to humanitarian service and professional ethics.The School of Nursing extended heartfelt gratitude to Honorable Chancellor Dr Zora Singh, Pro-Chancellor Dr Tejinder Kaur, Principal Dr Lovesampuranjot Kaur and Deputy Director D. Prabhjot Singh for encouraging and permitting student participation. Their support played a pivotal role in motivating the students to contribute meaningfully to this noble cause.Organizers expressed deep appreciation for the efforts of the nursing students and the leadership of Desh Bhagat University, stating that their collective contribution truly embodied the spirit of compassion, service, and community welfare inspired by the teachings of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Constitution Day observed

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, November 26

Patiala Locomotive Works (PLW) observed Constitution Day with officers, staff and KV-2 students participating in the nationwide Preamble reading. At the Administrative Block, Puneet Kathpalia, PCEE, led the pledge ceremony in the Portico of the Administrative Building. Officers and staff reaffirmed their commitment to the values enshrined in the Constitution. In the Medical Department, the PCMO administered the Preamble reading to all officers and staff.In the Civil Department, the Deputy Chief Engineer led the pledge. At the Workshop, WMs/AWMs conducted the Preamble reading with staff at 11:00 hrs. At Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, PLW, students and teachers began the day with a special morning assembly, Constitution Day pledge and an Essay Writing Competition on Samvidhan Diwas, spreading awareness about constitutional values among young learners.

69th Punjab State Inter-District School Circle Kabaddi Championship kicks off in Ferozepur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, November 26



The 69th Punjab State Inter-District School Games (2025-26) for Under-14 boys and girls in Circle Kabaddi began on Tuesday at Bazidpur in district Ferozepur. The tournament has been organized under the supervision of Surinder Kaur, Principal, PM Shri Government Senior Secondary School Bazidpur, Pawanpreet Kaur, Principal, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Public School Bazidpur, and Navdeep Kumar, CHT, Government Primary School Bazidpur.

The event was formally inaugurated by District Education Officer (Secondary) Munila Arora, who attended as the chief guest. Deputy District Education Officer (Secondary) and National Awardee Dr. Satinder Singh, along with School Chairman Darshan Singh Sher Khan, graced the occasion as special guests.

Principal Pawanpreet Kaur welcomed the guests with bouquets. In her address chief guest Munila Arora, along with Dr Satinder Singh, extended best wishes to the participating students, teachers, coaches, and parents from various districts. They also urged visitors to explore the historically significant sites of Bazidpur Sahib—land blessed by Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj, and associated with the last rites of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Rajguru, and Shaheed Sukhdev, as well as the legendary martyrs of Saragarhi.

Minor boy attacked, robbed in Bhullarai; villagers nab one accused

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 26

A tense atmosphere prevailed in the densely populated village of Bhullarai in Phagwara after a minor boy was attacked and robbed by three men who arrived on a motorcycle. According to local residents, the assailants, armed with sharp-edged weapons, assaulted the boy and allegedly snatched his iPhone and motorcycle before attempting to flee.

Chaos broke out as villagers raised an alarm. They managed to overpower one of the suspects, who was later handed over to the Phagwara police in a half-naked condition after being beaten by the crowd. The injured minor was rushed to the civil hospital, where government doctors are treating him.

Witnesses said the attackers used a sharp-edged 'datar' to injure the boy before taking his belongings. While two of the assailants escaped with the stolen items, the third was caught on the spot. Residents expressed serious concern over the brazenness of the crime, noting that such a daylight robbery shows even rural areas are no longer safe from criminals.

Villagers have demanded that Phagwara police ensure the safety of people in surrounding areas and arrest the remaining two suspects at the earliest.

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State govt organises mock legislative assembly session for students at Sri Anandpur Sahib on Constitution Day

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Sri Anandpur Sahib,
November 26



In a unique initiative to mark Constitution Day and inspire young minds, the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab government has organised a mock Punjab Vidhan Sabha session for students from government schools across the state at Sri Anandpur Sahib on Wednesday.

The mock session, held at a Punjab Vidhan Sabha Building set up at Sri Anandpur Sahib to hold a Special Vidhan Sabha Session to mark the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Ninth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, was commenced by Secretary Punjab Vidhan Sabha Ramlok Khatana with the permission of Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan.

Punjab Deputy Speaker of Vidhan Sabha Jai Krishan Singh Rouri welcomed the Speaker Vidhan Sabha, dignitaries, and all participants, and apprised the gathering about the significance of the Constitution Day.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Dr Ravjot Singh, addressing the gathering, stated that the Constitution of India not only grants us the right to live a better life but also makes us aware of our duties. He expressed hope that today's session would spark an interest in politics among the students.

In his address, Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhawan described the day as historic, where they are training the future generation about how government works. He emphasised that politics touches every aspect of our lives, determines the value of everything, and profoundly influences our existence.

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and other dignitaries enthusiastically encouraged the students who role-played as the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers, and MLAs. Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhawan stated that students are the future leaders, and this special initiative of the Punjab government reflects its commitment to making Punjab's children the rulers of tomorrow.

Congratulating the school students, teachers, and parents, the Speaker also appealed for greater participation in politics. He assigned the students a task to write an article on the topic of 'Vote Theft'. He announced cash prizes worth of Rs 51,000, Rs 21,000, and Rs 11,000 for the students securing first, second, and third positions, respectively.

Arora extends heartiest congratulations on AAP's Foundation Day

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26

On the historic occasion of Constitution Day, Aam Aadmi Party Punjab President Shri Aman Arora extended his warmest greetings to the people of India and also marked the day with a special message celebrating AAP's Foundation Day.

Aman Arora said that thirteen years ago, Arvind Kejriwal began a movement that has today grown into a powerful institution dedicated to clean, transparent and people-centric governance. He recalled how Kejriwal took upon himself the monumental mission of ending corruption, dismantling high-handed systems, and establishing a governance model rooted in honesty and public service.

Arora stated, "What began as a struggle led by Arvind Kejriwal has today transformed into a national force. AAP reached the status of a national party in record time and earned the privilege of forming governments in two states. These achievements reflect the commitment, sacrifice and collective effort of our party leadership, volunteers and supporters."

Extending heartfelt congratulations to National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal, party leaders and lakhs of dedicated volunteers across the country, Arora said that the journey of the Aam Aadmi Party stands as a testimony to the power of truth, integrity and constitutional values. He added that as the party completes 13 inspiring years, it reaffirms its resolve to continue serving the nation with transparency, accountability and unwavering dedication to the ideals of the Constitution.

Two brothers linked to cross-border smuggling module held with IED in Amritsar

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, November 26



In an intelligence-led operation amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Rural Police has busted a cross-border smuggling module with the arrest of two individuals and recovered one Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and two mobile phones from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Wednesday.

Those arrested have been identified as Akashdeep Singh alias Akash and Yuvraj Singh, both are brothers and are residents of village Ranike in Amritsar. Apart from recovering IED and mobile phones, police teams have also impounded their Motorcycle, which they were using to commit crime.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has indicated that the duo were in contact with a Pakistan-based handler, highlighting strong cross-border links behind the conspiracy. Further investigation is ongoing to establish forward and backward linkages in this case, he said.

Govt schools' students exhibit skills in mock session of Vidhan Sabha

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Sri Anandpur Sahib,
November 26



A mock session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha was organized on the occasion of India's Constitution Day in the Punjab Legislative Assembly established here to mark 350th martyrdom day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji on Wednesday. The students from government schools across Punjab participated in this mock session.Even though it was just a mock session; as many as 117 students played their roles so realistically which reflects it as a real Punjab Vidhan Sabha sitting.

Harkamaldeep Singh, a student of School of Eminence, Ghanouri Kalan, representing Dhuri MLA and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, took potshots on the the opposition throughout the proceedings with fact-based replies. Harpreet Singh, student of Government Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Kotdhandal, representing Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, raised several Punjab-related issues and had a repeated verbal clashes with the Chief Minister's representative.

Jagmandar Singh, student of H.S.N. School of Eminence, Jaito, representing Kotkapura MLA and Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, conducted the proceedings of the House excellently and sorted out arguments amicably between the ruling party and the opposition with great seriousness. During the session, he adjourned the House twice. Daljit Singh, student of School of Eminence, Kiratpur Sahib, representing Sri Anandpur Sahib MLA and Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, highlighted about revolution brought out by Punjab government in the education sector.

Bhullar pins stars on 6 promoted AIG, Superintendent Central Jails

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26



In a path breaking initiative aimed at strengthening the functioning of jails in the state besides ensuring the further fine tuning of infrastructure, the Jails Minister, Punjab, Laljit Singh Bhullar on Wednesday conducted a piping ceremony of newly promoted prison officials at his office in Punjab Civil Secretariat here. On Wednesday, stars were pinned on the shoulders of 6 AIGs/Superintendent Central Jails.

Notably, 14 officials have been promoted including 6 AIGs/Superintendent Central Jails and 8 DSPs Grade-1. The move is aimed at more effective management of the prison infrastructure in Punjab apart from addressing the manpower requirements as well as improving the administrative efficiency, said the Minister while congratulating the promoted officers. The Minister outlined that with higher ranks comes greater responsibility and decision making authority which would enable the promoted officers to ensure enhanced security, discipline and undertake various measures for the welfare of the inmates.

These promotions symbolize the recognition of merit and efficiency thus motivating the workforce to maintain highest standards of duty, integrity and professionalism, said the Minister adding that with the years of expertise that these officers possess, the correctional mechanism would evolve into a more transparent and efficient system.



Chief Justice of India confers certificate of honour to State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Harpreet Sandhu on the Constitution Day event for authoring book titled 'Spiritual Journey of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib' in Delhi, on Wednesday. BPE

MAJOR TERROR PLOT FOILED

Four operatives of Lawrence Bishnoi gang held after exchange of fire; seven pistols recovered

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, November 26



In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) in a joint operation with SAS Nagar Police has foiled a major terror plot with the arrest of four operatives of foreign-based gangster Goldy Dhillon of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang after an exchange of fire near Steel Strips Towers on the Dera Bassi-Ambala highway this afternoon, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Wednesday.

Those arrested have been identified as Harvinder Singh alias Bhola alias Honey and Lakhwinder Singh, both residents of Dhakansu Kalan in Rajpura, Patiala; and Mohammad Samir and Rohit Sharma, both residents of Rajpura, Patiala. Police teams have also recovered seven .32 calibre pistols along with 70 live cartridges from their possession. PTI

State to host 'Punjab Sakhi Shakti Melas' across all districts: Sond

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26



Punjab's Minister for Rural Development and Panchayats, Tarunpreet Singh Sond, announced that "Punjab Sakhi Shakti Melas" will be organised across all districts of the state to provide a vibrant platform for women to showcase their skills, creativity, and handmade products. The first mela commenced today, November 26 in Sangrur at the Ranbir College Ground, and will continue till November 30.

These melas are being organized by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats in collaboration with the Punjab State Rural Livelihood Mission and the Department of Industries and Commerce.

Starting from Sangrur on November 26, 2025, the "Punjab Sakhi Shakti Melas" will be held across 23 districts until February 2026. The melas will offer a wide array of products, including handicrafts, handloom garments, Phulkari, home décor items, organic food items, honey, spices, detergents, phenyl, and other household essentials. Various food stalls will also attract visitors throughout the event.

Sond stated that these melas aim to provide greater market access to the products crafted by women Self-Help Group (SHG) members, helping them increase their income. The initiative will also create direct linkages between rural producers and urban consumers. Punjab's vibrant cultural heritage will also be highlighted through these melas, allowing the public to witness Punjabi craftsmanship, art forms, and organic produce from close quarters.

Vigilance Bureau arrests ASI demanding bribe of ₹5 lakh

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB), in line with the zero tolerance policy adopted by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab government, has apprehended an ASI Jaswinder Singh posted at police station Bhogpur, district Jalandhar for demanding a bribe Rs 5 lakh.

Disclosing this here on Wednesday an official spokesperson of the state VB said the arrest has been made following a complaint lodged by a resident of Maqsudan, Jalandhar city on the Chief Minister's Anti Corruption Action Line portal.

During the enquiry, it was found that the complainant was nominated as an accused in a case registered at police station Bhogpur. ASI Jaswinder Singh, being the Investigating Officer of that case, demanded a bribe of Rs 5,00,000 in the name of SHO Rajesh Kumar for not arresting the complainant as well as not showing the recovery of the pistol, and for not seeking further police remand of the already arrested accused Surjit Singh. Complainant had recorded the conversation when accused ASI was demanding a bribe of Rs. 5 Lakh, he added.

He further said that the bribe demand was reduced to Rs 2,00,000 upon the complainant's request. During the enquiry, no direct evidence has come on record regarding any bribe demand by SHO Rajesh Kumar.

PAU celebrates distinguished alumni Dr Manjit Chinnan and Dr Lata Mahajan Chinnan; expanded endowment to empower future achievers

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 26



Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) warmly welcomed Dr Manjit Singh Chinnan, Star Donor and distinguished alumnus of the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology (COAET), who was the chief guest for Convocation. Dr Chinnan, Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia, USA, is a Gold Medalist of the first (Diamond Jubilee) batch of Agricultural Engineering, 1959.

He was accompanied by his wife, Dr Lata Mahajan Chinnan, an alumna of the College of Basic Sciences and Humanities, and a former International Hockey Player. During their visit, the Chinnan couple interacted with the faculty of their respective colleges. As part of Chinnan's homecoming, the couple also visited the Department of Biochemistry, where she is an alumna.

She interacted warmly with the faculty, sharing cherished memories of her student days. The department felicitated the couple to honour their achievements and continued association with PAU.

In her role as a sports enthusiast and former international athlete, Chinnan also met PAU sportspersons, especially the recipients of the prestigious Chinnan Award, motivating them to uphold excellence in sports and academics.

MC razes six illegal buildings, illegal colony and an encroachment on road portion

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 26



Taking action against illegal constructions, Municipal Corporation demolished six under construction illegal buildings in different parts of the city on Wednesday. Further, an illegal colony and encroachment on road portion were also demolished.

Of the six illegal buildings demolished by the civic body, three were being constructed in Sherpur area, two on college road and one in Uttam Vihar (Bindraban road). An illegal building has also been sealed on College road.

ATP (Zone D) Harvinder Singh stated that action against illegal constructions was taken on the directions of MC Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal.

Singh stated that an under construction illegal colony has also been demolished near Alpine wood school and an encroachment on road portion was razed in Manohar Nagar. Meanwhile, the civic body officials appealed to the residents to start the construction works only after getting the building plans approved from the civic body, otherwise strict action would be taken against illegal constructions.

350th Shaheedi Divas: GRD Academy hosts book release event

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 26

Guru Ram Dass Academy, Ludhiana, organised a dignified Book Release Function on Wednesday, to commemorate the 350th Shaheedi Divas of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji. The event brought together leading voices of Punjabi literature and Sikh scholarship.

Bhupinder Patar presided over the function as the chief guest, while noted scholars Prof.Jagmohan Singh, Amarjit Grewal, and Swarnjit Savi graced the occasion.

The ceremony began with the Lighting of the Lamp, followed by a serene Shabad Recital that set a devotional tone. A Poetry Recitation in memory of Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib Ji's supreme sacrifice added depth to the programme. Four important publications were released during the event: Pragat Bhae Guru Teg Bahadur (Ed. Prof. Jagmohan Singh) Pratinidh Kavita (Swarnjit Savi) 1675 – A play by Amajit Grewal Martyrdom That Birthed The Future (Amajit Grewal) Mementoes were presented to all special guests, followed by addresses from the authors, each reflecting on the Guru's enduring message of courage, compassion, and freedom of faith. Chief Guest Bhupinder Patar's concluding remarks highlighted the contemporary relevance of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji's legacy.

On Constitution Day, Punjab Raj Bhavan officers and staff take pledge to uphold Constitutional values



A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26

On the occasion of Constitution Day, a solemn ceremony was held today at Punjab Raj Bhavan. During the event, the Principal Secretary to the Governor of Punjab, Vivek Pratap Singh, administered the Constitutional Oath to all officers and staff of Punjab Raj Bhavan.

Sharing his message on this occasion, the Governor of Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria, said that Constitution Day is an opportunity to pay tribute to the architects of our Constitution. Their visionary guidance continues to inspire us in our collective resolve to build a "Developed India."

He added that our Constitution places the highest value on human dignity, equality, and liberty. It grants us fundamental rights and simultaneously reminds us of our duties that form the foundation of a strong democracy.

The ceremony began with a tribute to the framers of the Constitution and a collective expression of respect for the spirit of the Constitution. All officers and staff present on the occasion reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the core principles of Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity enshrined in the Preamble.

The event at Punjab Raj Bhavan served as a reminder of the significance of Constitution Day and offered every government functionary an opportunity to renew their dedication to the democratic values of India.

Commemoration of 75 years of adoption of the Constitution at UT Secretariat highlights commitment to democratic values

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26

Constitution Day was celebrated on Wednesday at the UT Chandigarh Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh, in a befitting manner on the theme 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhiman'. Senior officials and employees from all departments of the Administration participated in the event.

On the occasion, Mandip Singh Brar, Home Secretary, UT Chandigarh, led the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India along with senior officials and staff of the Administration. All present reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the values and principles enshrined in the Constitution.

A short video highlighting the history and significance of the Constitution was also screened during the programme.

Constitution Day (Samvidhaan Diwas) is observed every year on 26th November to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India, promote janbhagidari (public participation), and honour the remarkable contribution of the Constitution's Founding Fathers.

PGIMER observes Samvidhan Diwas



■ DIRECTOR PGIMER, PROF. VIVEK LAL LEADS READING OF THE PREAMBLE AND NATIONAL PLEDGE

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26

"Samvidhan Diwas is not merely a day of remembrance—it is a powerful reminder of our duties as citizens and healthcare professionals," stated Prof. Vivek Lal, Director, PGIMER, as he led the institute in commemorating Samvidhan Diwas (Constitution Day) on Wednesday at PGIMER Chandigarh.

The event brought together senior functionaries including Prof. R.K. Ratho, Dean (Academics); . Pankaj Rai, Deputy Director (Administration); and Ravinder Singh, Financial Advisor, along with senior faculty, residents, nurses, and staff. The gathering reaffirmed the collective commitment to uphold the values enshrined in the Constitution of India.

The ceremony commenced with Prof. Vivek Lal leading the reading of the Preamble of the Constitution, followed by the National Pledge, setting a solemn and inspiring tone. His presence at the forefront underscored PGIMER's conviction in championing constitutional principles through its daily functioning and service ethos.

Addressing the audience, Prof. Vivek Lal emphasized the profound significance of the day in shaping national consciousness and institutional character as he highlighted, "The principles of justice, equality, compassion, and service embedded in our Constitution guide us every day at PGIMER. By renewing our pledge today, we reaffirm our dedication to patient-centric care, ethical practice, and nation-building. Upholding these ideals is our shared responsibility—and a legacy we must carry forward to inspire future generations."

He further underscored the responsibility of premier institutions like PGIMER in translating constitutional values into action by ensuring inclusive healthcare, equitable access, and community-focused programmes.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all sections of the PGIMER community, who collectively reflected on India's democratic ideals and the importance of constitutional literacy. PGIMER has consistently led national efforts in fostering civic awareness and public service values through its academic, clinical, and community health activities. The observance of Samvidhan Diwas reinforces this longstanding commitment and echoes the institute's mission to serve with integrity, equity, and compassion.

The programme concluded with a renewed institutional resolve to uphold constitutional principles in every sphere of functioning—clinical care, research, education, and community engagement.

MC Chandigarh engages young minds through educational visits to promote Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26



Aimed at educating the city's youth on the importance of responsible waste management, the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh has embarked on an impactful initiative of conducting exposure visit of school students.

As part of this effort, MC Chandigarh has launched a series of educational exposure visits for school and college students to strengthen awareness on solid waste management, segregation at source, and the core principles of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0.

On Wednesday, around 50 students from KBDAV School toured the Pink MRF Centre and the Solid Waste Management Plant, where they gained firsthand understanding of waste segregation, recycling processes, and modern waste treatment techniques. The interactive learning experience offered students an opportunity to witness how different categories of waste are collected, sorted, and processed, creating a deeper appreciation of the city's systematic approach to waste management.

Speaking about the initiative, MC Commissioner, Amit Kumar highlighted that such exposure plays a crucial role in fostering awareness and integrating sustainable practices into the educational framework. "A closer look at the processing plants not only enhances understanding but also instills lasting behavioural change among students. The aim is to nurture responsible citizens and strengthen the culture of cleanliness from a young age," he said.

He further added that Chandigarh, widely known as the City Beautiful, has remained at the forefront of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan through a blend of strong municipal enforcement, active citizen participation, and community-led initiatives. The city has steadily built a culture where cleanliness is embraced as a shared civic duty rather than a mere obligation.

He further said that the MC Chandigarh will continue engaging schools, colleges, and youth groups to ensure the message of cleanliness, sustainability, and responsibility spreads across future generations, shaping a cleaner and greener Chandigarh.

MC Chandigarh intensifies anti-encroachment drive in Sector 19; 75 challans issued



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26

The Municipal Corporation Chandigarh today carried out a rigorous anti-encroachment drive in Sector 19 Sadar Bazaar and Sector 19 Palika Bazaar to clear public spaces and ensure smooth pedestrian movement. During the drive, enforcement teams removed multiple temporary encroachments, including illegal extensions and roadside obstructions.

A total of 75 challans were issued to shopkeepers, vendors, and individuals found violating municipal norms. The operation was conducted as part of the MC's ongoing efforts to maintain cleanliness, order, and hassle-free public access in busy market areas.

A strict warning has been issued to all violators and unauthorized vendors, directing them not to occupy public land or obstruct pathways.

Mayor announces major relief for vending license defaulters

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26

In a significant move aimed at supporting the city's street vendors, City Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla has announced a one-time relief for vendors who have lost their vending licenses due to non-payment of dues to the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh.

Addressing appeals of 212 affected vendors, the Mayor declared a final opportunity for defaulters to regularize their dues within a three-month period. Vendors who clear their outstanding payments within this window will have their licenses reinstated. However, failure to comply will result in permanent cancellation of the licenses.

"She said believe in inclusive growth, and this step ensures that small businesses get a fair chance to recover and thrive."

Dignitaries pay heartfelt tributes to Nalin Acharya at prayer meeting

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26



A large number of social, religious, and political dignitaries offered floral tributes to former Chandigarh Press Club (CPC) president Nalin Acharya at a prayer meeting held in his memory. All the attendees unanimously said that Nalin Acharya was soft-spoken, cheerful, widely loved, and someone who always stood by others in their joys and sorrows. Speakers fondly remembered him as a friendly, helpful individual and praised his commendable contribution to social service and the welfare of the journalistic community.

While conducting the proceedings, Dr. Anees Garg, Vice Chairman of the Chandigarh Sahitya Akademi, said that Nalin Acharya served twice as the president of the CPC and worked in various capacities in the club for nearly three decades. He began his journalism career in 1975 in Shimla with his father, Santosh Kumar (Bandhu Ji), and remained wholeheartedly dedicated for fifty years. Senior journalist Jagtar Singh Sidhu highlighted Acharya's five-decade contribution to journalism and made special mention of the trend-setting "Breaking News Creatives" he initiated during the Covid period.

Bhajan singing for the peace of Nalin Acharya's soul was performed by Shyam Bhaiyya Ji, Director of Shri Hanumat Teerth, Sector 25, Panchkula, and Ishwar Chand Shastri, former president of Devalaya Pujak Parishad.

Among those who paid tributes were senior BJP leader and national executive member Sanjay Tandon; former Union Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal; Additional Solicitor General of India Satyapal Jain; Rajya Sabha MP Satnam Singh Sandhu; senior Punjab BJP leader Vineet Joshi; local Congress president H.S. Lucky; former Mayor Subhash Chawla; Senior Deputy Mayor Jasbir Singh Bunty; Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Head of Cardiology, PGI; Punjab Public Relations Director Vimal Setia; Chandigarh Public Relations Director Rajeev Tiwari; senior IAS officer V.K. Singh; Rohtak University Vice-Chancellor Amit Arya; CPC president Saurabh Duggal; Chandigarh Brahman Sabha president and National Chief General Secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Brahman Mahasabha Yashpal Tiwari; Chandigarh Vyapar Mandal president Sanjeev Chaddha; Himachal Sabha president Prithi Singh Prajapati; Shri Sai Dham president Ramesh Kalia; Indian Cultural Knowledge Institute president Anup Sareen; office bearers of Shri Shiv Sai Mandir Seva Samiti, Kharar; Seva Bharti Chandigarh president Rajender Jain; Vishva Dharma Chetna Manch president Suresh Gupta; senior litterateurs Prem Vij and Ashok Nadir; Acharyakul Sanstha president K.K. Sharda; along with office bearers of these organizations, several former CPC presidents, editors, journalists, and social workers.

In addition, condolence messages sent by BJP national president J.P. Nadda; Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda; Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and former Chief Ministers Shanta Kumar and Prof. Prem Singh Dhumal; Union Minister Manohar Lal; and former Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur were also read out. Political dignitaries from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi were also present at the prayer meeting.

Samaira Sandhu graces valedictory function of National Library Week & Children's Day celebrations 2025

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26



Samaira Sandhu, acclaimed actress, writer, youth Icon, and Brand Ambassador of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, Chandigarh, graced the valedictory function of the National Library Week–cum–Children's Day Celebrations 2025 as Chief Guest at T.S. Central State Library, Sector 17, Chandigarh.

The programme featured a Declamation Contest for government school children on the theme: "Artificial Intelligence May Be Smart, But Books Make Us Wise." Students presented thoughtful speeches highlighting the importance of reading and the responsible use of technology.

Samaira Sandhu honoured all prize winners and participants. In her inspiring address, she reminded the audience that every citizen must take responsibility to abstain from substance abuse and work for a healthier society. Speaking on the contest theme, she emphasised that AI should only be used as a tool, while true wisdom, depth, and understanding come from reading books. She also inaugurated a book exhibition in observance of the 350th Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as Vishal S/o Manjit Pal residing at Village Bath, Post Office Chuheki, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar, Punjab-144039 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Daljit Singh.

I Tajinder Singh Buttar S/O Harbans Singh R/O Village Ranu Patti Mangwal Tehsil and District Sangrur Have Changed My Name to Tajinder Singh

I, Jugraj Singh Khangura S/o Major Singh R/O Village Khanpur Faqurian , P. O. Nagra Tehsil Sunam, District Sangrur have changed my name to Jugraj Singh.

I, Vishnu Prasad Lamichhane S/O Dhanpati Lamichhane R/O H no. 9687/1,St.no 4 Joshi Nagar Haibowal Kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my son name from Aryan Lamichhane to Yagya Raman Lamichhane.

I, Joginder Singh Galsinh s/o Hari Singh R/o H.no. 461, I- Block BRS Nagar Ludhiana-141012 Punjab have changed my name to Joginder Singh.

I, Surinder Kaur Galsinh W/O Joginder Singh R/o H.No.461,I-Block BRS Nagar, Ludhiana-141012 Punjab have changed my name to Surinder Kaur.

I, Manpreet Singh S/O Kuldeep Singh Bindra R/O H. No. 10/1 New Aman Park Threeke Ludhiana have changed my name to Manpreet Singh Bindra.

I, Niveta Chopra W/O Sahil Chawla R/O H. No. 141 Mahavir Nagar, Ferozepur Road Opp. MBD Mall Ludhiana 141012 have changed my name to Niveta Chawla.

I, Ram Lal Mahmi S/O Dass Ram R/O H.no:-909, Ratia Road, Nu Enclave,Ward No:-16,Tohana (Rural) (96), Fatehabad, Tohana Mandi, Haryana Have Changed My Name From Ram Lal To Ram Lal Mahmi.

I, Aisha Khatoon W/o Rahish R/o H.no:-11344,St.no:-4,Partap Nagar,Miller Ganj Ludhiana141003 Punjab Declare that My Name Wrong Mention in My Document as Reshma W/o Rahish But My Correct Name is Aisha Khatoon.

I Sabita Kumari W/o Mritunjay Kumar Singh R/o 548, St. No. 9, New Star City Colony, Tibba Road, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana have changed my name to Kiran Singh (after marriage)

I, Rajinder Pal Jindal S/O Ram Karan Dass R/O H. No.263 SEC-A Agar Nagar Rajguru Nagar Ludhiana 141012 have changed my name to Rajinder Pal.

I, Prem Jindal W/O Rajinder Pal R/O H. No.263 SEC-A Agar Nagar Rajguru Nagar Ludhiana 141012 have changed my name to Rajinder Lata.

I, Nandu Lal S/O Dashrath R/O H.no:- 9, St.no:- 9,Karnail Singh Nagar Pakhowal Road (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Nand Lal Sharma.

I, Lalit Kumar S/o Sh Telu Ram Resident of Flat No :- 102, Tower-B-3, 1st Floor, Nirmal Chhaya Toswer, VIP Road Zirakpur That my name is Lalit Kumar. That the Lalit Kumar Doomra and Lalit Kumar is same Person. Now at Present I am Using My Name all in Document Lalit Kumar. all cancerened please note it.

I Avneet Kaur W/o Teg Kunwar Singh Dhami R/o 286, Palam Vihar Road, Near Gurdwara Sahib, Thakarwal, Lalton Kalan, Ludhiana have changed my name to Avneet Kaur Dhami (after marriage)

I Sanjiv Kumar S/o Mangat Ram R/o 1159, St. No. 3, Ward No. 7, Tajpur Road, Guru Arjun Dev Nagar, Ludhiana have changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar

I Parminder Kaur Grewal W/o Surjit Singh R/o 2245/A, Near Bus Stand, Fauji Mohalla, Millerganj, Ludhiana have changed my name to Parminder Kaur

I Asif Khan S/o Irshad Khan R/o 5024, St. No. 7, Ram Nagar, Near Baba Than Singh Chowk, Ludhiana have changed my minor daughter's name from Sana to Sana Khan

I Ankit s/o Suresh Kumar R/o Village Banarsi Tehsil Moonak Sangrur changed my name to Ankit singh.

I, Balvir Kaur W/o Gurdeep Singh R/o Gaunsgarh,Khwajke, Ludhiana, state that Balveer Kaur and Balvir Kaur are the same person. I am known by both the names.

I, Sonu Kumar S/o Sunder Lal R/o H.no.-1703/5/1219/H/1/A, St.no.-01, Ramdit Nagar, Tibba Road, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana (Punjab) 141007 have changed my name from Sonu to Sonu Kumar.

I, VIJAYA LEGALLY WEDDED WIFE OF ARMY NO JC 676393M RANK SUB MURUGAN A S UNIT 664 COY ASC TK TPTR PIN 905664 C/O 56 APO RESIDENT OF #4, COCOUNT GARDEN MARIYANMMA BLOCK, RAMACHANDRAPURA, BANGALORE NORTH, JALAHALLI, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA PIN 560013, That, I have changed my name from VIJAYA TO VIJAYA M.Vide Affidavit Number IN PB96007934018145X, Dated 26 November 2025, before Distt Court Patiala.

I Anu Gupta W/o Rajinder Kumar JainR/o H No 1230,Rupa Mistri Gali,Near Jain Girls School, Ludhiana have changed my name from Anu Gupta to Anu.

I, Ajay Paul S/o Mahinder Singh R/o H.No. R-3, Amrik Nagar, Jalandhar-144004, Punjab have changed my name from Ajay Paul to Ajay Pal. All concerned please note.

I, Amanjot Singh S/o Kashmir Singh R/o Lakh Data Peer, Garhshankar Road, Tehsil Nawanshahr, Distt. SBS Nagar, Punjab have changed my name from Amanjot Singh to Singh Amanjot. Concerned Note.

I, Dalveer Singh s/o Major Singh r/o Chhiniwal Kalan (Barnala) have changed my name to Singh Dalveer.

I Jaspreet Singh S/o Kanwaljit Singh R/o H.No - 138, Bank Colony, Atam Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab 141003 have changed my name from Jaspreet Singh to Jaspreet Singh Johar.

I, Shkeena parveen W/O Mohammad Ayyub R/o Pachiyya umri kalan , Moradabad Uttar Pradesh (India) have changed my Name From Shkeena Parveen to Sakeena parveen. for all future Legal purposes.

I Tarsem Lal Sharma S/O Jai Parkash Sharma R/O H.no. 28, st. No. 1, Near Kali Sadaak , Inder Vihar Coloni , Kali Sadk, Ludhiana 141008 Punjab (India) have changed my name from Tarsem Lal to Tarsem Lal Sharma.

I,KABIR MAKKAR S/O ASHWANI KUMAR R/o ST. NO. 6. NEAR GOVT GIRLS SR. SEC. SCHOOL, Malout, Punjab have changed my name from KABIR MAKKAR to KABIR.

I, Payal Rani W/O Varinder Shingari R/O 1357/8, Ward No.53, Rajputtan Chowk, Islamabad, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Payal Rani to Payal Shingari. Concerned note.

I, Sukhdev Kumar, S/o Late Shri Amar Nath, R/o Flat No. 602, GHS 104-D, Sector-20, Panchkula, have changed my name from Sukhdev Kumar to Sukhdev Kumar Shin for all future purposes.

I,ANURADHA MAKKAR W/O ASHWANI KUMAR R/o BIRLA COLONY, BIRLA ROAD, Malout,Punjab have changed my name from ANURADHA MAKKAR to ANU.

I,Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Jaswant Singh R/o Village Malla ,Tehsil Jagraon Dist Ludhiana have changed my name from Sukhwinder Kaur to Sukhwinder Kaur Sidhu.

I Anita W/O Vipan Kumar Ahuja R/O H. No. P51, New Ashok Nagar -B, Ludhiana, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Anita To Anita Ahuja.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We Ravi Nandan Gupta S/o Sh. Krishan Kumar Gupta and Manju Gupta W/o Sh. Ravi Nandan Gupta R/o 366, Palam Vihar, Pakhowal Road, Ludhiana declare that our son Chetan Gupta and his wife Nikita Gupta are out of our control. We disowned them from our all moveable and immovable property. Anybody deals with them at his/her own risk. We and our family members will not be responsible for any act or conduct done by them.

I, Vijay son of Shankar Ram R/o House No. 320, Kehra Road, Gali No. 8, Phagwara, District Kapurthala, Punjab and I, Sunita wife of Vijay,, resident of the same address declare that our son Anil Kumar is out of our control. So we disinherit him from all our moveable and immoveable properties. We and our family shall not be held responsible for any kind of his act, deed and things related to him. All concerned please note.

We, Rakesh Kumar S/o Harbans Lal and Raj Kumari W/o Rakesh Kumar R/O H.no.314,St. no 5 New Moti Nagar Jamalpur (Ludhiana) declare that our son Vikas Kumar is out of our control so we disown him from our movable and immovable properties anybody deal with him at their own risk.

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MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

Punjab Sakhi Shakti Mela begins with great enthusiasm at Ranbir College, Sangrur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Sangrur, November 26



The Punjab Sakhi Shakti Mela–2025 opened on Wednesday at Ranbir College, Sangrur amid vibrant cultural festivities, bringing together women entrepreneurs and artisans from Punjab and several other states on one platform. The mela aims to promote women-led enterprises, strengthen rural livelihoods, and highlight the cultural diversity of India.

Deputy Commissioner Rahul Chaba and Senior Superintendent of Police Sartaj Singh Chahal inaugurated the mela by cutting the ribbon. They were accorded a warm welcome with traditional been performances and captivating folk dances.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Chaba said it is a matter of pride for Sangrur to host this significant initiative organised by the Punjab State Rural Livelihood Mission, the Department of Rural Development & Panchayats, and the Department of Industries & Commerce, Punjab. He shared that entrepreneurs and artisans from various districts of Punjab, as well as from Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, have brought a diverse range of products to the event. He appreciated the exceptional work of Self-Help Groups and encouraged residents to visit the mela with their families.

SSP Sartaj Singh Chahal stated that such events serve as a meaningful link to our culture and heritage, offering visitors the rare opportunity to witness India's rich craftsmanship and artistic traditions at a single venue. He also visited the stalls, interacted with artisans, and encouraged their efforts.

The mela, which will continue till 30 November, has become a major attraction for shoppers, food lovers, and families. Special features include amusement rides, an exclusive food court, and daily evening cultural programmes featuring folk performances. The mela will remain open from 10 AM onwards. The entry ticket is priced at ₹10, while students from government schools may enter free of cost.

A large number of visitors thronged the stalls on the first day, enthusiastically purchasing handcrafted items. Students from government schools added colour to the event with energetic folk dance presentations.

MP donates ambulance to social welfare organisation for public welfare

DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, November 26



In a significant move aimed at promoting humanitarian service and public welfare, Member of Parliament Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal has donated an ambulance to a social welfare organisation under his MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) Fund. The initiative is expected to greatly help in transporting poor, underprivileged, and remote-area residents to hospitals on time, thereby saving precious lives.

Present on the occasion were MLA Dr Ishank Chabbewal, Civil Surgeon Dr Balbir Kumar, District Family Welfare Officer Dr Ranjit Singh, District Health Officer Dr Jatinder Bhatia, Dr Pankaj Shiv, Dr Jasmine, Deputy Mass Media Officer Ravinder Jassal, Davinder Bhatti, and former sarpanch Bunty of village Mailli, among others.

Speaking at the event, Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal said the ambulance had been provided through his MPLAD Fund to ensure that people from all walks of life especially the needy and critically ill can access medical treatment without delay. He added that the government is continuously working to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve health services for the public.

> **Civil Surgeon Dr Balbir Kumar said the ambulance donated by Dr Chabbewal would prove vital in serving humanity. He noted that it would greatly benefit emergency medical situations and contribute significantly to improving health facilities in the region.**

Civil Surgeon Dr Balbir Kumar said the ambulance donated by Dr Chabbewal would prove vital in serving humanity. He noted that it would greatly benefit emergency medical situations and contribute significantly to improving health facilities in the region.

Members of the social welfare organisation expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Chabbewal for the generous donation. They assured that the vehicle would be used solely for humanitarian purposes and to assist as many needy individuals as possible.

Strategic discussion held by AAP Ludhiana Urban to further strengthen organisation for 2027 elections



YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 26

The Ludhiana Urban unit of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday held a special and enthusiastic meeting under the leadership of the party's Urban President, Jatinder Khangura, regarding organisational expansion in view of the 2027 Assembly Elections.

The meeting was attended by several key party leaders, including Ludhiana Urban Secretary and Ward No. 19 Councillor Nidhi Gupta, Coordinator of Nasha Mukti Morcha Ludhiana Urban and Trustee of Ludhiana Improvement Trust Balveer Chaudhary, Ludhiana Urban Youth Wing President Amarinder Singh (MP Jawaddi), Punjab Women Commission Member and Malwa Central Zone Women Wing Incharge Ajinder Kaur, AAP Ludhiana Women Wing President Manisha Kapoor, Media Incharge Puneet Sahni, SC Wing Ludhiana Urban President Kapil Sidhu, Nasha Mukti Morcha Halka East Coordinator and Ludhiana Improvement Trust Trustee Sandeep Mishra, Halka East Organisation Incharge Amarjeet Singh, Halka Atam Nagar Organisation Incharge Kamaljit Singh Monty Sachdeva, and Halka North Organisation Incharge Dashmesh Singh. These leaders held an in-depth discussion on special strategies to build a strong and future-ready organisation for the upcoming elections.

Addressing the meeting, President Jatinder Khangura said with great enthusiasm, "Aam Aadmi Party will continue its relentless fight for the rights of common people in Ludhiana. In the 2027 elections, we will ensure that major issues like development, education, and health reach every household. By expanding our organisation to every ward, street, and neighbourhood, we will connect every voter with the party's vision. We will immediately implement the plan to include new young volunteers and prepare them through training programmes this is our guarantee of victory!"

This meeting not only fully prepared the party for election readiness but also played a significant role in strengthening AAP Ludhiana as a strong, people-centric, and transformative organisation. An appeal was also made to the people of Ludhiana to join AAP and become a part of this movement for change.

MLA welcomes state govt's decision granting 'Holy City' status to Amritsar, Talwandi Sabo and Sri Anandpur Sahib

RAMN CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, November 26



Dr Ajay Gupta, MLA from the Central Assembly constituency, has warmly welcomed the historic decision of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab government to grant "Holy City" status to Sri Amritsar Sahib (Walled City), Talwandi Sabo, and Sri Anandpur Sahib. He said the decision will further strengthen Punjab's spiritual heritage, culture, and religious identity.

MLA Dr Ajay Gupta was speaking at the inauguration of the construction of Mohalla Clinics in the villages of Kirtan Garh and Moole Chak. During the ceremony, he said that conferring the Holy City status on the three cities was made possible by the grace and blessings of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, adding that it is a matter of pride not only for the Sikh community but for all humanity. He thanked AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal, AAP Punjab In-charge Manish Sisodia, and Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann for their visionary leadership. He said that with the holistic development of these Holy Cities, residents and visiting devotees will receive all essential facilities.

Dr Gupta stated that work has already begun to develop the Amritsar Walled City, which has now been designated a Holy City. He expressed pride that a large portion of the Walled City falls within his Central constituency. He further shared that he has inaugurated the construction of four major roads leading to Sri Darbar Sahib, costing approximately Rs 41 crore, and said work on these roads will begin soon. Maha Singh Road, Sherwala Gate, Ghee Mandi, and Ramsar Road will be developed into heritage streets.

Rintu initiates premix work on 27-feet Majitha Road stretch

N.P.S. CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, November 26



Chairman of Improvement Trust Amritsar and Aam Aadmi Party In-charge for Amritsar North, Karamjit Singh Rintu, on Wednesday inaugurated the premix-laying work on the 27-feet wide road at Majitha Road.

Rintu stated that the construction of this road will make the route leading to Baba Sri Chand Ji and Mahakali Mandir far more smooth and comfortable for commuters. He added that residents of Ward No. 10 and 11 will get major relief from traffic congestion and will have access to better transportation facilities.

He further informed that the renovation of all major and link roads across the Amritsar North Assembly segment is being carried out at a fast pace. High-quality material is being used to ensure long-lasting and durable road surfaces. Rintu also emphasised that before starting any road work, the arrangements for sewerage and drinking water pipelines are thoroughly checked and repaired to avoid future issues.

Farmers in Baupur's Mand Region rebuild lives months after Beas River embankment collapse

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 26



In the Mand region of Baupur, where devastating floods once caused massive destruction, farmers are now gradually returning to normal life. On the night between 10 and 11 August, the temporary embankment of the Beas River near the village of Bhaini Kadar Bakhsh had collapsed. This severe flood had washed away the entire ready-to-harvest paddy crop of the farmers. In the land of three brothers of the same village, a crater more than 50 feet deep had formed across three acres.

To fill this huge crater, over 100 tractors operated daily under the leadership of Rajya Sabha member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal. It took 10 days to fill it completely and nearl Rs 70 lakh worth of diesel was consumed. Sant Seechewal shared that farmers from three villages of Sirsa in Haryana had arrived with 16 tractors under the leadership of Baba Jaswinder Singh and Baba Jeet Singh. They served in the area for 15 days and had brought diesel along with them.

On Wednesday, Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal personally sowed wheat in those fields. Driving the tractor himself, he sowed wheat in the fields of farmer Inderjeet Singh.

PSFC member Vijay Dutt inspects schools in Amritsar

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, November 26

Punjab State Food Commission Member Vijay Dutt on Wednesday placed special emphasis on nutrition awareness among schoolchildren by adopting the Kitchen Garden of Government High School, Village Khairabad during his inspection visit in Amritsar district. He stated that kitchen gardens play a crucial role in teaching children about the importance of healthy food, fresh vegetables, and a balanced diet.

He directed the school staff to ensure that children are regularly educated about proper nutrition and healthy eating habits, so that they can adopt a healthy lifestyle from an early age.

Shri Dutt also instructed schools that currently do not have kitchen gardens to immediately identify suitable space and develop kitchen gardens growing seasonal vegetables, herbs, and other nutritious crops.

Following this, Dutt conducted a surprise inspection of various Government Schools and Anganwadi Centres in Block Verka and Block Amritsar-3. The visit aimed to assess the ground-level implementation of nutrition and food security schemes under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

During the inspection, he reviewed the kitchen facilities, food storage, cleanliness standards, and the overall quality of the Mid-Day Meal being served. He emphasized that regular health check-ups of Mid-Day Meal workers must be ensured and that the cooking process should strictly adhere to hygiene and safety norms.

Dutt interacted with the students regarding the Mid-Day Meal quality and joined them for lunch.

Livasa Hospital, Amritsar introduces next-generation EBUS-FNA for early detection of complex chest diseases

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, November 26

Livasa Hospital, Amritsar, has strengthened its pulmonary medicine services with the introduction of endobronchial ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration (EBUS-FNA) , which is a state-of-the-art diagnostic technique, transforming the way chest diseases are detected and managed.

Dr. Baljot Singh consultant interventional pulmonology at Livasa Hospital, Amritsar said that EBUS-FNA has changed the landscape of chest disease diagnosis. "It allows us to detect serious conditions like lung cancer early and with remarkable precision and without the need for invasive surgery, " he informed.

Food Safety Wing conducts extensive inspections across Tarn Taran to ensure public health

INDER PAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, November 26



Acting on the guidelines issued by Punjab Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh and the directions of Commissioner, Food Safety, Punjab, Shri Dilraj Singh, the Food Safety Wing of District Tarn Taran carried out extensive inspections across the district. Under the supervision of Civil Surgeon Dr Gurpreet Singh Rai and the leadership of District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Sukhbir Kaur Aulakh, teams inspected grocery stores, fruit and vegetable shops, food vendors, and other establishments in Dhotian, Sheron, Shri Goindwal Sahib, and Tarn Taran city on Wednesday.

Giving details, Civil Surgeon Dr Gurpreet Singh Rai said the inspections were conducted to safeguard the health of citizens. The Food Safety Wing checked shops, dhabas, restaurants, dairies, food stalls, and beverages being sold in the area. Ration distributed at Anganwadi centres, along with items at local grocery stores and vegetable markets, was also inspected. He stated that tampering with the health of citizens would not be tolerated and that strict legal action would be taken against any shop owner found selling substandard goods.

District Health Officer Dr. Sukhbir Kaur said that during the inspection, six samples including chickpeas, jaggery, sanghara and salt were collected and sent to the Kharar laboratory for further testing. A simple notice was also issued by the department. Additionally, four samples of goods distributed at Anganwadi centres have been forwarded for further examination.

She added that shopkeepers and vendors were instructed to maintain high standards of cleanliness and ensure no water accumulated at their workplaces to prevent the breeding of flies and mosquitoes.

United Sikhs honours Power Slap sensation Jujhar Singh



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, November 26

United Sikhs, in collaboration with Sikhs For Business, on Wednesday honoured Power Slap champion Jujhar Singh, widely celebrated as The Lion of Punjab, for bringing pride and global recognition to Punjab and the Sikh community.

Addressing the distinguished gathering at the special felicitation ceremony, Amritpal Singh, Director (Punjab), United Sikhs, hailed Jujhar Singh as "a priceless gem of the Sikh community who has showcased Punjab's strength and spirit on the world stage." He said that in the recently held first-ever Power Slap Championship organised by UFSC America in Abu Dhabi, Jujhar Singh defeated Russian athlete Ante Gulasch to become the world's first champion, a remarkable milestone for Punjab and Sikhs worldwide.

Strengthening Congress essential to protect Ambedkar's Constitution: Dhaliwal

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, November 26



The Congress Party on Wednesday observed 'Save the Constitution Day' in Phagwara to mark the 76th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution. The event was held under the leadership of District Congress Committee Kapurthala president and Phagwara MLA Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal.

Addressing a large gathering of party workers from Phagwara and across Kapurthala district, Dhaliwal said that the Indian Constitution drafted through the rigorous efforts of Dr BR Ambedkar after Independence was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949. "This day is remembered as Constitution Day. But the party currently in power at the Centre carries a mindset inclined towards altering the Constitution," he said.

bright Punjab Express

Second thoughts

The Chandigarh UT Administration is having second thoughts over the utility of the pan-city 24×7 water supply project following a steep rise in its cost by more than Rs 225 crore. A status report on the project will be tabled in the Municipal Corporation's General House meeting on November 28.

According to official sources, growing public resistance and rising costs have forced a rethink. Several representations have gone to the UT Administrator. People want clean water, not 24-hour water. They fear the entire city will be dug up to lay new pipes and that the pits will never be properly filled. They also worry about the additional financial burden on residents, so the project is being reconsidered.

The project aimed at modernising the distribution network, improving service reliability and cutting non-revenue water was originally valued at Rs 412 crore. Loan repayment calculations were based on a six-month EURIBOR (Euro Interbank Offered Rate) of 0.26% and a fixed interest rate of 1.58%, with an effective interest rate of 1.84%. Under those assumptions, the total repayment obligation stood at Rs 471.38 crore.

As of 2025, however, the exchange rate has risen to Rs 102.75 per Euro, pushing the loan value to Rs 493.20 crore. The EURIBOR has also climbed to 2.113%, raising the effective interest rate to 3.673%. Consequently, the total repayment obligation has increased to Rs 638.08 crore, an escalation of over Rs 166 crore compared to the 2019 projection.

The administration has also cited lessons from the Manimajra pilot and subsequent technical and financial reviews, which flagged the need for a more "realistic and data-driven approach".

It is pertinent to mention here that on September 17, 2025, AFD, the French development bank funding the project, formally communicated a temporary suspension of all project activities. A reminder email was issued on October 24, asking the Municipal Corporation to provide clarifications and follow-up actions.

The report warns that residents would face a compounded tariff hike if the project proceeds. Tariffs proposed in 2019 were already more than double the then prevailing rates. With the project cost escalating further, an additional increase in tariffs beyond the 2019 proposal will be required to ensure long-term sustainability, the report notes. Revised staffing costs and operational overheads would add to the burden. Without tariff containment or phased implementation, public acceptance of the project may be at risk.

The MC has now re-evaluated the DPR and suggested focusing instead on continuous improvements in water supply infrastructure and large-scale awareness campaigns on conservation. If the loan is cancelled in full or in part, the borrower must pay a 2.5% cancellation indemnity on the cancelled amount. This amounts to approximately Rs 15.15 crore payable to AFD and EU. An additional Rs 4.58 crore is pending as dues claimed by LTTA, taking the total liability to Rs 19.73 crore.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



A national resolve: Whole of government and society driving Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat



Annpurna Devi

In a nation where women and children form the foundation of over a billion lives, their empowerment is not just a policy choice—it is the path to Bharat's destiny. Under Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary governance, Bharat is experiencing a historic transformation that combines global ambition with human-centric progress. The story of New India is being shaped not only through economic milestones and global presence, but in the classrooms where young minds grow, the Anganwadi centres that nurture our children, and the homes where aspirations take root.

The Prime Minister's unwavering commitment to 'BetiBachaoBetiPadhao' has becomea guiding force for the Ministry of Women and Child Development anchoring our collective mission for Viksit Bharat@2047.A significant step in this journey has been the launch of the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 27th November last year.

With our bold and unwavering vision, we have reaffirmed our national commitment to end child marriage by 2030, so that every girl and boy can grow up safe, continue their education, and shape their future with pride and confidence. From the very beginning, we embraced a 'Whole of Government and Whole of Society' approach, recognizing that this challenge cannot be overcome through policy alone. It requires a collective strength - families, communities, frontline workers, institutions and the government standing shoulder to shoulder to break a centuries-old practice andprotect the aspirations of every child. As a powerful reflection of our shared resolve, crores of people in villages and towns have come forward to take pledge to end child marriage.

'Whole of Government' Comes Together for a Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat

Child marriage is one of the most deeply embedded challenges our nation has inherited over generations. It often takes hold in communities facing limited access to education, resources, and awareness. These gaps—created by scarcity and unequal opportunity—have enabled the practice to persist, restricting countless children from realising the futures they deserve.

Today, that reality is transforming—decisively and for the better. Under the Modi Government, we are addressing the very roots that once nurtured this practice. With clear policy direction, well-designed schemes, and the renewed trust of communities in governance, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is at the forefront, dismantling the conditions that had enabled child marriage to persist. The progress we are witnessing is deliberate and determined, shaped by a governance model that places women and children at the heart of national development.

Our initiatives are designed to address root causes of vulnerability. We are committed to ensuring that every entitlement reaches the last mile—touching the life of the most vulnerable child in the remotest village and hamlet of our nation. Each intervention is crafted to handhold women and children through every stage of risk, ensuring that from the unborn child to the adolescent girl, every stage of life is safeguarded, prioritised, and empowered.

From Poshan Tracker and Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi to Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, and from the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Programme to the PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme, every initiative serves asa protective shield and a pathway towards a safe, dignified and equitable future for every child.

Leveraging technology as a catalyst for inclusion,The Poshan Tracker -Ministry's flagship digital platform-seamlessly connects 14 lakh Anganwadicentres with lactating mothers, children under six and adolescent girls. It has already createda robust safety net for more than 10.14 crore beneficiaries across the country.Complementing this digital enablement, Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi stands as a transformative early childhood care and education initiative, ensuring that every pre-primary child receives holistic, high-quality early stimulation that builds the foundation for lifelong learning.

Our policies reflect not only intent but action. By anchoring reforms in real, sustained budgetary commitments and targeted investments, the Modi Government has made it unequivocally clear that protecting our children—particularly from vulnerabilities like child marriage—remains a national priority.The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Programme, with an allocation of ₹1,827 crore for 2025-26 alone, ensures that no child drops out of school due to poverty, one of the most persistent drivers of child marriage. Meanwhile, the PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme provides crucial financial support to young women pursuing higher education.

The Pradhan MantriKaushalVikasYojana hasfurther strengthened this safety net by equipping young people with industry-relevant skillsand providing them financialincentives andrecognised government certification. Similarly, PM-DAKSH-scheme empowers marginalised communities, especially SC, OBC and EWS youth who remain most vulnerable to child marriage. By equipping them with skills and opportunities, we are creating pathways for enriched, independent lives and setting a new precedent for generations to come.

The Impact: Closer to Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat

A few years ago, the idea of ending child marriage would have seemed distant, even unrealistic. But India has proved otherwise. Through clear policies, sustained action, focused grassroots efforts and measurable progress, we have challenged that belief and shown that change is not only possible but already underway.

This unprecedented shift is the outcome of thousands of small and big determined efforts. Our Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) have emerged as the backbone of this mission. In the past year alone, we have strengthened our frontline by appointing more than 37,000 CMPOs across the country. By equipping Anganwadi workers, empowering panchayats and strengthening district administrations with knowledge of child protection laws, we are ensuring that even the most marginalised families are linked to government schemes, children are brought back to school, and communities are made aware of the grave violation that child marriage represents.

So far, we have identified over 6,30,000 out-of-school girls and re-enrolled them in classrooms.

From silence to reporting, from stigma to support—India is choosing Change. Today, we are leveraging the latest technological advancements to address this with greater precision, transparency, and impact. The Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat portal embodies this progress—a publicly accessible, centralised platform that brings together information on Child Marriage Prohibition Officers across the nation, provides an effective mechanism for reporting cases, and strengthens awareness among stakeholders and citizens.

For the first time, the dream of a child-marriage-free India has evolved into a unified national mission. Every arm of the Government of India and every segment of society is moving together with shared purpose and determination. Guided by the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we are not only protecting our children today but also laying the strong, confident and empowered foundations of Viksit Bharat.

As India approaches a decisive tipping point in its collective fight against child marriage, we offer the world a new model of how governance and community can work together to protect every child and end the global menace of child marriage with urgency and certainty. After all, these children are the torchbearers and the true 'Sarathi' of Viksit Bharat we all aspire to build.

(The author is the Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India).

Peoples' Chief Justice



A. P. S. Deol

'Surya': The rising son of the soil who rose to be the Chief Justice of India after an oath ceremony at packed 'Durbar Hall' at Rashtrapati Bhawan on Monday 24th Nov., 2025. The thunderous applause after the ceremony is testament to the popularity of our new CJI. The echoes of applause sounded in each of the High Courts across the country through live telecast of the ceremony.

In first of its kind open invitation by Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi extended to members of Parent Bar of new CJI i.e. Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association, sitting and former Judges of High Court at Multipurpose Hall, Admin. Building Complex, New Delhi followed by brunch at Judges Dining Hall gave a new peep to forbidden arenas which remain out of bounds.

More than 600 cards were issued in Chandigarh judicial circle alone for this ceremony to be watched at Supreme Court premises by those who could not be accommodated in Majestic Durbar Hall, Rashtrapati Bhawan. I being the lucky one who got entry at the last moment to attend the oath ceremony has left an indelible impression about the humility of a person whom we all have known for many years as a lawyer and as a Judge.

The guest list of about 500 were mostly from judicial background-Judges, Senior Advocates (both Govt. and private) and former Chief Justices who adored the bench in that capacity at Chandigarh-not a single one missing the occasion. I consider myself lucky to be part of this august gathering which met after the ceremonial oath for tea. The jam packet hall went head over heels to embrace their own CJI (Peoples Chief Justice) which was warmly acknowledged by CJI. It definitely bore the stamp of approval of the new



CJI who will be remembered as a man of masses who has sent a positive message across the length and breadth of the country. This gesture of good will has inspired Ist generation lawyers to work hard as there is always space at the top.

Justice Surya Kant's elevation to the top post in the Indian judiciary brings freshness and new hope to many litigants who have long forgotten about the fate of their cases lying in cold storage, because of delay in the Indian judicial system. The fact that our new CJI has prioritized the concern about high pendency of 90,000 odd cases in the Supreme Court alone, what to talk about still higher pendency in the High Courts across the country. What plan he has in mind is not known but results expected from him by litigants are high going by his reputation of go-getter be it through mediation or conciliation or by other legal means with a rare ability to carry along every one. Only time will tell after he completes 14 months of his term in Feb., 2027. The expectations are sky high from a man who rose to the highest office without any support based system only through compassion, hard work and humility.

I along with two other colleagues from High Court, Chandigarh were occupying the last row chairs which seemed to have been squeezed in to meet the last entrants like us. For this reason, we were watching proceedings from the tail end and saw how the Rasthrapati Bhawan staff managed to accommodate every invitee so that none goes back sulking. The President's arrival was sounded by bugle to the beat of the National Anthem led by tall Lady President's Guards. The President walked into Durbar Hall by the stroke of clock at 10A.M., which was acknowledged by the CJI and the guests. The oath taken in 'Hindi' was watched by millions across the country-reviving hope of new technology with some innovative ideas to overcome the huge backlog of cases during the term of the new CJI. We reached home after watching the ceremony live which in words of the former Chief Justice rolling down the stairs with us on the red carpet spread, "Will we ever get another chance to visit Durbar Hall in our lifetime" ! leaving cherished memories of watching the solemn occasion of the Peoples' Chief Justice "Oath ceremony".

Author is Sr. Advocate & former Advocate General, Punjab

India to see record kharif output growth, foodgrain production to cross 173 million tonnes

India is expected to post a record growth in production of major kharif crops, with total foodgrain output estimated to increase by 3.87 million tonnes to 173.33 million tonnes, the government said on Wednesday.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the first advanced estimates of production of main kharif crops showing kharif rice and maize posting strong gains. The rice production is estimated at 124.5 million tonnes, up 1.73 million tonnes from last year, while maize production is estimated at 28.3 million tonnes, an increase of 3.4 million tonnes YoY, according to estimates.

Total kharif coarse cereals are estimated at 41.4 million tonnes and pulses at 7.4 million tonnes, including tur (arhar) at 3.59 million tonnes, urad at 1.2 million tonnes and moong at 1.72 million tonnes.

The minister informed that excessive rainfall affected crops in some areas, but most areas benefited greatly from good monsoon rains, resulting in overall good crop growth.

Oilseed production is estimated at 27.56 million tonnes, and soybean at 14.26 million tonnes. Peanut (groundnut) production is estimated at 11 million tonnes, 0.68 million tonnes higher than last year.



Sugarcane production is estimated at 475.6 million tonnes, up 21 million tonnes compared to last year. Cotton production is estimated at 29.2 million bales (each bale weighing 170 kilograms), and production of Patson and Mesta is estimated at 8.3 million bales. These estimates are based on yield trends from previous years, other ground-level inputs, regional observations, and, predominantly, data received from states. Revisions will be made when actual crop cutting experiment yield data becomes available, the statement noted. IANS

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NEWSBRIEFS

SIR Phase II: Nearly 100 pc enumeration forms distributed across 12 states

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday reported significant progress in Phase II of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2025 of electoral rolls, with 99.25 per cent of Enumeration Forms (EFs) already distributed across 12 states and Union Territories. According to the Daily Bulletin issued at 3 p.m., the nationwide EF distribution has reached 99.25 per cent, reflecting strong field mobilisation by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and participation from Booth Level Agents (BLAs). During the ongoing enumeration phase, which runs from November 4 to December 4 -- a total of 50.59 crore EFs have already been distributed out of the eligible 50.97 crore electors.Digitisation of EFs is also picking up, with 32.23 crore forms digitised so far, marking an overall digitisation rate of 63.23 per cent. **IANS**

West Bengal BLO suffers heart attack due to 'SIR work'

KOLKATA: A Booth Level Officer (BLO) suffered a heart attack, allegedly in the middle of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) related work in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district and has been admitted to a hospital. The police said that the family found the BLO, identified as Sushanta Tikadar, lying unconscious with enumeration forms and other papers in his home on Monday afternoon.As his physical condition did not improve, he was shifted to another hospital.According to family sources, Tikadar suffered a heart attack while working on SIR.He was engaged in the SIR exercise in Part No. 106 of Gopalnagar-1 Gram Panchayat in Bangaon. **IANS**

Every citizen has a responsibility to protect Constitutional values: Chandrababu Naidu

AMARAVATI, NOVEMBER 26



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said on Wednesday that it is the responsibility of every citizen to protect Constitutional values.

Addressing a programme at State Assembly premises organised to mark Constitution Day, he said that the Indian Constitution is the largest Constitution in the world and that Dr BR Ambedkar made it the best in the world.

"The weapon he gave to the citizens of the country is the Constitution. Every Indian citizen should know the greatness of the Constitution. The right to vote is the biggest weapon. With this, we can change governments. We can shape our future," he said.

The Chief Minister, along with Speaker Ayyanna Patrudu, Ministers Nara Lokesh and Payyavula Keshav, watched a mock Assembly by school students.

"By the next election, all the students who organised the mock Assembly will get the right to vote. It is a joy to have more women in the mock Assembly. We are the only country that has provided 33 per cent reservation for women in the legislature. In America, no woman has ever become the President, but in our country, a woman has become the President and Prime Minister," said CM Chandrababu.Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said if a 'Chai Wala' has become the Prime Minister and changed the course and direction of the country, it was because of the greatness of our Constitution. "Abdul Kalam came from an ordinary family and went on to become the President. He was conferred the Bharat Ratna. Draupadi Murmu, a tribal woman, became the President," he said.

Chandrababu Naidu said he too came from an ordinary family and became Chief Minister four times because of the opportunity given by the Constitution.

He stated that the Constitution has given its citizens not only fundamental rights but also fundamental duties. "Some fight for rights but do not fulfil their responsibilities. No one in the country is above the Constitution. Everyone should be bound by the Constitution. The legislature, executive and judiciary should follow the path shown by the Constitution. They should come to the legislature for the benefit of society," he said.

CM Naidu noted that the main purpose of conducting the mock Assembly is to bring awareness among the students.

Recalling that he entered the Assembly as an MLA at the age of 28, the CM told students that he became accustomed to doing any work meticulously since childhood.

"The Vice Chancellor of my university wanted me to become a lecturer, but I said I would enter politics and become an MLA," he said.

He told the students that having a vision alone is not enough, but one has to put it into practice. "I became an MLA at a very young age. People gave me the opportunity to be an MLA 9 times. I became a minister at the age of 30 and a Chief Minister at the age of 45. **IANS**

CPI (M) MP writes to PM Modi, raises pensioners' concerns over 8th Central Pay Commission

NEW DELHI/ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 26



CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP Dr. John Brittas has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing deep concern over what he terms "growing disillusionment" among senior and super-senior Central Government pensioners.In a detailed letter, Brittas highlighted apprehensions arising from the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) and a "validation clause" inserted in the Finance Bill 2025. He warned that the clause appears to permit retrospective differentiation of pensioners based on their retirement date, a move that could violate the principle of pension equality established by the Supreme Court.

Citing the landmark judgment of D. S. Nakara vs Union of India (1982), he said the court had clearly stated that all pensioners constitute a homogenous class, and cannot be subjected to discrimination on the ground of retirement date.Such differentiation, he wrote, undermines Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equal protection of laws. Dr. Brittas also cautioned that the wording in the ToR, particularly the reference to pensions as an "unfunded cost of a non-contributory scheme", could reduce pensions to a financial liability rather than recognising them as deferred wages and a legal entitlement. **IANS**

Shashi Tharoor must stop playing a double game: Cong MP Unnithan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 26

Two-time Congress MP from Kasaragod, Rajmohan Unnithan, on Wednesday issued a sharp warning to party colleague Shashi Tharoor, saying the Thiruvananthapuram MP must stop sending mixed signals about his political loyalties.

"Shashi Tharoor should not imagine that he can walk out of the Congress draped in a martyr's robe. If he wants to leave, he is free to do so nobody is stopping him," Unnithan told IANS.

Unnithan said the Congress had always given Tharoor "more than due respect, positions and visibility", but accused him of repeatedly embarrassing the party, especially in Kerala.

"Instead of strengthening the party, he keeps making statements that put Congress in a difficult position. His constant praise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi openly and repeatedly cannot be ignored anymore," he said.

Pointing out that the Congress is engaged in a nationwide fight against the BJP, Unnithan questioned how one of its own MPs could be "glorifying Modi's speeches and describing them as 'cultural appeals' and 'economically visionary'". **IANS**

Revanth Reddy urges PM Modi to declare Bengaluru-Hyderabad as defence & aerospace corridor



HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 26

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, on Wednesday, appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare Bengaluru-Hyderabad as a defence and aerospace corridor.The Chief Minister said this during the inauguration of the French aerospace major Safran's largest MRO centre for the CFM International LEAP engines in Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister stated that declaring Bengaluru-Hyderabad as a defence and aerospace corridor will contribute to Viksit Bharat.The Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) facility at the GMR AeroPark (SEZ) near Shamshabad will be operational in 2026. **IANS**

NIA arrests terrorist Umar's harbourer; seventh accused held in Delhi blast case

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested a Faridabad resident for harbouring terrorist Dr Umar Muhammad also known as Un Nabi, immediately before the Delhi terror bomb blast.

The accused, identified as Soyab, a resident of Dhauj in Faridabad, Haryana, is the seventh person to be arrested in connection with the case. According to the NIA, he not only harboured Umar before the attack but also provided logistical support crucial to the execution of the November 10 car bombing near the Red Fort that killed several people and left many others injured.Prior to this arrest, the NIA had taken six of Umar's close aides into custody as part of ongoing investigations under case number RC-21/2025/NIA/DLI.

The NIA stated that it is actively pursuing multiple leads related to the suicide bombing and has been conducting coordinated searches across several states with the assistance of local police forces. The agency said its objective is to identify and apprehend all members linked to the larger terror network responsible for the attack.

Meanwhile, ongoing investigations have revealed chilling details about terrorist Umar's methods and preparations. According to interrogation inputs from arrested members of the terror module, Umar maintained what investigators describe as a "mobile workstation" a large suitcase containing bomb-making tools, chemical compounds and containers. He carried it with him wherever he went.

Umar, a medical professional associated with Al-Falah University in Faridabad, reportedly conducted chemical tests in his room on campus before creating the final Improvised Explosive Device (IED). One of the arrested suspects, Dr. Muzamil Shakeel, also affiliated with the same university, confirmed to interrogators that Umar experimented with substances that were later used in the blast.

According to earlier reports published by NDTV and cited during questioning, Umar tested the chemical reactions in controlled quantities before assembling the final bomb components. **IANS**

DELHI/NCR

Fog, smog grip Delhi as air quality remains in 'very poor' category

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26



A thin layer of fog settled over India Gate and Kartavya Path around 7:40 a.m., where visibility remained low, and the Air Quality Index (AQI) hovered around 350, marking very poor conditions.

Early morning, a blanket of smog covered the foot overbridge at ITO, with the AQI once again close to 350, underscoring hazardous morning conditions for commuters in central Delhi.

According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's overall AQI stood at 337, showing only a marginal improvement from Tuesday. Of the 39 monitoring stations across the national Capital, 34 recorded 'very poor' air quality, while five reported pollution levels in the 'poor' category.Several high-intensity pollution hotspots continued to choke under toxic air early in the day. At 7 a.m., Rohini recorded an AQI of 376, while other severely affected areas included Delhi Technological University (367), Anand Vihar (364), Bawana (382), Ashok Vihar (364), Burari (347), Alipur (344), ITO (360) and Dwarka (361) — all firmly in the very poor range.In the wider NCR region, Noida also battled persistently polluted air. Major stations reported very poor air quality, including Sector 1 (355), Sector 62 (304), Sector 116 (372) and Sector 125 (399), the last edging close to the 'severe' category. **IANS**

Delhi Police file charge sheet against 'Swami' Chaitanyanand, three others in molestation case



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

Delhi Police has filed a chargesheet before the Patiala House Courts against self-styled godman 'Swami' Chaitanyanand Saraswati — Director of the Sri Sharda Institute of Indian Management in the capital's Vasant Kunj — along with three others, in the sensational case involving allegations of sexual abuse of 17 women students at the institute.

Chaitanyanand, who continues to be lodged in Tihar Jail, was arrested in September after weeks on the run. The Patiala House Court is expected to take cognisance of the charge sheet on Thursday. According to investigators, the charge sheet outlines a detailed pattern of abuse allegedly carried out at the institution, where Chaitanyanand served as Director and wielded considerable influence over the academic and hostel hierarchy. Delhi Police had recorded statements of multiple students, wardens and staff members, along with digital evidence and forensic material. The charges include sexual harassment, criminal intimidation, destruction of evidence and other serious offences, naming Chaitanyanand and three associates.

According to investigators, the co-accused allegedly helped the 'Swami' summon women students, primarily those enrolled under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) scholarship category, to restricted areas, including a "torture room" on the ground floor of the institute. During the probe, WhatsApp chats recovered from the phones of nearly 50 students have revealed disturbing details of coercion and alleged abuse spanning nearly 16 years. ". **IANS**

Operation Kavach 11.0: Delhi Police arrest 80 narco-offenders, seize large haul of drugs, liquor

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26



In a sweeping 24-hour crackdown ahead of the upcoming MCD bye-elections, Delhi Police carried out massive coordinated raids across the city under Operation Kavach-11.0, targeting narco-offenders, bootleggers and organised criminals, the Delhi Police said on Wednesday. The drive conducted between 6 pm on November 24 and 6 pm on November 25 -- saw simultaneous raids at 1,566 locations across all 15 districts, with participation from district units, the Crime Branch and Special Cell.As part of the operation, 80 drug peddlers were arrested in 76 NDPS cases, leading to the "recovery of 282.71 grams of heroin, 19.235 kg of ganja, 2.147 kg opium, 2.034 kg charas, 4,704 Tramadol capsules, and Rs 1,02,660 cash," the police said in its press note.According to Delhi Police, the action forms part of the police's intensified efforts under the Centre's "Zero Tolerance" policy against narcotics.

Under the Delhi Excise Act, 273 cases were registered and an equal number of accused arrested, with the seizure of 911 liquor bottles, 41,704 quarters, 17 beer bottles, and 57 beer cans. **IANS**

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Harneet Kaur Tatla d/o Bhupinder Singh r/o village Mandian, Malerkotla My mother has mistakenly registered my name as Harmeet Kaur Tatla in the FD 140088146467/1. While my correct name is Harneet Kaur Tatla. If there is any claim in this regard in the future, then I will be solely responsible for it.

I, Jaswinder Kaur W/o Kulwant Singh, R/o village Gurbaxpura, Tehsil Dhuri, District Sangrur, Punjab have changed my name from Jaswinder Kaur to Jasvir Kaur.May I now be known by this name.

I,ANU MAKKAR W/O ASHWANI KUMAR R/o BIRLA COLONY, BIRLA ROAD, Malout, Punjab have changed my name from ANU MAKKAR to ANU.

I, Smt.Gyan Kaur W/O Balkar Singh Mother of JC351622H Ex Sub (Hony Capt) Kashmir Singh R/O VPO Abdal Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar,Punjab have changed my name from Gyan Kaur to Gian Kaur.Concerned note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I,No.3402750N Ex Hav Gurpal Singh S/O Joginder Singh R/O VPO Bachiwind Tehsil Ajnala Distt.Amritsar, Punjab inform that in my service record my daughter's name is wrongly mentioned as Komalpreet Kaur but her correct name is Kamalpreet Kaur and also her date of birth as 23.11.2007 but her correct date of birth is 28.12.2007

ਮੈਂ, ਸੁਖਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਲੇਟ ਪੂਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਬੀ-30/17, ਗੁਲਾਬ ਦੇਵੀ ਅਸਪਤਾਲ ਰੋਡ, ਆਰਿਆ ਨਗਰ, ਜਲੰਧਰ-1, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਜਲੰਧਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ-144008 ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ (ਕੁਆਰਾ) 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 ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਮੈਂ, ਕੁਲਵੰਤਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਦੌਲਤ ਰਾਮ ਵਾਸੀ ਬੈਂਸ ਕਲੋਨੀ , ਗਲੀ ਨੰਬਰ 1, ਬਜਵਾੜਾ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਤੇ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਹੁਸ਼ਿਆਰਪੁਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਮਹਿੰਦਰ ਪਾਲ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ 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। ਮੇਰਾ ਵਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਤਲਕ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਿਹਾ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਮੈਂ,ਪਰਮਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਪਰਮਿੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਝਿੰਗੜਾਂ ਕਲਾਂ, ਐਸ. ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ-140103, ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਭਰਾ ਕੰਵਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਰਣਵੀਰ ਕੌਰ ਅਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਅਨੁਰਾਗਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਕੋਮਲਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ ਮੈਂ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਅੱਜ ਤੋਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਖਤਮ ਕਰਦੇ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ

PAPER PUBLICATION

(Where flow of title is of complex nature)

Take notice that **Mrs. Lalita Devi w/o Hare Ram Kesari** R/o. H.No.11558, St.No 23, Ram Nagar, Partap Chowk, B/s Sangeet Cinema, Ludhiana (Pb.) 141003 is current owner of the property more particularly described in the schedule mentioned hereunder written (hereinafter referred to as 'the said property") from Mr. Gurmail Singh and to mortgage to my client IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd. (the Bank) (Branch Address: IDFC First Bank Ltd., 3rd to 6th Floor, RS Tower, 126-128, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana-141001) the said property free from all charges or encumbrances. All Persons claiming any share, interest or right in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, transfer, assignment, mortgage, charge, lease, license, lien, tenancy, trust, gift, easement, possession, inheritance or otherwise however are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned in writing, within (7) seven days from the date of publication of this notice, with all supporting documents, failing which mortgage over the said property shall be created without reference to all claims if any, and the same shall be deemed to waived/ and or abandoned and will not be binding on my clients.

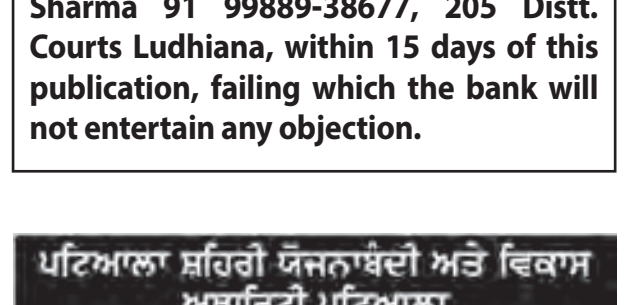
THE SCHDEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO
(Detail description of the property)
H.No. B 21 11558 St.No.23, Ram Nagar, Dholewal, Ludhiana-141003 (Punjab)
Place: Ludhiana **Dated:** 27-Nov-2025.
Name and Address of the Panel Advocate:
Himanshuu Jindal (Advo.) B.Com (Hons) LL.B.)
Mobile: 98156-41509, 89681-05533
Email: advocate_himanshu@hotmail.com
Office : 204, K-10 Tower, Feroze Gandhi Mkt. Ldh.
Office cum Resi: 748-B, Aggar Nagar, Ludhiana
Advocate B.Com (Hons) LL.B.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified to general public that original sale deed bearing wasika no.5753 dated 24.02.2012, registered in favour of Surjit Kaur w/o Bhagwant Singh has been lost. Land measuring 0K-16M-6S i.e. 150/3321 share out of 18K-9M Khata no. 739/814, Khasra 53//3,4,8/1 as per Jamabandi for the year 2007-2008 situated in the revenue estate of Village Sudhar, Tehsil Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana. The complaint has been lodged against this lost sale deed by the present owner Lakhwinder Kaur W/o Late Harjit Singh R/o H.No.186, Partap Nagar, New abadi akalgarh, Tehsil Raikot, Distt Ludhiana. On dated. 30/10/2025 DDR no. 642913/2025 at Sanjh Kendar PS Sudhar Ludhiana Rural.

She has mortgaged the above mentioned property to get a housing loan from SBI, RACPC Ludhiana. If anybody has claims, lien, charge or encumbrance on this sale deed /property, he, she can contact SBI, RACPC Ludhiana or ADV. Puneet Sharma 91 99889-38677, 205 Distt. Courts Ludhiana, within 15 days of this publication, failing which the bank will not entertain any objection.

ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਸ਼ਹਿਰੀ ਯੋਜਨਾਬੰਦੀ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਅਥਾਰਿਟੀ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ



ਅਲਾਟੀ- Parneet Kaur Sodhi | Manmeet Kaur | ਮੁਖ਼ਤਿਆਰੇਆਮ : Sh. Manjot Singh

ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ

ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ 2255 ਅਰਬਨ ਅਸਟੇਟ ਫੇਜ਼-2 ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਦੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ 2206 ਮਿਤੀ 01.03.2019 ਰਾਹੀਂ Smt. Rajinder Kaur Sodhi w/o Late Sh. Gurvinder Singh, Ms. Parneet Kaur d/o Sh. Gurvinder Singh, Ms. Manmeet Kaur d/o Sh. Gurvinder Singh ਅਤੇ Sh. Manjot singh Sodhi s/o Sh. Late Sh. Gurvinder Singh R/o # H.no. 2255 Urban Estate Phase-2, Patiala ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ। Ms. Parneet Kaur d/o Sh. Gurvinder Singh ਅਤੇ Ms. Manmeet Kaur d/o Sh. Gurvinder Singh ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਬ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਦੇ ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰ.1598 ਮਿਤੀ 25.02.2025 ਰਾਹੀਂ Sh. Manjot Singh Sodhi S/o Sh. Late Sh. Gurvinder Singh Sodhi ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ ਮੁਖ਼ਤਿਆਰੇਆਮ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਮੁਖ਼ਤਿਆਰੇ ਆਮ ਰਾਹੀਂ Sh. Manjot Singh Sodhi S/o Sh. Late Sh. Gurvinder Singh Sodhi ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ. 2255 ਅਰਬਨ ਅਸਟੇਟ ਫੇਜ਼-2 ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ Smt. Rajinder Kaur Sodhi W/o Late Sh. Gurvinder Singh ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਫੈਮਲੀ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਮੁਖ਼ਤਿਆਰੇਆਮ ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ. 2255 ਅਰਬਨ ਅਸਟੇਟ ਫੇਜ਼-2 ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਦੀ Smt. Rajinder Kaur Sodhi w/o Late Sh. Gurvinder Singh ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਫੈਮਲੀ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਕੇਸ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਪਾਸ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੂੰ ਫੈਮਲੀ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਪਾਸ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਖ਼ਤਿਆਰੇਆਮ Sh. Manjot Singh Sodhi S/o Sh. Late Sh. Gurvinder Singh Sodhi ਨੂੰ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ. 2255 ਅਰਬਨ ਅਸਟੇਟ ਫੇਜ਼-2 ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਨੂੰ Smt. Rajinder Kaur Sodhi w/o Late Sh. Gurvinder Singh ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਫੈਮਲੀ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rajan Kumar son of Subhash Chandra resident of Amir Khas, Tehsil Jalalabad, District Fazilka, state that a house measuring 5 marlas, situated at Jalalabad, two sale deeds of land, executed by Jaspal Singh son of Kartar Singh infavour of Jaspal Kaur wife Mandeep Singh, deed no. 3660 dated 11/11/2011 and executed by Jaspal Kaur wife Mandeep Singh infavour of Joginder Kaur wife Lal Chand, deed no. 2638 dated 21/08/2017, have gone missing from me. FIR serial no. 53194/2020 dated 14/03/2020 has been registered

ਗਰੇਟਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਏਰੀਆ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ, ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਪੁੱਡਾ ਭਵਨ, ਸੈਕਟਰ 62, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ।

ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ



ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ | ਲਾਭਪਾਤਰੀ

ਐਪਲੀਕੇਸ਼ਨ ਨੰਬਰ 458082 ਮਿਤੀ 20-Sep-2025 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਬਿਨੇਕਾਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ Plot No. 851, Phase 4, ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਅਲਾਟੀ Gurmukh Singh S/o Sh. Kishan Singh R/o #851, Phase 4, ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਮਿਤੀ 16-05-2014 ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਹੈ। Plot No 851, Phase 4, ਸੈਕਟਰ 59 ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਦੇ ਵਾਰਸਾਂ (1) Rawel Kaur D/o Late Sh. Gurmukh Singh ਵੱਲੋਂ Sh. Paramjit Singh S/o Late Sh. Gurmukh Singh R/o House No. 851, Phase 4, Sector 59 SAS Nagar ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ ਜੀਪੀਏ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ Sub Register Shimla, H.P. ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਦਾ ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰਬਰ 136 ਮਿਤੀ 06-07-2024 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਦਰਜ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ Jaswant Singh Bhatia, Avtar Singh, Pardeep Kaur, Rajinder Kaur S/D/o Late Sh. Gurmukh Singh ਵੱਲੋਂ ਆਪਣਾ ਭਰਾ Sh. Paramjit Singh S/ late Sh. Gurmukh Singh R/o House no 851, Phase 4, Sector 59 SAS Nagar Mohali ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ ਜੀ.ਪੀ.ਏ. ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਸਬ-ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਦਾ ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰਬਰ 2118 ਮਿਤੀ 20-12-2024 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸਬ-ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਦਰਜ ਹੈ।

Plot no 851 Phase 4 ਸੈਕਟਰ 59 ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਦੇ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਦੇ ਵਾਰਸਾਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ Sh. Bal Krishan Verma Naib Teshildar Shimla Urban District Shimla ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਦੇ ਵਾਰਸਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਤਸਦੀਕ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ।

1	Rawel Kaur	Daughter
2	Jaswant Singh	Son
3	Avtar Singh	Son
4	Pardeep Kaur	Daughter
5	Rajinder Kaur	Daughter
6	Paramjit Singh	Son

ਉਕਤ ਤਸਦੀਕ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਵਾਰਿਸਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਰਟੀਫਿਕੇਟ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਵਾਰਿਸਾਂ Paramjit Singh S/o Late Gurmukh Singh R/o House no 851, Phase 4 Sector 59 SAS Nagar ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਮ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਕੇਸ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ) ਗਮਾਡਾ ਐਸ. ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਆਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜੇਕਰ ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਦੇ ਉਕਤ ਵਾਰਸਾਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ) ਗਮਾਡਾ ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਪਾਸ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਏ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਦੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ Plot no 851 Phase. 04 ਸੈਕਟਰ 59 ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਤ ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਦੇ ਉਕਤ ਵਾਰਸਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ)
ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ. ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the instruction of AU Small Finance Bank Ltd Branch Mall Road Amritsar I hereby brought to notice of general public that Ashok Kumar S/o Jai Lal R/o 6/201 old Grain Market Tarn Taran is Owner of property the detail as under :-

Property bearing MC No. B-4/702 measuring 1 Marlas 45 feet having measurement 15½ feet & 17 feet 3 inch situated in the area of inside Abadi Railway Road Tarn Taran Tehsil & Distt. Tarn Taran Ashok Kumar S/o Jai Lal had lost his previous sale deed No. 3123 dated 16-02-2018 and regarding that lost information report also given vide letter no. 645275/2025 dated 06-11-2025 has also been got registered in this respect. Anybody having claim or claiming any manner in this property or has raised loan by depositing the aforesaid document to any person/bank/corporation/ Financial institution may approach the undersigned and may submitted objections within 7 day from the date of this public notice. After the expiry of the period of this notice, no claim shall be entertained and such claim shall be deemed to be false fake frivolous fraudulent and baseless claim and shall have no value in the eyes of law. It shall also be deemed that nobody has any objection for mortgaging the aforesaid property with AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. Branch Mall Road, Amritsar.

Harpal Singh Nijjar(Advocate)
First Floor, Near Rishu Photo Studio
Kacheri Chownk, Amritsar.
Mobile No. 9815610005

Constitution's core spirit aims to strengthen, empower, unify nation: Haryana CM



RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday said strengthening, empowering, and unifying the nation is the core spirit of the Constitution, adding that his government is working for the "development of all sections of society" with the same resolve.

His remarks came as he extended greetings for the Constitution Day at a programme held on the Haryana assembly premises. Saini said it is a day of pride for every Indian, as the Constitution grants equal opportunities, justice, and dignity to every citizen. He said transparency, good governance, social justice, and citizen participation form the soul of democratic governance, and state policies are based on these principles. The chief minister said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Constitution remains fully safeguarded, and the motto of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" reflects its true spirit.

Saini urged all citizens to remain aware of their constitutional duties and rights and to actively contribute to nation-building, adding that the dignity of the Constitution and national interest remain paramount. India's future rests with the youth, who must commit themselves to constitutional values and responsible citizenship, he asserted. Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, Development and Panchayat Minister Krishan Lal Panwar, Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda, Revenue Minister Vipul Goel, Minister of State for Food Supplies Rajesh Nagar, several MLAs, and officers were present at the programme.

Pathetic, you uprooted 40 fully-grown trees for access road to BJP office: SC to state govt

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26



Terming it "pathetic", the Supreme Court pulled up the Haryana government and its urban development body on Wednesday for the uprooting of 40 fully-grown trees to build an accessible road to a newly-constructed BJP office in Karnal, and sought a remedial action plan, warning them of being "taken to task".

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan was hearing a petition filed by a 1971-war veteran, challenging the dismissal of his plea at the high court on May 3 against the arbitrary allocation of a plot in a residential area to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Haryana and later, the construction of an access road for its office by uprooting 40 fully-grown trees situated in a green area. "It is pathetic that you uprooted fully-grown trees. Why and what happened to these trees? What is your explanation for this? Why can't you get the office of the political party shifted to some other location?" the bench asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, who appeared in the matter for the Haryana government. Banerjee said the required permissions were taken for allotment and all green norms followed. He assured the court that trees will be planted in proportion to the number of trees felled.

The bench asked Banerjee who will compensate for the loss of the 40 fully-grown trees. It also asked him to come up with a good explanation, warning that the state and its instrumentalities are bound to be "taken to task". "We are warning you that all of you will be taken to task for this," the bench told Banerjee and other lawyers appearing for different bodies of the state government. The court passed the order after hearing advocate Bhupender Pratap Singh, who appeared in the matter for Col (retd) Davinder Singh Rajput, a 1971-war veteran. Rajput (79) said he was wounded in the war and a decorated soldier, having been awarded the Vir Chakra for gallantry. He had purchased a plot, measuring 1,000 square yards, in sector 9, Urban Estate, Karnal from the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), then the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA).

Rajput said he was aggrieved by the arbitrary allotment of the land adjacent to his plot in a residential plotted colony to the ruling political party in the state in complete violation of the provisions of the Haryana Urban Development Act, 1977 and the relevant policies of the Department of Town and Country Planning and the HUDA. PTI

Khadi products become key attraction for visitors at Gita Mahotsav

KURUKSHETRA, NOVEMBER 26

Khadi garments have become a major attraction for visitors at the ongoing International Gita Mahotsav here, where artisans from across the country are showcasing their craft, officials said on Wednesday. The Khadi stalls set up near the northern banks of the Brahmasarovar lake are witnessing heavy footfall, they said. The state Khadi and Village Industries Board has displayed a range of products made using the textile, with a 25 per cent discount for the public and 30 per cent for government employees, according to Pramod Kumar Paliwal, District Khadi and Village Industries Officer.

The garments displayed are entirely hand-crafted from khadi fabric, he said. Paliwal said khadi clothes are preferred by tourists due to their comfort, as they remain cool in summer and warm in winter, adding that other products, such as herbal mehndi, shampoos, and jackets, are also available. He said the government is promoting khadi-based self-employment and providing training and financial support to youth interested in pursuing enterprises connected to the textile. The stalls feature cotton and khadi garments, including shawls, sheets, jackets, coats, and kurta-pyjamas, along with natural incense sticks, honey, footwear, soaps, and herbal eye care products.

A special stall on solar energy has also been set up at the mahotsav, officials said. Meanwhile, folk artistes from various states are captivating visitors at the Brahmasarovar ghats, adding vibrant colours of regional culture to the festive atmosphere, they said. PTI

63,000 challans for drunk driving issued this year, 25,000 in Gurugram

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 26

As many as 63,073 challans have been issued for drunk driving in Haryana so far this year, with Gurugram accounting for nearly 25,000 of them, officials said on Wednesday.

According to an official statement, the district-wise data shows the highest number of challans from January 1 till November 24 was issued in Gurugram at 24,972, followed by Faridabad (7,402), Karnal (4,851), Panchkula (4,180), and Jind (3,109). Following instructions issued by the Haryana Police, regular special drives are being conducted across all districts of the state, it said.

"The purpose of these drives is not only to curb drunken driving but also to strictly monitor lane driving, noise pollution, and misuse of red-blue lights. After reviewing weekly reports, the police headquarters has directed the districts to make these campaigns even more effective and result-oriented," the statement said.

According to the instructions, special police teams have been deployed at all toll plazas from 6 pm to 10 pm, which are equipped with alco-sensor and e-challan machines so that drunk drivers can be checked on the spot and action can be taken without delay, the statement said. PTI

Govt neglect led to death of Hardik and Aman: Hooda

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 26

Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Haryana, Bhupinder Singh Hooda said today that the BJP government in the state is treating sports and athletes like enemies. He said this is the reason why two young and promising players from Haryana-Hardik and Aman tragicvally died due to accident when a dilapidated basketball pole collapsed on them. Hooda said Hardik was a national level playee-had signed with a club in the United States of America. He had a bright future.

The death of these two promising players of the state is tragic indeed. Aman who was just 15-years-old was also a promising player. The Congress demanded a high level impartial probe into the tragic incident to teach the entire system a lesson.

Gurugram Thar owner sends legal notice to DGP over 'criminal' jibe

GURUGRAM, NOVEMBER 26

Gurugram resident and proud Mahindra Thar owner has sent a legal notice to Haryana Director General of Police (DGP) O.P. Singh, demanding a public apology and withdrawal of remarks made earlier this month that allegedly paint Thar and Bullet motorcycle owners as having a "criminal mindset." The DGP, at a press conference on November 8 in Gurugram, while speaking on road safety and traffic violations, said that most Thar and Bullet riders have a criminal mindset, triggering huge controversy.

The comment triggered instant backlash on social media, with many vehicle owners and enthusiasts calling it a sweeping generalisation. Even former Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala criticised the remark online.

Among those deeply offended was Sarvo Mitra, a Gurugram resident who owns a Thar vehicle. Feeling personally insulted, Mitra decided to take legal action against the DGP.

Through his lawyer, he has served a notice to the DGP demanding a public apology within 15 days and a formal retraction of the statement. According to the legal notice, Mitra claims that ever since the DGP's comment went viral, he has been subjected to taunts, ridicule, and derogatory remarks from people known to him as well as strangers. IANS

HIMACHAL/J&K

Tejas crash: HP CM, MP visit late pilot's ancestral home, pay homage

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 26

Health Minister Dhani Ram Shandil, Agriculture Minister Chander Kumar and Ayush Minister Yadvender Goma visited Syal's family and paid their condolences

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur on Wednesday separately visited the ancestral village of Wing Commander Namansh Syal, who was killed in Tejas aircraft crash at Dubai Air Show last week. Thakur paid homage to the late pilot and expressed deep condolences to his family members, in Kangra. He said the nation has lost a brave, dutiful and extraordinarily courageous fighter pilot, and it is an irreparable loss that can never be compensated.

The former Union minister assured the family that every possible effort will be made to ensure a fair, thorough and swift investigation into the tragic incident. He promised to remain in constant touch with authorities concerned and follow up at the highest levels in government to ensure that the post-mortem report is made available at the earliest.

Later in the day, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, accompanied by Health Minister Dhani Ram Shandil, Agriculture Minister Chander Kumar and Ayush Minister Yadvender Goma visited Syal's family and paid their condolences. PTI

India's Constitution is beacon of social justice: J&K L-G



'Our Constitution is venerable, which has paved the way for India's progress. We have to keep national unity and integrity intact. We must create the feeling of self-confidence and self-respect in the society, and every means and resource has to be used to make India powerful and self-reliant,' Manoj Sinha, said

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 26

J&K Lt Governor (L-G), Manoj Sinha, said on Wednesday that for 76 years, the country's constitution has been a beacon of equity, liberty and social justice and a guiding light for the citizens of this great country.

The L-G also called upon the policymakers, officers to uphold the values of the Constitution and commit to protecting and upholding the rights of citizens. "Our Constitution is venerable, which has paved the way for India's progress. We have to keep national unity and integrity intact. We must create the feeling of self-confidence and self-respect in the society, and every means and resource has to be used to make India powerful and self-reliant," he said.

He said, after a long wait of 67 years, provisions of the Constitution were made fully applicable to J&K in 2019, ending the rule of "discrimination" and "injustice". He claimed that now J&K is moving ahead guided by ideals of equity, social and economic justice as enshrined in the Constitution by Bhim Rao Ambedkar. He further claimed that his mission in J&K was to "improve" the lives of citizens, to eradicate "discrimination" and "injustice", eliminate the terror ecosystem and to make sure that the benefit of central schemes reaches the lowest strata of the society.

"Those who say what was achieved over the past 5 years? I want to tell them that the practice of rewarding separatists and torturing patriots has been stopped completely," he claimed. He said that by "implementation" of all provisions of the Constitution, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured "honour", "pride" and "dignity" for every brother and sister of J&K. IANS

Cong MLAs protest, flag BJP's 'double standards' on law and order in HP

DHARAMSHALA, NOVEMBER 26

The MLAs of the ruling Congress party on Wednesday accused the BJP of adopting "double standards" on law and order and raised slogans outside the Vidhan Sabha premises in Dharamshala. The protest comes on the heels of a series of allegations against BJP leaders and their family members, including the state BJP chief's brother, who was arrested last month for allegedly raping a woman.

The protest was held on the first day of the 10-day-long Winter session of the Himachal Pradesh assembly that started on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters, Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi said the BJP is continuously trying to spread confusion across the country "by making law and order an issue". Claiming that it is "not a problem", Negi said, "In reality, the problem is with the BJP MLAs and in most of the incidents that are being reported across the country, names of BJP office-bearers, MPs, and MLAs have surfaced, and they have been implicated." He also said that in recent times, cases of sexual harassment have increased, and serious allegations have surfaced involving BJP leaders.

"Across the country, BJP leaders' names have come up in matters, ranging from job placements to ticket distribution," Negi said. The BJP legislator from the Churah assembly segment in Chamba, Hans Raj, was booked for aggravated penetrative sexual assault under Section 6 of the POCSO Act and sexual intercourse by making a false promise of marriage under Section 69 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. PTI

Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee's study tour of Chenab and Anji Khad Rail Bridge

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, November 26



Members of the Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) conducted a study tour of the newly constructed Chenab and Anji Khad Rail Bridge in the Jammu Division of Northern Railway.

The primary objective of this study tour was to observe technological innovations in railway infrastructure development and the development of Indian Railways, and to understand the complexities of constructing these bridges. The ZRUCC members were accompanied by the Additional General Manager, Deputy General Manager (General), Divisional Railway Manager, Vivek Kumar, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, and other senior divisional officials. Speaking of the features of the Chenab and Anji Khad Rail Bridges, both bridges form a crucial part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL).

These bridges are a marvel of engineering in themselves. To highlight the features of these bridges, the Chenab Bridge, built over the Chenab River, is 35 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

3.81 lakh smart meters installed in J&K as part of key scheme; major loss-reduction work underway

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26

As part of the revamped distribution sector scheme (RDSS) aimed at making electricity available to consumers without cuts and curtailments and to reduce transmission losses, the Jammu and Kashmir government has so far installed 3.81 lakh smart electric meters in the Union Territory, an official said. A progress report of the Power Development Department tabled during the review meeting of the project chaired by Chief Secretary Atul Dulloo on Wednesday stated: "The first phase of the RDSS project started in November 2020 with an initial target to install 20,000 meters in selected areas of Jammu and Srinagar cities, and it was eventually completed in 2022 with 1.5 lakh smart meters installed. The second and third phases that began in 2024, with a cumulative target of over 9.50 lakh smart meter installations by 2026, are currently under implementation."

The Chief Secretary reviewed the reform with a focus on enhancing operational efficiency, strengthening infrastructure and substantially reducing power losses under the RDSS. IANS

NEWSBRIEFS

Pakistani forces extrajudicially kill another Baloch civilian

QUETTA: Another civilian was extrajudicially killed by Pakistani forces in Balochistan, a leading human rights organisation said on Wednesday. The latest act of brutality comes against the backdrop of a continuing cycle of persecution marked by a surge in extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture across the province. Human rights body Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) mentioned that 30-year-old Jalal-ud-Din Baloch, employed as a driver, was shot dead by armed, masked men on a motorcycle. The assailants opened fire while he was cleaning a vehicle at a service station, killing him on the spot. Citing local sources, the rights body stated that the attackers were members of a Pakist=an-backed death squad known for carrying out extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and targeted attacks across Balochistan. "These groups operate alongside Pakistani security forces, creating an atmosphere of fear and coercion designed to suppress dissent and silence Baloch civilians," the BYC stated. **IANS**

UNAIDS warns of major setbacks in global HIV response, calls for renewed solidarity

GENEVA: A new report released by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) warns that the global HIV response has suffered its most significant setback in decades, urging reliance on solidarity, resilience, investment and innovation to achieve the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic. Titled "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response," the report highlights the severe impact of reduced international funding and a lack of global solidarity on HIV prevention efforts. Abrupt cuts to international HIV aid in 2025 have worsened existing funding gaps, said the report, citing an estimate from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that indicates external health assistance is expected to fall by 30-40 per cent in 2025 compared with 2023, which will lead to immediate and increasingly severe disruptions to health services in low- and middle-income countries. **IANS**

Fire rages through bamboo scaffolding at Hong Kong high-rise residential complex, killing 4

HONG KONG: A fire ravaged a high-rise Hong Kong housing complex on Wednesday, killing four people and leaving others trapped inside, authorities said. The Hong Kong government reported four deaths and said three other people were hospitalized. Two of the injured were in critical condition and the other person was stable, a brief statement said. Hong Kong media said that one of the deceased was a firefighter, but that could not be immediately confirmed. Police said they had received multiple reports of people trapped in the affected buildings. The raging fire sent up a column of flames and thick smoke as it spread on bamboo scaffolding that had been set up around the exterior of the complex in the city's Tai Po district. Live video from the scene showed firefighters aiming water at the intense flames from high up on ladder trucks. **IANS**

Trump spares turkeys, but not his political opponents, at annual pardoning ceremony



WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 26

President Donald Trump didn't bring much holiday cheer Tuesday when bestowing ceremonial pardons on two Thanksgiving turkeys, dispensing more insults than goodwill at the traditional White House ritual. He joked about sending the turkeys to an infamous prison in El Salvador that has been used to house migrants deported from the United States. He said the birds should be named Chuck and Nancy after Democratic stalwarts Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi but "I would never pardon those people."

Trump claimed that last year's turkey pardons, issued by President Joe Biden, were invalid because he used an autopen. "Where's Hunter?" he said, suggesting that his predecessor's son could once again face legal jeopardy. And all of that was before Trump turned his attention to Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, a Democrat who has resisted the White House's plans to deploy the National Guard in Chicago. Trump said he had a joke prepared about Pritzker, but "I refuse to talk about the fact that he's a fat slob. I don't mention it." Scattered laughter rippled through the audience, which sat under cloudy skies and an intermittent drizzle on the Rose Garden patio. Trump eventually got around to the business at hand, which was pardoning the turkeys Gobble and Waddle. Both were spared the dinner table, but only one got the spotlight.

"Gobble, I just want to tell you this — very important — you are hereby unconditionally pardoned," Trump said. He reached over to run his hand over the feathers, saying, "Who would want to harm this beautiful bird?" Waddle had previously been spotted in the White House briefing room. "Waddle, want to give us a gobble?" White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt asked. The turkey obliged. "Very on message!" Leavitt said. Trump used part of his ceremonial remarks to insist that the price of Thanksgiving meals was dropping under his leadership, although his numbers are misleading. Some research indicates that holiday dinners could cost more this year, a reminder of persistent frustration with inflation.

The president plans to fly south to his private Florida resort later Tuesday, a holiday interlude during what has been a turbulent and uncertain chapter of his second term. Trump is struggling to advance a plan to end the Russian invasion of Ukraine after an earlier version faced swift criticism from European allies and even some Republicans. The US military is also poised to target Venezuela with military strikes, part of an anti-drug operation that could ultimately destabilize the country's leadership. **AP**

Zelensky signals readiness to develop revised peace plan into 'deeper agreements'

KYIV, NOVEMBER 26



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that the peace plan prepared by Ukraine and the United States in Geneva could be developed into "deeper agreements." In an address on Tuesday, Zelensky said he had discussed the plan with Ukraine's negotiating team. "The principles in this document can be developed into deeper agreements. And it is in our shared interest that security is real," he said.

He also voiced hope for continued active cooperation with the US side and US President Donald Trump, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier in the day, Andriy Yermak, head of Ukraine's presidential office, said Zelensky wants to meet with Trump to finalize a joint agreement on the terms for ending the Ukraine crisis, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported. Ukrainian and US negotiators reached agreement in principle on most aspects of the US-proposed peace plan, Yermak said, noting that the document was significantly modified from the original 28-point US proposal. However, Zelensky hopes to negotiate territorial issues directly with Trump, Yermak added. Earlier on Sunday, representatives from the United States, Ukraine and European countries met in Geneva as the White House pushed for agreement on the 28-point plan.

Following a meeting between the Ukrainian delegation and national security advisers from Britain, France and Germany, the Ukrainian side held bilateral talks with the US representatives. It's reported that Sunday's Geneva meeting was attended on the US side by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff and Army Secretary Daniel Driscoll, with Zelensky's office chief Andriy Yermak leading the Ukrainian delegation.

According to a joint statement issued by the White House on Sunday night, the talks between US representatives and Ukrainian officials in Geneva made "meaningful progress toward aligning positions." **IANS**

South Korea's Unification Minister highlights peaceful, gradual approach in North Korea policy

SEOUL, NOVEMBER 26



South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said on Wednesday the government seeks to implement the North Korea policy in a peaceful and gradual manner, dismissing concerns about the possibility of any radical policy toward Pyongyang.

Chung made the remarks during his meeting with Kim Jong-hyuk, president of the United Christian Churches of Korea, an association of Protestant churches in South Korea. "We could not imagine (taking) shocking or radical methods (in terms of North Korea policy)," Chung said, addressing concerns raised by the Protestant church circle that the administration of liberal President Lee Jae Myung may be too tolerant toward North Korea, Yonhap News Agency reported.

"Even a good idea cannot be realised if there is no public support," the minister said. "A radical policy cannot help but invite public animosity." Chung stressed the government has inherited three principles of North Korea policy peaceful, phased and gradual approaches from previous liberal governments. Lee has vowed to resume dialogue and reconciliation with North Korea since taking office in June.

Last week, the defence ministry proposed holding military talks with the North to discuss clarifying the Military Demarcation Line in a bid to prevent possible accidental clashes at the border areas. But Pyongyang has remained silent toward the proposal. On November 20, the ruling Democratic Party (DP) urged North Korea to accept South Korea's proposal for military talks aimed at clarifying the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) to prevent possible clashes near the inter-Korean border. The proposal came as North Korean soldiers including those who were armed have repeatedly, albeit temporarily, crossed the MDL while working near the border, such as clearing land or laying mines in the buffer zone. "North Korea should immediately respond to our calls," Rep. Kim Byung-kee, the DP's floor leader, said during a policy coordination meeting at the National Assembly.

"As South Korea's first official proposal for talks with the North since President Lee Jae Myung took office, it will mark an important opportunity to resume inter-Korean dialogue." He stressed that the proposed meeting is intended to prevent accidental clashes along the MDL and ease military tensions. **IANS**

Death toll from Vietnam flooding rises to 98

HANOI, NOVEMBER 26

The death toll from heavy rains and flooding in Vietnam's central region has risen to 98, with 10 others still missing, the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority said in a report on Wednesday.

More than 2,000 houses were damaged, and 426 others collapsed, according to the report. The floods submerged over 51,800 hectares of rice and other crops, and killed or swept away more than 920,800 poultry and livestock, reports Xinhua news agency. The economic losses are estimated at over 14.3 trillion Vietnamese dong (about 570 million US dollars), the authority said.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has called for stepping up response measures to severe flooding and natural disasters in the central provinces. The Vietnamese government has provided emergency aid worth 700 billion Vietnamese dong (about 26.6 million US dollars) to certain hard-hit regions for recovery efforts, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Vietnam's government has approved an emergency relief fund of 450 billion Vietnamese dong (about 17.93 million USD) to support four cities and provinces in central Vietnam in their recovery efforts, including Hue, Da Nang, Quang Tri, and Quang Ngai. Over 28,400 houses remain inundated, while 946 others have been damaged, according to the report. Power has been restored for most affected areas, with around 75,000 households still without electricity. Earlier in August, eight people died, and three others remained missing following flash floods and landslides in Vietnam's northern province of Dien Bien, local media reported. **IANS**

Over 20 schools closed as catastrophic fire danger warning issued for east Australia

SYDNEY, NOVEMBER 26



More than 20 schools in the eastern Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) have been closed after authorities warned of a catastrophic fire danger amid extreme heat and strong winds.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) warned that catastrophic fire danger is forecast for NSW's Lower Central West Plains region, about 300 km west of Sydney, on Wednesday and issued an extreme fire danger warning for another 10 regions, including Greater Sydney. The catastrophic fire danger warning for the Lower Central West Plains marks the first time since September 2023 that the BoM has issued the highest-level warning for any part of NSW. Among the affected schools are Ariah Park Central, Barellan Central, Bedgerabong Public, Binya Public, Bogan Gate Public and Narrandera High School. All NSW independent schools remain operational. The Riverina is coming off its driest period in years, heightening fears as bushfire season intensifies. Most of the closed campuses are small, remote schools.

The maximum temperature in Sydney and the city of Dubbo, the largest population centre in the Lower Central West Plains, was forecast to hit 36 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. "Hot to very hot and dry conditions will combine with fresh to strong and gusty west to northwest winds over much of New South Wales on Wednesday," the BoM said. **IANS**

Number of evacuees rises to over 21,000 following floods in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, NOVEMBER 26

The number of evacuees rose to over 21,000 in Malaysia on Wednesday, with 10 states affected across the country due to the current northeast monsoon season, according to authorities. Kelantan remains the hardest hit, with 9,642 flood evacuees housed in 52 flood relief centres as of 9 a.m. local time.

Other badly affected areas include Perak state with 4,331 evacuees, Selangor state with 2,909, and another 2,837 in Kedah state, with the remainder spread across the country. Selangor state chief minister Amirudin Shari said flood mitigation measures in parts of the state were unable to cope with the surge in water and extraordinary weather conditions, reports Xinhua news agency.

"The state government is identifying follow-up measures that need to be taken to ensure the safety of residents, including improving flood mitigation infrastructure and immediate actions to ensure the safety and well-being of those affected," he said. **IANS**

UN formally initiates selection process for next secretary-general

UNITED NATIONS, NOVEMBER 26

The United Nations formally started the selection and appointment process for the next UN secretary-general. Annalena Baerbock, president of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), said in a statement that she has signed a joint letter with President of the UN Security Council for the month of November, Michael Imran Kanu, permanent representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, formally initiating the selection and appointment process for the next UN secretary-general, Xinhua news agecny reported.

With the issuance of the joint letter, the president of the UNGA and the president of the Security Council invite UN member states to nominate candidates for the position of the UN secretary-general, who will take over the role from January 1, 2027. The letter includes a call to member states to strongly consider nominating women as candidates. As president of the UNGA, Baerbock said she will "ensure that the process reflects the principles of the United Nations Charter and the very best of our shared commitments and values."

"The selection of the next Secretary-General comes at a pivotal moment for the United Nations. We are confronted with escalating conflicts, a rapidly advancing climate crisis, expanding humanitarian needs, enduring obstacles to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, and an increasing pushback against human rights," Baerbock said.

The multilateral system, with the United Nations at its center, is under mounting financial and political pressure, while "the world needs the United Nations more than ever," she said. **IANS**

Syria faces rising security tensions amid sectarian unrest, protests

DAMASCUS, NOVEMBER 26

Syria witnessed a wave of security disturbances rom sectarian unrest in the central province of Homs and coastal protests to anti-terror operations in the northern province of Aleppo, underscoring the country's fragile stability. Tensions flared on Tuesday after last week's killing of a Sunni Bedouin couple in Homs, which authorities said was aimed at inciting sectarian strife. Retaliatory attacks in Alawite-majority neighbourhoods prompted a 12-hour nightly curfew and heightened security, Xinhua news agency reported.

The incident sparked rare Alawite-led protests across the coastal region on Tuesday. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, tens of thousands of people demonstrated across at least 42 locations, denouncing sectarian provocation.

The Britain-based war monitor also reported isolated unrest, including an attempted statue damage in Tartous and a shooting in Latakia that left one man seriously wounded. Interior authorities spokesperson Noureddin al-Baba, quoted by state-run al-Ikhbaria TV, said the right to protest is guaranteed, but warned against attempts to sow sectarian divisions.

"We advise our people not to be drawn into agendas promoted by groups outside the country," he said. In a separate development, the interior authorities said Tuesday that security forces dismantled an Islamic State (IS) cell in northwestern Aleppo's Afrin area, arresting several IS-affiliated militants and seizing weapons and bomb-making materials. **IANS**

EU set to weigh excessive deficit procedure for Finland in December

HELSINKI, NOVEMBER 26



The European Commission is considering proposing in December the launch of an excessive deficit procedure (EDP) for Finland after determining the country no longer meets the European Union's (EU) deficit rules, Finland's Ministry of Finance said.

EU rules require member states to keep their general government deficit below 3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Finland exceeded this limit last year and is expected to remain above it in the coming years, according to the Commission's latest assessment, the ministry said.

"The Commission's assessment did not come as a surprise, as Finland's public finances have continued to deteriorate," Finance Minister Riikka Purra said. "We will find out in December how quickly the EU expects us to correct the situation. The corrective measures will be up to us."

Finland has a national "escape clause" for 2025-2028 due to rising defence spending, but the ministry said this no longer justifies this year's excess deficit, meaning the Commission's earlier conclusions no longer apply, Xinhua news agency reported. The EDP, established in EU treaties, requires member states to reduce excessive deficits and can ultimately lead to sanctions for eurozone members that fail to act. Nine EU countries are currently under the procedure, and Finland would become the 10th if it is opened. **IANS**

lifestyle



Kriti Sanon shares a candid moment of filmmaker Aanand L Rai calmly sleeping on a flight

Actress Kriti Sanon took to social media to share a lighthearted moment from her travel with filmmaker Aanand L. Rai.

She captured Rai peacefully asleep during a recent flight. The candid click added a fun touch to the countdown to their upcoming film "Tere Ishk Mein." On Wednesday, Kriti took to her Instagram handle and shared a photo of Aanand L. Rai sleeping with his mouth slightly open while seated by the window. Alongside it, she wrote, "Pretty Calm for a director who's film is about to release in 2 days @aanandlrai. #TereIshkMein." Kriti Sanon has teamed up with Aanand L. Rai for the first time in the romantic comedy "Tere Ishk Mein." The duo is currently busy promoting the film, which also stars Dhanush. Interestingly, "Tere Ishk Mein" reunites director Aanand L. Rai, Dhanush, and Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman after their work together on Raanjhanaa and Atrangi Re.

The film is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, and Colour Yellow, and produced by Aanand L. Rai, Himanshu Sharma, Bhushan Kumar, and Krishan Kumar. The movie is slated for a theatrical release on November 28 in both Tamil and Hindi.

In July, Kriti Sanon had penned a gratitude note for her "Tere Ishk Mein" team after completing the shoot for the highly anticipated drama. She had taken to her Instagram Stories to share a couple of behind-the-scenes photos from the set of the spiritual successor to "Raanjhanaa."

The 'Heropanti' actress captioned the post, "And its a wrap on #TereIshkMein !! Love wrapped in Anand Rai style drama and intensity!! After a roller coaster ride and a marathon of emotionally and physically draining schedules..Another beautiful journey comes to an end.. but this one has given me memories and equations that will last forever!!." **IANS**



Kareena calls BFF Natasha Poonawalla 'queen' in sweet birthday shout-out

Kareena Kapoor took to social media to wish her best friend Natasha Poonawalla on her birthday. In her sweet message, Bebo affectionately called Natasha a 'queen.' Taking to her Instagram stories, the Jab We met actress shared their selfie and wrote, "Happy Birthday Nats. Once a Queen always a Queen Love Love...Always Always @natasha.poonawalla."In the image, Kareena and Natasha could be seen striking a happy pose together. The photo speaks volumes about the bond they share with each other.

Kareena Kapoor and Natasha Poonawalla share a strong friendship and are regularly seen together on trips and at social events. Their camaraderie often makes headlines, highlighting their stylish outings and fun vacations. The pair also enjoys attending parties and social gatherings together.

For the unversed, Natasha Poonawalla is married to Adar Poonawalla, CEO of the Serum Institute of India (SII), one of the largest vaccine manufacturers globally. The philanthropist is often seen gracing red carpets at high-profile events like the Met Gala. Natasha also shares a close friendship and strong social connection with the Kapoor sisters, Kareena and Karisma.

Speaking of Kareena, she never misses a chance to wish her close friends on their birthdays. Earlier, she had wished her cousin Armaan Jain, calling him her "darling bro" and adding that she "can't wait to celebrate soon."

Taking to her Instagram stories, the 'Udta Punjab' actress shared a monochrome picture posing next to Armaan and his wife Anissa Malhotra. For the caption, she wrote: "Happy birthday darling bro Love you loads and loads.Can't wait to celebrate soon @therealarmaanjain."

Kareena and Armaan recently made headlines with the Netflix special "Dining with the Kapoors." The hour-long special brought together cousins, siblings, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and in-laws for a lively and candid celebration of family bonds. Directed by Smriti Mundhra and created by Armaan, "Dining with the Kapoors" offered a glimpse into the family's cherished traditions. **IANS**

Meenakshi showcases her passion for Bharatanatyam as she announces learning series



Veteran actress Meenakshi Seshadri shared a glimpse of her deep connection with Bharatanatyam as she took to social media to announce a new series.

In the video, the actress and classical dancer explained that she will break down the traditional curriculum of the art form, celebrating its richness and her own lifelong training. Taking to Instagram, Meenakshi posted a video of herself performing Bharatanatyam. The clip shows her demonstrating each step, guiding viewers through the choreography.

For the caption, the 'Ghatak' actress wrote, "With a most humility, I want to say that I am very fortunate to have been trained in the Indian classical dance style of BharatNatyam. I'm starting a small series which puts down what is the curriculum in a course of Bharat Natyam Dance #dance #celebrity #course #curriculum #fundamentals."

Meenakshi is known for her active presence on social media, where she often gives a glimpse into her personal moments. Earlier, she had also shared a video of herself singing her popular song "Jab Koi Baat Bigad Jaye" at an event in Kolkata.

On the work front, the 62-year-old actress rose to prominence as one of the most celebrated actresses of Hindi cinema during the 1980s and 1990s. She made her screen debut in 1983 with "Painter Babu," but it was her second film, "Hero," that launched her into overnight fame.

Over the years, she delivered memorable performances in films like "Aandhi-Toofan," "Meri Jung," "Swati," "Dacait", "Inaam Dus Hazaar," "Shahenshah," "Awaargi," "Ghar Ho To Aisa," "Damini," and "Ghatak." Her journey was even chronicled in a documentary titled "Meenakshi: Accept Her Wings." **IANS**

SPORTS

South Africa hand India biggest defeat to clinch historic series win

GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 26



Off-spinner Simon Harmer picked an exceptional 6-37 as South Africa completed a commanding 408-run victory over India at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium to secure an emphatic 2-0 series sweep on Wednesday.

Chasing 549, India were bundled out for 140 on day five's play while veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja top-scored with 54. South Africa also handed the hosts their heaviest defeat in Tests by runs, and the reigning World Test Championship winners bagged their first Test series win in India since 2000.

South Africa also set a new record, registering their biggest win, by margin of runs, over India in Tests. Moreover, this is the second Test series win for the Proteas in India and first in 25 year. It was the Hansie Cronje-led side who did it first in 2000. Now Temba Bavuma joined him and kept his unbeaten Test record intact as skipper.

Right from the time South Africa won the toss, everything went their way, with India now left to ponder over the questions as their fortress-like reputation when playing Tests at home suffers another significant blow after their 3-0 loss to New Zealand last year.

India are now left to ponder multiple questions, as their fortress-like reputation when playing Tests at home suffered another big blow after their 3-0 loss to New Zealand last year.

Resuming from 27/2, B Sai Sudharsan was dismissed by Marco Jansen but narrowly escaped when replays showed the fast bowler had overstepped, while Kuldeep Yadav received a reprieve when Aiden Markram dropped his catch at first slip.

Kuldeep's nightwatchman duty ended at five when Harmer's straighter delivery went through the gate to rattle the middle-stump. Three balls later, Harmer took another wicket as Dhruv Jurel looked to defend but got an outside edge and was caught by slip for two.

Rishabh Pant briefly lifted the hosts with his counter-attack – punching Keshav Maharaj for four before dancing down the pitch to launch him for a towering six. But in a bid to defend a slower delivery from Harmer, Pant fell for 13 when extra bounce on the delivery took the shoulder edge of the bat and lobbed to slip.

Harmer could have taken his fourth wicket if Markram hadn't dropped a difficult catch of Sudharsan, who became the third Indian batter to face over a hundred balls in this series, as South Africa took three wickets in the morning session.

Post tea, South Africa struck early in the fifth ball of the afternoon session as B Sai Sudharsan, who battled through the morning with a defensive approach, pressed forward once more to smother the spin from Senuran Muthusamy, but failed to cover the line and edged to slip, where Markram took his eighth catch of the match. **IANS**

It is up to BCCI to decide my future but don't forget my successes: Under-fire Gambhir

GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 26



Under-fire India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Wednesday said it was up to the BCCI to decide his future after the Test series whitewash against South Africa but also reminded everyone of the success the team has achieved in his eventful tenure.

Gambhir was speaking after the humiliating 408-run drubbing at the hands of South Africa in the second Test here Wednesday, which gave the visitors a 2-0 series sweep.

"It is up to the BCCI to decide. I've said it in my first press conference when I took over as the head coach. Indian cricket is important, I'm not important. And I sit here and say exactly the same thing," Gambhir was terse as usual at the post-match press conference.

"And yes, people can keep forgetting about it. I'm the same guy who got results in England as well, with a young team. And I'm sure you guys will forget very soon, because a lot of people keep talking about New Zealand (home series whitewash last year). And I'm the same guy who won the Champions Trophy, and Asia Cup as well," Gambhir reminded.

The combative response to the question on his future aside, Gambhir said he would not try to dodge the blame for the debacle against a very well-prepared South Africa.

"The blame lies with everyone and starts with me," he conceded in his first reactions after the 0-2 drubbing.

"We need to play better. From 95/1 to 122/7 is not acceptable. You don't blame any individual or any particular shot. Blame lies with everyone. I never blamed individuals and won't do it going forward," he added.

Under Gambhir, India have lost 10 of their 18 Tests, including whitewashes against New Zealand last year and South Africa now at home. **PTI**

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