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OVER 1.20 CR WOMEN SCREENED FOR CERVICAL CANCER IN 2025: GOVT P06

TEMPLE MONEY BELONGS TO DEITY, NOT BANKS: SUPREME COURT P07

INDIA'S GOING TO COME HARD AT US, BUT WE'VE NICE BALANCE IN OUR BATTING: BREETZKE P12

India-Russia to achieve USD 100 bn bilateral trade target before 2030: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday exuded confidence that the USD 100 billion bilateral trade target between India and Russia will be achieved ahead of 2030.

Speaking at the India-Russia Business Forum, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Modi invited Russian businesses to 'come and Make In India...and partner with India'.

The Prime Minister recalled that last year, President Putin and he set a target of reaching USD 100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.

"However, after further discussions with President Putin and considering the tremendous potential in our partnership, I am confident that we will achieve this target well ahead of schedule. We are making rapid progress towards this goal," Modi said.

He further said that simplified and predictable mechanisms are being created for businesses, and discussions have begun on the FTA between India and the Eurasian Economic Union.

Whether it is business or diplomacy, the foundation of any partnership is mutual trust, he noted.

"The greatest strength of India-Russia relations is this trust. It is this trust that gives direction to our joint efforts and also provides momentum," the Prime Minister said, adding that this is the launchpad that gives inspiration to take flight towards new dreams and aspirations.

He noted that India is a global leader in affordable, efficient electric vehicles, two-wheelers, and CNG mobility solutions, while Russia is a major producer of advanced materials.

By partnering in EV manufacturing, automotive components, and shared mobility technologies, the two countries can not only meet their domestic demands but also contribute to the development of the Global South, Modi said.

President Putin said Russia is for strengthening its multifaceted relations with India in various fields. **PTI**

India, Russia firm up 5-year economic roadmap; PM bats for peaceful resolution to Ukraine conflict

India and Russia on Friday firmed up a five-year plan to bolster economic and trade ties in the face of Washington's punitive tariff and sanctions regime even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to President Vladimir Putin that the war in Ukraine must be brought to an end through peaceful means.

Following their summit talks that generated global attention, Modi and Putin demonstrated their keenness to impart a fresh momentum to the over eight-decades-old India-Russia friendship with the prime minister saying that it remained steadfast like a "pole star" notwithstanding geo-political churn.

On fourth day of his Japan visit, CM holds business roadshow at Osaka

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Osaka/Chandigarh, December 5



The roadshow by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Friday at Osaka got a massive response as leading Japanese companies attended the roadshow and evinced keen interest in investing in the state.

Meanwhile, addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that the participation of these industrial giants reflect strong institutional support for strengthening Indo-Japan economic ties. He said that it also shows growing interest of the global investors in Punjab's progressive industrial policies, unified single-window system and investment-ready opportunities. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the goal of state government is to create new opportunities for our youth and a stable, reliable environment for investors.

Recalling Punjab's ties with Japanese industry, the Chief Minister said that these relations are already strong and growing, adding that several well-known companies of Japan have placed their trust in Punjab. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that due to strenuous efforts of state government, Punjab has emerged as most preferred investment destination across the globe. He also highlighted Punjab's strategic location, seamless connectivity to NCR and major ports, strong industrial clusters, uninterrupted quality power supply, skilled workforce, and progressive policy ecosystem.

The Chief Minister also showcased the state's governance and regulatory reforms, including the FastTrack Punjab single-window system offering 173+ G2B services, auto-deemed approvals, PAN-based business identifiers, and amendments to the Punjab Right to Business Act enabling time-bound in-principle approvals. He also highlighted Punjab's industrial infrastructure adding that over Rs 1.4 lakh crore of on ground investments which have already been facilitated through Invest Punjab. Meanwhile, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that his vision is simple and clear to make Punjab a preferred destination for global industry by offering stability in policy, speed in decision-making, and a governance system that respects the time and trust of investors.

The Chief Minister said that Punjab's approach is based on partnership and working closely with industry, by understanding their needs and ensure that government acts as a catalyst of growth. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Punjab has strengthened its infrastructure, expanded its industrial capacity and opened new avenues for investment. He said that partnership between government and industry is key to success and the state government firmly believes that industrial growth can only be achieved when we work as equal partners.

The Chief Minister said that this principle guides New Industrial Policy of state introduced in 2022, which was shaped in consultation with industry leaders and stakeholders, ensuring that it caters to their needs and aspirations. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that now the state government has created 24 sectoral committees chaired by the captains of industry to formulate sector specific policies.

Govt aims to triple cooperative sector's contribution to national GDP: Amit Shah

GANDHINAGAR, DECEMBER 5



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday, in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, inaugurated the two-day Earth Summit 2025–26 at Mahatma Mandir.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Amit Shah said that the Earth Summit series is envisioned to transform India's rural economy into the strongest pillar of the national economy.

The summit, jointly organised by NABARD and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), features a grand expo which the dignitaries inaugurated before visiting various stalls.

The second edition of the summit, he noted, is being held in Gujarat -- the land of Mahatma Gandhi, who long ago emphasised that India's development can never be complete without uplifting its rural heartland.

Shah remarked that agriculture, animal husbandry and cooperation -- the three pillars of rural development -- were neglected for decades after Independence.

Since 2014, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, all three sectors have been revitalised, he said.

To strengthen them further, the combined budget of the Ministries of Rural Development, Agriculture and Cooperation has increased threefold -- from Rs 1.02 lakh crore in 2014 to more than Rs 3.15 lakh crore in 2025–26.

Shah said the nation has resolved that by the time India completes 100 years of Independence, it should lead the world in every sector. This vision of a fully developed India is only possible when every citizen is empowered. As part of this effort, the government plans to establish at least one cooperative society in every panchayat and increase the number of active cooperative members to over 50 crore, thereby tripling the cooperative sector's contribution to India's GDP.

Highlighting the summit theme "Empowering Rural Innovation for Global Change", the Home and Cooperation Minister said that meaningful dialogue, practical solutions and grassroots innovations can enhance rural productivity, improve citizen welfare and create long-term economic resilience. He expressed confidence that the outcomes of the summit would help address major structural challenges faced by the rural economy. **PTI**

INDIGO DISRUPTIONS

Naidu says operations to normalise in 3 days; orders inquiry

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Friday said various operational measures, including keeping new flight duty norms in abeyance, will help address the IndiGo flight disruptions, and complete restoration of services is expected in next three days.

The government has also decided to institute a high-level inquiry to determine the reasons and accountability for the IndiGo disruptions that has resulted in hundreds of flight cancellations and delays in the past four days.

The civil aviation ministry has taken urgent and proactive measures to address the ongoing disruption in flight schedules, particularly those of Indigo airlines, Naidu said in a statement.

"The Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) orders of the DGCA have been placed in abeyance with immediate effect. Without compromising on air safety, this decision has been taken solely in the interest of passengers, especially senior citizens, students, patients, and others who rely on timely air travel for essential needs," he said.

According to him, the operational measures have been initiated to ensure that normal airline services are restored at the earliest.

"Based on the immediate implementation of these directives, we expect that flight schedules will begin to stabilise and return to normal by tomorrow. We anticipate that complete restoration of services will be achieved within the next three days," the minister said. **PTI**

DGCA chief seeks cooperation of pilots to ensure smooth flight ops

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

Aviation regulator DGCA's chief Faiz Ahmed Kidwai on Friday requested the cooperation of all pilots to ensure smooth flight operations amid massive IndiGo flight disruptions. In an appeal, the Director General said that in light of the current IndiGo flight disruptions due to operational constraints, unpredictable weather patterns and rising seasonal demand, the aviation sector is experiencing significant strain. He noted that these disruptions have led to delays, passenger inconvenience, and increased pressure on airline operations.

"As we now approach the fog season, the peak holiday period, and the marriage travel season, it is crucial that the industry prepares for even greater operational challenges. **PTI**

Centre will not impose penalties for delayed Waqf registration for three months: Kiren Rijiju

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju announced on Friday that the Central government will not impose penalties or initiate strict action for delayed registration of Waqf properties on the UMEED portal for the next three months. The relaxation comes even as the formal deadline for registration ends on December 5.

Addressing the media, the Minister said the decision was taken after several Members of Parliament and community representatives requested additional time, citing challenges faced by mutawallis in completing the process. However, Rijiju clarified that while the demands for an extended deadline were communicated to the Supreme Court, the court refused to grant an extension beyond the six-month period already provided under law.

He urged mutawallis, the custodians of Waqf properties, to approach the Waqf Tribunal if they are still unable to complete the process within the grace period. Under the Waqf (Amendment) Act, the Tribunal has the legal authority to grant an extension of up to six additional months beyond the mandatory window. **PTI**

EU hits Elon Musk's X with 120 million Euro fine for breaching bloc's social media law

LONDON, DECEMBER 5



European Union regulators on Friday fined Elon Musk's social media platform X 120 million euros (USD 140 million) for breaches of the bloc's digital regulations that they said could leave users exposed to scams and manipulation.

The European Commission issued its decision following an investigation it opened two years ago into X under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Services Act, also known as the DSA.

It's the first time that the EU has issued a so-called non-compliance decision since rolling out the DSA. The sweeping rulebook requires platforms to take more responsibility for protecting European users and cleaning up harmful or illegal content and products on their sites, under threat of hefty fines.

The Commission said it was punishing X, previously known as Twitter, because of three different breaches of the DSA's transparency requirements.

The decision could rile President Donald Trump, whose administration has lashed out at digital regulations, complaining that Brussels was targeting US tech companies and vowing to retaliate.

The company did not respond immediately to an email request for comment. EU regulators had already outlined their accusations in mid-2024 when they released preliminary findings of their investigation into X.

Regulators said X's blue checkmarks broke the rules because on "deceptive design practices" and could expose users to scams and manipulation. **PTI**

RBI trims policy interest rate by 25bps to 5.25pc, loans to get cheaper

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

Shrugging off concerns over the depreciation of rupee, the RBI on Friday cut interest rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent in a bid to further bolster economic growth, which rose to a six-quarter high of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year.

The development is expected to make advances, including housing, auto and commercial loans cheaper.

Announcing the fifth bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to cut the short-term lending rate or repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent with a neutral stance.

The rate cut comes on the back of the consumer price index (CPI) based headline retail inflation ruling below the 2 per cent lower band mandated by the government for the last three months. **PTI**

Lok Sabha adjourns till 12 noon amid DMK members' protests over Deepam row

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 12 noon on Friday amid protests by DMK members over the lamp lighting row in Tamil Nadu.

The DMK-led Tamil Nadu government has moved the Supreme Court against a Madras High Court order permitting devotees of the Arulmighu Subramaniya Swamy Temple to light traditional 'Karthigai Deepam lamp' at 'Deepathoon', a stone lamp pillar located on the Thiruparankundram hillock close to a dargah.

DMK members sought to raise the issue in the House and some of them also protested in the Well of the House.

Speaker Om Birla told the protesting members that the matter is subjudice and urged them to go back to their seats. **PTI**

Election Observer reviews preparations for District Council and Panchayat Committee elections



DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, December 5

Kanwal Preet Barar (IAS), the Election Observer appointed by the Punjab State Election Commission for the District Council and Panchayat Committee elections, held a special meeting on Friday at the District Administrative Complex, Hoshiarpur, with Civil and Police officials to review the election preparations.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Ashika Jain, SSP Sandeep Kumar Malik, and other officials were present. The election observer instructed all officials to ensure the entire election process is conducted transparently and impartially. He reviewed nomination procedures, implementation of the model code of conduct, and security arrangements. District Election Officer Ashika Jain stated that the district administration has made robust arrangements to conduct free and fair elections.

She informed that 11 nomination centres have been established 10 for the Panchayat Committees and one for the District Council. She assured the observer that the entire election process will be smoothly executed in accordance with the directives of the State Election Commission.

Regarding security, SSP Sandeep Kumar Malik briefed the election observer on the comprehensive preparations made to ensure peaceful elections. He confirmed that all necessary measures have been put in place. Election Observer Kanwal Preet Barar emphasized that all returning officers must strictly follow the guidelines issued by the Punjab State Election Commission to successfully carry out the election process.

Governor to visit Ferozepur on December 11; ADC reviews preparations across departments



HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, December 5

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria will visit Ferozepur on December 11. This information was shared by Additional Deputy Commissioner (G) Dr Nidhi Kumud Bambah during a meeting held with officers and employees of various departments to review preparations for the Governor's visit.

During the meeting, the ADC directed the Police Department to ensure all necessary security arrangements are completed in time. She also instructed the Health Department, Power Department, Municipal Council, PWD and other concerned departments to complete their respective tasks promptly and efficiently.

The ADC informed that during his visit, the Governor will interact with colleges and Village Defence Committees in the border area and will also tour other important locations in Ferozepur. She directed all officials to perform the duties assigned for the Governor's visit with utmost responsibility.

Present at the meeting were Additional Deputy Commissioner (V) Dr Arvind Kumar, IAS officeer Lindiya, RTA Amanpreet, Assistant Commissioner (Under Training) Rajbir Singh, SP Manjit Singh, along with officers from various departments.

Dalvir Dhillon holds strategy meet with volunteers



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Dhuri/Sangrur, December 5

Chairman of the Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation, Dalvir Singh Dhillon, on Friday convened a meeting with party volunteers to outline the strategy for the upcoming Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections. He said the Aam Aadmi Party will reach out to every household and seek support based on the extensive development and public welfare initiatives undertaken over the past three and a half years.

Dhillon emphasized that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab has witnessed unprecedented progress in multiple sectors. He noted that the party will contest these elections with full confidence, guided by a development-driven agenda that has positively transformed the lives of people across the state.

Highlighting the crucial role of grassroots democratic institutions, Dhillon said that Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis form the foundation of rural development, as the projects initiated at this level are ultimately sanctioned and implemented by the government. He urged volunteers to intensify their outreach through door-to-door interactions and corner meetings, ensuring that every voter is informed about the achievements of the Aam Aadmi Party government.

He also instructed Harjinder Singh Kanjhla, candidate from the Baliyan zone, along with his team, to personally connect with residents and share comprehensive details of the development works carried out during the party's tenure.

Prominent among those present at the meeting were Block President Naresh Singla, Gurcharan Singh, Surjit Singh, Ramandeep Singh, Navjot Kaur, Pushpinder Sharma, Sukhpal Pala, Bakshish Singh, and volunteers from Bugra, Kanjhla, Hasanpur, Punnawal, Rajomajra, Baliyan, Dhandiwal, Kumbadwal, Killa Hakim, Ramgarh, Batuha, Alal, Mullowal, Sultanpur, Benra, Kanjhli, Ladda, Natt, Naik Basti Ladda, Rangeeya, Ranike, Kakkarwal, Pedni Kalan, and Dhuri.

Rail Roko in Punjab disrupts 16 train services in Ferozepur Rail Division

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, December 5

A major disruption unfolded across the Ferozepur rail network on Friday as farmer unions carried out a two-hour rail roko protest, intensifying their opposition to the draft Electricity Amendment Bill, 2025. The agitation, led by various farmer organisations including the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), brought train movement to a standstill at multiple locations, creating widespread inconvenience for passengers.

In the Ferozepur Division, demonstrations were held at 15 different points. As a result, several trains were either cancelled or diverted to alternate routes. At certain stations, trains were forced to halt for extended durations, prompting authorities to provide passengers with essential amenities such as drinking water and refreshments. Continuous announcements were made at stations and control rooms to inform passengers about the status of affected services.

Railway officials closely monitored the movement of the impacted trains through the Passenger Information System, ensuring that all safety protocols were strictly followed during the disruption. Arrangements were made to resume normal services once the situation stabilised.

Railway authorities assured that full services would resume once the routes are cleared and urged passengers to remain attentive to official updates.

District Legal Services Authority to run drug de-addiction awareness campaign from today to Jan 6: Neeraj Goyal



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, December 5

Neeraj Goyal, Secretary-cum-CJM of District Legal Services Authority, Hoshiarpur, announced on Friday that under the direction of Punjab State Legal Services Authority, SAS Nagar (Mohali), and guidance of the District and Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Rajinder Aggarwal, a special drug de-addiction awareness campaign will be conducted across the district from December 6, 2025, to January 6, 2026.

Addressing a meeting at his office on Friday with officials from various government departments, college principals, para-legal volunteers, and representatives of social organizations, Goyal emphasized that drug abuse has become a serious threat to society.

He stressed the need for collective efforts to eradicate it from the root. During the campaign, active participation will be ensured from para-legal volunteers, panel advocates, Legal Aid Defence Council members, doctors, teachers, NGOs, NSS and NCC cadets, as well as village panchayat sarpanches. Goyal outlined that a wide range of awareness activities will be organized in both rural and urban areas during the campaign.

These will include seminars, quiz competitions, walkathons, awareness rallies, street plays, poster-making and painting contests, essay writing, and slogan writing competitions.

MC Commissioner flags off 91st monthly ration distribution in Phagwara

ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, December 5



91st monthly ration distribution programme organised by Human Rights Council state Secretary Gurdip Kang was organised at Central Town, Phagwara, with the support of Baba Balak Nath Sewa Samiti here on Friday. The event was inaugurated by Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr Akshita Gupta IAS, who attended as the chief guest. Lion Davinderpal Arora, Multiple Chairman 321-D (Food for Hunger), joined as the special guest.

Several dignitaries including Baba Balak Nath Sewa Samiti patrons Dharampal Nishchal and SP Basra, Shiv Shakti Mata Mandir Committee President Chanchal Seth, retired principal K.K. Sharma, Shiv Sena Akhand Bharat National President Ajay Mehta, and Punjab Pradesh Religious Committee President Manish Kanojia were prominently present at the occasion.

Dr Gupta distributed ration kits to 20 underprivileged families and praised the humanitarian efforts of Lion Gurdeep Singh Kang, calling his service noble and inspiring. Lion Davinderpal Arora also lauded Kang's ongoing social contributions, stating that providing monthly ration to needy families is a commendable initiative. He added that Kang's consistent service has enhanced the reputation of Lions International 321-D in Phagwara.

SP Basra emphasized that it is the responsibility of financially able individuals to extend support to those struggling with economic hardship, illness, or age-related challenges.

MRSPTU V-C holds interactive meeting with affiliated colleges of Moga under 'University Aapke Dwaar' initiative



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Bathinda, December 5

Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPTU), Bathinda, continued its flagship outreach initiative 'University Aapke Dwaar' with an interactive meeting held at Punjab Institute of Technology (PIT), GTB Garh, Moga.

The session was chaired by MRSPTU Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr) Sanjeev Kumar Sharma and attended by Chairmen, Directors, Principals, and senior representatives of all 13 affiliated colleges of Moga district. Prof. Sharma said the initiative aims to strengthen coordination, communication, and academic collaboration between the University and its affiliated colleges. He led detailed discussions on major academic and administrative priorities, including implementation of NEP-2020, academic audits, examination reforms, digital transformation, curriculum upgrading, and improvement of teaching–learning quality. He urged institutions to enhance skill development programmes, offer contemporary and industry-relevant courses, promote research culture, improve infrastructure, and adopt strong student-centric practices.

Other key deliberations focused on strategies to improve academic quality, strengthen affiliations, increase admissions, expand faculty and student development activities, prepare for NAAC accreditation, and build strong industry linkages through MoUs.

Four drug peddlers arrested under NDPS Act

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Nurmahal, December 5

The Nurmahal police have arrested two drug peddlers on charge of selling intoxicant tablets.

Investigating Officer (IO) Gurnam Singh said that 110 intoxicant tablets (loose) were recovered from the possession of the accused identified as Jaswant Singh alias Sonu a resident of Cheema Kalan village and Gurmail Singh alias Dula son of Bikar Singh a resident of Alaudipur village in Kapurthala.

IO said a case under Sections 22/61/85 of the NDPS Act has been registered against the accused.

The Nakodar Sadar police arrested drug peddler Bhupindar Singh alias Anmol a resident of Sanghe Jagir village under Nurmahal police station with 27 intoxicant tablets said IO Kulwindar Singh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Recruitment for various teaching and non-teaching posts in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)

In reference to RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION 01/2025 for Recruitment of various teaching & non-teaching posts in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), the applicants are hereby informed that the qualifications for the post of Assistant Commissioner, Principal, PGT (Hindi, English, Commerce), TGT (Hindi, English, Maths, Science, Social Science, Physical Education/Physical & Health Education) and Junior Secretariat Assistant have now been made similar by KVS and NVS to enable the applicants to submit online application for these post (s) in both departments simultaneously. The applicants, who could submit online application for these posts either in KVS or NVS, will be given a chance on the online application portal to submit online application for KVS or NVS (as the case may be). The candidates may see Corrigendum – 2 on the websites of CBSE, KVS & NVS for details. The last date for online application submission is also extended upto 11th December 2025 (11.59 PM). The candidates are advised to visit websites of CBSE, KVS & NVS for further updates.

Director (CTET), CBSE

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Grand Progressive Farmers' Meet with Int'l Conference and Exhibition held

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mandi Gobindgarh, December 5



Desh Bhagat University successfully organised the Progressive Farmers' Meet-2025 cum International Conference on Future Farming Innovations, Entrepreneurship & Technology, along with an Exhibition and Stalls. The event was conducted by the Agrim Club, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, in association with IQAC, Desh Bhagat University.

The meet witnessed the enthusiastic participation of around 200 progressive farmers from DBU-adopted villages and neighbouring regions, creating a dynamic platform for scientific discourse, innovation sharing, and enhanced farmer–scientist collaboration.

The program commenced with a warm reception of Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. Zora Singh, Pro-Chancellor Dr Tajinder Kaur, the chief guest, Dr Harsh Sadawarti, Vice Chancellor Guest of Honour and other dignitaries. Prof. (Dr.) H. K Sidhu, Director, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, delivered the welcome address, highlighting DBU's commitment to empowering farmers through quality education, research and innovation.

Chancellor Dr Zora Singh addressed the gathering, emphasizing the need to adopt sustainable, technology-driven and future-ready agricultural practices to secure the future of farming.

Shubhanshu Shukla inspire LPU students with powerful youth talk on Space

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Kapurthala, December 5



Lovely Professional University (LPU) was electrified as India's celebrated astronaut, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, graced the institution for a captivating youth talk. In an event marked by inspiration and grand vision, Group Capt. Shukla shared his extraordinary journey to the stars, leaving an audience of thousands of students, faculty, and staff in awe.

Group Captain Shukla began his address by showcasing a gripping video capturing his year-long journey of training, preparation and launch into space, including rare footage from his 20 days in orbit. The visuals of the rocket ignition, life aboard the space station and the breathtaking view of India and Earth from space left the audience spellbound.

Punjab & IIT Madras join hands to train school teachers as career mentor

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 5



Punjab has taken a lead across the country by collaborating with the IIT Madras Pravartak to roll out statewide career guidance program to create a structure where every teacher becomes a trained career mentor.

Disclosing this here on Friday, Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said that over 5,000 teachers will be trained to guide students towards informed, future-ready career choices under the ambitious teachers-upskilling program.

Bains stated that the program will offer teachers free online training in foundational career counselling, skills for classroom sessions and one-on-one guidance. They will gain access to top 100 high-demand careers, structured assessment tools and a comprehensive guidance framework aligned with emerging national and global career trends. IIT Madras Pravartak will provide continuous academic support and digital resources.

"Our goal with this collaboration is to make a meaningful impact by enabling teachers to serve as effective career mentors in their schools. Through this engagement teachers will serve as the backbone of a structured career guidance ecosystem", Bains stated, while adding that now, Punjab becomes the first state to implement a state-level career counselling guidance program for teachers.

Harjot Singb Bains said that once trained, teachers will be equipped to help students identify their strengths, explore new-age professions and choose pathways grounded in evidence and aptitude — not guesswork or hearsay.

Dr Amarpal Singh , Chairman PSEB added that this nitiative is expected to particularly benefit students in rural and underserved areas, offering them access to high-quality guidance that was earlier limited to private counsellors. Over the next few months, thousands of teachers will acquire new skills, new confidence and a new ability to shape the futures of lakhs of children.

Expressing happiness over the partnership with PSEB, Chief Knowledge Officer of IIT Madras Pravartak Mr Srikanth said, "Our aim is simple — no child in Punjab should make a career choice in confusion or without the right information."

YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH

On day 279, Punjab Police nab 79 drug smugglers with 1.2 kg heroin

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 5

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 279th day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 284 locations on Friday leading to the arrest of 79 drug smugglers after registration of 69 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 39,254 in 279 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 1.2 kg heroin, 2 kg ganja, 519 intoxicant pills and Rs 18,300 drug money from the possession of arrested drug smugglers.

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

Over 100 Police teams, comprising over 900 police personnel, under the supervision of 66 gazetted officers have conducted 284 raids across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 301 suspicious persons during the day-long operation.

The state government has enforced a three-pronged strategy— Enforcement, Deaddiction and Prevention (EDP)— to eradicate drugs from the state, the Punjab Police as part of 'De-addiction' has convinced 29 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

Punjab leaked audio clip: Harsimrat appeals to ECI for suspension of Patiala SSP

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



Shiromani Akali Dal leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Friday appealed to the Election Commission of India to order the suspension of Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Varun Sharma, besides taking disciplinary action against him and all other police officers involved in acting upon illegal directions to obstruct nominations and intimidate voters in the Block Samiti and Zila Parishad elections in Punjab.

The Member of Parliament from Bathinda, who submitted a memorandum to the ECI here, urged deployment of paramilitary forces in the state to conduct the elections and constitution of a time-bound high-level inquiry under the ECI to authenticate the audio recording as well as fix responsibility for mass-scale violence, rigging and subversion of the democratic process in the state. Harsimrat Kaur also called for taking stern action against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), including the cancellation of their registration as a political party.

The viral conference call, which was exposed by SAD President Sukhbir Badal and in which the Patiala SSP was heard giving directions to district police officers to detain Opposition candidates illegally in plain clothes prior to their reaching government offices to file their nominations as per the guidance of AAP legislators.

Kaur said these points to not only about rogue behaviour by SSP Varun Sharma but also a party-directed, institutionalised strategy of AAP to subvert the administration's electoral neutrality.

The Bathinda MP said there was no splicing or editing in the viral conference call, and voices corresponded to identified officers and important functionaries.

She said the actual pattern of nomination-time obstructions, detention of opposition workers and selective police protection to AAP supporters, as reported in Patiala and adjoining areas, further strengthened the conference call's authenticity.

Asserting that the conference call should be subjected to a forensic examination, Harsimrat Kaur said this is necessary in the wake of the AAP government's attempts to dismiss the viral audio as inauthentic and fabricated. PTI

POLICE LAPSES

NCW to seek report from Punjab DGP in Jalandhar minor's rape-cum-murder

JALANDHAR, DECEMBER 5

Pointing to grave lapses by Punjab Police, the NCW is preparing to issue a suo motu notice to the state Director General of Police to seek an Action Taken Report (ATR) within three days in the Jalandhar rape and murder case involving a 13-year-old victim, an official said on Friday.

A National Commission for Women (NCW) team pointed to laxity in the probe and said, "ASI Mangat Ram, who searched the house on the day of the incident, allegedly failed to trace the girl even after remaining inside the premises for approximately 30–40 minutes." The victim's body was later found on November 22 in the bathroom of her 46-year-old neighbour Harminder Singh's house by other colony residents who joined her family's efforts to trace her. The NCW said, "This raises serious concerns about the conduct and efficiency of the initial police response."

The NCW team which met the victim's family said that the minor girl's kin criticised the police for not registering an FIR against the lax and now-suspended Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) till date.

"Keeping in view the gravity of the crime, the NCW strongly urges the Fast Track Special Court handling the matter to hold day-to-day hearings to ensure a time-bound, fair, and swift trial," said the NCW. The NCW also criticised the officials of the Punjab government administration in Jalandhar for skipping Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar's meeting to discuss key issues pertaining to safety of women in the state.

"A scheduled meeting with administrative officers of the division had to be called off. No prior information regarding the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct – in place for Zila Parishad elections – was provided to the Chairperson, and, therefore, despite sincere intent, not much could be taken up regarding not sharing prior information regarding safety of women," said an official in a statement. IANS

SC extends deadline for Punjab and Haryana Bar Council election to April 30

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
New Delhi, December 5

Modifying the election schedule for Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, the Supreme Court has ordered that election has to be concluded by April 30, 2026 instead of March 15, 2026.

"After hearing learned counsel for Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, paragraph 12(III) of the order dated 18.11.2025 is modified to the extent that the entire election programme for State Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, including the counting of votes and subsequent declaration of results, shall, in any case, be concluded by 30.04.2026, instead of 15.03.2026," a bench led by CJI Surya Kant said in its December 3 order.

"The election may continue as per the schedule already notified on 10.11.2025 (i.e., before order dated 18.11.2025) was passed, subject to the above-modified timeline and the other directions of this court in order dated 18.11.2025," it said disposing of an interlocutory application on the issue.

The bench was hearing the plea seeking modification of its November 18 order which revised the time schedule for holding of State Bar Council election across 16 states/UTs and ordered that the same be held in 5 phases between January 31, 2026 and April 30, 2026.

Mass media wing spreads awareness on tobacco-free youth campaign

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Nawanshahr, December 5

The Mass Media Wing of the Health Department organised an awareness programme for labourers near Government Senior Secondary School, Chandigarh Road, Nawanshahr. The session was conducted by Deputy Mass Education and Information Officer Tarsem Lal, who educated the workers about various health initiatives and the ongoing tobacco-free youth campaign.

During the session, Tarsem Lal highlighted the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and urged youth and labourers to stay informed about the risks associated with tobacco use in order to maintain good health.

He also provided detailed information on several key health programmes, including the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme, Punjab State AIDS Control Programme, and the Chief Minister Punjab Cancer Relief Fund, etc.

Tipper truck driver booked for mishap

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, December 5

Kathunanal police have booked the driver of the tipper truck for the late night road mishap that claimed two lives while injuring 25 other bus passengers. The incident occurred near Gopalpura village falling under Kathunangal police station here.

Sub-inspector Narinder Singh, investigating officer, said that the deceased were identified as Rajwinder Kaur and a 13-year-old boy, Sehajdeep Singh, both residents of Amritsar.

The unknown driver of the bus had escaped from the scene. The police have seized the truck and the private bus involved in the mishap and efforts are on to identify the truck driver, sub-inspector Narinder Singh said.

The injured were admitted to the Guru Nanak Dev Hospital, Sri Guru Ramdas Institute of Medical Sciences, Civil Hospital apart from some private hospitals for treatment. The condition of a few of them is stated to be serious, the police said.

Vicky, a resident of Kot Mit Singh area here, told the police that he along with his wife Chandni was returning to Amritsar from Pathankot in a private bus bearing the registration number PB-02-CC6780 yesterday.

He said when they reached near Gopalpura village, a tipper truck (PB-02-BV-9092) was taking a U-turn from a divider in an abrupt manner due to which the bus driver lost control and collided with the it. Due to this, several passengers were feared dead while many were injured.

Kangana Ranaut told to appear in Bathinda court on Dec 15

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 5

Bollywood actor and BJP MP from Mandi Kangana Ranaut has been directed by a Bathinda court to appear in person on December 15.
The direction came as she skipped the hearing today in the defamation case filed by elderly farmer Mahinder Kaur of Bahadurgarh Jandian village here.

Kangana's legal team informed the court that she was engaged in the ongoing Lok Sabha session, due to which she could not appear. The court directed her to remain present at the next hearing.

The proceedings were held in camera, with only those directly involved allowed inside. Mahinder Kaur (82), who arrived in a wheelchair, along with one of her relatives, recorded evidence before the special MP-MLA court.

The case relates to a 2020 tweet by Kangana during the farmers' protest, in which she shared a photograph of Mahinder Kaur, mistaking her for Shaheen Bagh protester Bilkis Bano and alleging that such women were "available for Rs 100" to join protests. The remark drew widespread outrage, prompting Mahinder Kaur to file a defamation case in January 2021. AGENCIES

Poets present verses at Punjabi University

BALINDER SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, December 5

Poets of Dutch, French, Tibetan, Santhali, Punjabi, Hindi, English, Assamese and several other languages enthralled the audience with their unique poetic verses during the two-day Chair Poetry Sangat International Poetry Festival held at Punjabi University.

The festival is being organised by Sangat Punjab and Chair Poetry Evenings (Kolkata) in collaboration with the Department of Punjabi, Punjabi University, and the Department of Languages, Government of Punjab at the University Science Auditorium.

Poets who presented their work in this session included Kira Wuck, Mélanie Leblanc, Tenzing Tsundue, Kewal Binabi, P. Raman, Robin Ngangom, Chandar Prakash Deval, Rakesh Ranjan, Nirmala Putul Murmu, Anshuman Kar, Pal Kaur, Adnan Kafeel Darvesh, Priyavanda Singh Ilhan, Gurtej Koharwala, Ambarish, Gurpreet, Ajitpal Jattana, Bipanpreet, Narinderpal Kaur, Mukesh Alam and Anu Bala.

Dr Surjit Singh, President of Sangat Punjab, said the Chair Poetry Sangat International Poetry Festival was a unique platform for multilingual poetry. It brings Indian and international poets together on one stage, creating an enriching exchange of poetry in diverse languages that continues to captivate audiences.

Poet Swami Antar Neerav remarked that the festival, with its celebration of multicultural and multilingual essence, will prove to be an important platform for nurturing literary sensibility among the younger generation.

14 phones seized from Amritsar Central Jail

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, December 5

Amritsar Central Jail authorities have confiscated as many as 14 mobile phones from jail inmates in recent search operation at the high security jail premises.

The Islamabad police registered two FIRs in this connection. Fourteen inmates have been booked on the complaints filed by the prison authorities. Half of the mobile phones seized were smart phone, while the remaining were small keypad phones. Among those booked included Shanker of Batala, Jashanpreet Singh of Bhorsi Rajputa village, Sujal of Waryam Singh Colony, Sahibpreet Singh of Marari Kalan, Kulbir Singh of Anngarh village in Gharinda, Amarinder Singh of Guru Amardass Avenue, Rahul Singh of Anand Vihar, Harmandeep Singh of Chheharta, Sukhwinder Singh of Makhan Windi, Shamsher Singh of Bhuse village in Tarn Taran, Mandeep Singh of Sensara Kalan village, Bhinder Singh of Makhan village in Tarn Taran, Sahil Kumar of Haripura and Mandeep Singh of Sultanwind Gate here. All accused were booked .

Nurmahal police station building in dire condition, urgent repairs needed

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Nurmahal, December 5



The building of Nurmahal police station has deteriorated significantly, causing operational difficulties and safety concerns. The flooring has sunk, making movement challenging and the Station House Officer was recently forced to shift his office to another room due to the risk posed by the damaged floor.

During recent rains, roof leaks caused damage to documents and other essential items. Authorities are urged to carry out necessary repairs to ensure the safety of staff and the public visiting the station.

In 2006, Nurmahal police station operated from a private building. Local residents contributed six kanals and 18 marlas of Patti land for the town and spent Rs 25 lakh on constructing a dedicated police station building. However, government authorities took no further action to complete it.

The 6 kanals 14 marlas of land remain mutated in the name of common owners, preventing the police department from completing the building even after 19 years. In a meeting held on June 11, 2012, Nurmahal Nagar Council passed unanimous resolution number 40, recommending the transfer of 6 kanals 18 marlas of land to the police department for the construction of the police station. The resolution, however, was rejected by the Director of Local Government.

Residents have repeatedly urged former Chief Ministers PS Badal, Captain Amarinder Singh, Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, Charanjit Singh Channi, and current Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to approve the resolution and sanction the mutation in favor of Punjab Police, but the matter remains unresolved. An onsite assessment revealed urgent requirements for constructing barracks for police personnel, boundary walls, proper flooring and parking spaces for impounded vehicles.

Armed Forces Flag Day: DC Komal Mittal contributes to Flag Day Fund collection by paying tribute to martyrs

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, December 5



Marking Armed Forces Flag Day and remembering the supreme sacrifices made by our soldiers in the defence of the nation, the formal launch of the Flag Day Fund collection was initiated on Friday by pinning a token flag on Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that this day is observed to express solidarity with the families of soldiers who laid down their lives in various wars and military operations, as well as with the ex-servicemen who were injured in the line of duty. She added that people contribute generously as a tribute to the courage and valour of these soldiers, and the collected funds are utilized for the welfare of the families of martyrs.

Appealing for maximum contributions to this noble cause, she stated that the fund supports the welfare of the families of martyrs and soldiers who have become physically disabled. She urged the general public, especially industrial units and government officials, to whole-heartedly contribute to the Flag Day Fund.

After the formal commencement of the fund collection by the Deputy Commissioner, token flags were also pinned on other officers stationed at the District Administrative Complex, including DIG Nanak Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Urban Development) Anmol Singh Dhaliwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rural Development) Sonam Chaudhary, and District Treasury Officer Harminder Singh Hundal. They too contributed generously to the Flag Day Fund.

Group Captain Davinder Singh Dhillon (Retd.), District Defence Services Welfare Officer, SAS Nagar accompanied by Superintendent Randhir Singh, Ms. Kamaljeet Kaur, Ms. Surinder Kaur, Jaswinder Singh, and the entire staff of the District Defence Services Welfare Office pinned token flags on the general public, who also donated wholeheartedly. They informed that the fund collection campaign will continue in the coming days, and any individual can contribute to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

11 nominations invalid; 310 candidates clear scrutiny in Mohali

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, December 5

As part of the ongoing Panchayat Samiti election process in the district, a total of 310 candidates were found Validly nominated during the scrutiny held on Friday out of total received 321 nominations. Sharing the details, Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Mrs. Komal Mittal informed that after scrutiny, 11 candidates have been declared ineligible to contest the elections.

She further stated that for the 22 zones of the Panchayat Samiti Derabassi, 149 nominations had been received. Of these, six were rejected during scrutiny, while 143 were found valid.

In the case of Panchayat Samiti Kharar, 78 nominations were received for 15 zones. After scrutiny, five were rejected, leaving 73 valid nominations.

She further stated that for the 22 zones of the Panchayat Samiti Derabassi, 149 nominations had been received. Of these, six were rejected during scrutiny, while 143 were found valid.

For the 15 zones of the Panchayat Samiti Majri, all 94 nominations received were found valid during scrutiny.

Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Mrs. Komal Mittal added that tomorrow, December 6, is the last day for withdrawal of nomination papers.

MC Road Committee approves key development works

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 5

The 4th meeting of the Road Committee of the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh was held here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Dalip Sharma, during which several development projects aimed at improving public infrastructure and strengthening civic amenities were approved.

The meeting was attended by other committee members namely Naresh Panchal, Manaur, Gurcharanjit Singh, Suman Devi, Rajinder Singh, and Maheshinder Singh Siddhu, along with senior officials and concerned engineers of the Municipal Corporation.

Three rough cost estimates were presented before the committee for deliberation. After detailed discussions, the committee unanimously approved all proposals.

The first project approved was the construction of a new kitchen after dismantling existing kitchen in Community Centre, Sector 38 West, in compliance with the directions of the Punjab & Haryana High Court (COCP No. 838 of 2021). This project, estimated at ₹16.71 lakh, aims to enhance community infrastructure for the residents.

The committee also cleared the proposal for providing and laying cement concrete (CC) flooring in the Motor Market, Manimajra, at various locations to support smoother and more organized waste segregation activities. The estimated cost of this work is ₹14.41 lakh.

Additionally, the committee approved the special repair of the Councillor Room at the Community Center, Sector 33, at an estimated cost of ₹5.52 lakh, ensuring better facilities for public service delivery. The Chairperson emphasized timely execution of these approved projects to benefit residents and strengthen the city's civic infrastructure.

Major road closures due to repair work

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 5

The UT Administration that the recarpeting and repair work on Madhya Marg from Junction 42 to Junction 43 (Transport Light Point to Grain Market Light Point) will be undertaken by the Road Wing of the Engineering Department, UT Chandigarh from 06.12.2025 to 15.12.2025.

During the execution of this work, various stretches of the road will remain closed for traffic as per operational requirements. Commuters are requested to plan their travel accordingly and follow the traffic advisories issued from time to time.

Road closed

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 5

The UT Administration has announced that the work of strengthening the Tertiary Treated (T.T.) water supply system and laying T.T. water lines in the left-out areas to supply Tertiary Treated water in Chandigarh is currently in progress.

To facilitate the connection of the pipeline, at Mauli Jagran Small Chownk road towards Railway. The road will remain closed from 06.12.2025 (10.00 a.m.) to 07.12.2025 (10.00 p.m.).

The general public has been to use alternative routes and bear with Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.

Khelo India University Games: PU wins Yoga Men and Judo Women overall championships

- PU GRABS 65 MEDALS AT KIUG 2025, FINISHES FIFTH OVERALL

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 5

Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh won the Yoga (Men) and Judo (Women) overall championships and secured top-three overall positions in eight sports at the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2025.

PU Director Sports Dr Rakesh Malik said that PU players achieved fifth place among 141 participating universities, winning 14 gold, 33 silver and 18 bronze medals, a total of 65. PU also recorded the highest number of silver medals among all competing institutions this year. He added that the university improved sharply from last year's tally of 40 medals.

PU clinched the Yoga (Men) overall championship and the Judo (Women) overall crown. The university finished runners-up in Shooting (overall), Canoeing & Kayaking (overall) and Athletics (Women). PU secured third places overall in Women's Basketball, Women's Table Tennis, Men's Badminton and Men's Kabaddi. Individual medals were also won in Archery, Weightlifting, Cycling, Boxing and Judo.

In sport-wise performance, shooters bagged six gold, nine silver and three bronze medals; canoeing and kayaking athletes secured twelve silver and four bronze; athletes in track and field won four gold, five silver and two bronze; fencers claimed one silver and four bronze; judokas picked up two gold and one silver; boxers won one gold and one silver; cyclists earned two silver medals; swimmers got two bronze; archers won one silver; and Yogasana player added one gold.

Congratulating the medal winners, coaches and sports officials, PU Vice Chancellor Prof Renu Vig praised them for their discipline and commitment.

NHRC member participates in 'Human Rights Awareness Programme for Waste & Garbage Workers' at Zirakpur Municipal Council

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Zirakpur, December 5



Member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Priyank Kanoongo, on Friday attended a Human Rights Awareness Programme for Waste & Garbage Workers organized at the Zirakpur Municipal Council and sensitised them about their rights.

Addressing the gathering, he said that the National Human Rights Commission is committed to protecting the human rights of every section of society, with the objective of ensuring that no individual's rights are violated at any level. Speaking about the crucial role of sanitation workers in society, he said that if these workers do not perform their duties with dedication, filth and disorder would spread everywhere. Therefore, every citizen must remain grateful to sanitation workers and treat them with utmost respect and humility. He emphasised that sanitation workers should not face any form of exploitation and that municipal councils and the administration must remain vigilant in this regard.

He further stated that with private companies increasingly involved in waste collection, the responsibility of municipal councils and the administration towards sanitation workers has grown even stronger. He said that authorities must ensure that the interests of sanitation workers are not compromised due to the involvement of companies or contractors engaged in solid waste management.

MC Chandigarh conducts special anti-encroachment drive; 25 vehicles impounded

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 5



Acting on the directions of Himanshu Gupta, Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, the Enforcement Wing on Thursday carried out a strict anti-encroachment drive in Motor Market, Sector 28 and the Burail area.

During the drive in Motor Market Sector 28, mechanics were found repairing vehicles on public roads, causing obstruction and traffic inconvenience. Taking firm action, the team impounded 15 cars and issued challans to the violators on the spot. A similar drive was conducted in Burail, where 10 illegally parked and encroaching vehicles were impounded.

In total, 25 vehicles were impounded during today's drive.

Training session held for Safai Sewaks and rag pickers to ensure zero waste burning in Mohali

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, December 5

A training session aimed at promoting zero waste burning and strengthening environmentally responsible solid waste management practices was jointly organized by the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), Regional Office Mohali, and the Municipal Corporation, Mohali. The session was held at the conference hall of the MC Office, Mohali.

Navtesh Singla, Executive Engineer, PPCB Mohali, along with Ms. Swati, resource person, sensitized participants about the severe environmental and health hazards associated with burning solid waste. They highlighted the importance of adopting eco-friendly waste handling practices to safeguard public health and improve overall air quality.

Around 150 Safai Sewaks, rag pickers, officers, and officials of the Municipal Corporation attended the training. The session focused on creating awareness about the ill effects of burning municipal solid waste and horticulture waste. It also covered legal provisions related to waste burning, including penalties and enforcement mechanisms under various Environmental Laws.

During the session, all Safai Sewaks took a pledge to actively discourage and prevent the burning of solid waste at any location, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining a cleaner and healthier environment in Mohali city.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Army No. 15484315M Rank DFR name Gurdev Singh changed the name of my son R/o Unit 14 HORSE Pin code 912614 C/O 56 APO PATIALA CANTT That I have changed my son's name from ARASHDEEP SINGH TO ARSHDEEP SINGH.

I Mohd Haseeb s/o Fariyad Ali R/o 632 Madina Basti Raikot road Malerkotla have changed my name "Mohammad Haseeb to Mohd Haseeb"

I Nidhi Mehra W/o Raghav Mehra R/o H.No.B-I-1383,Ram Nagar, Civil Line, Ludhiana have changed my Minor Daughter name from Hitaishi to Hitaishi Mehra.

I Karandeep Singh S/o Amarjeet Singh R/o Village Bhattian Bet, P.O. Bhattian, Ludhiana have changed my name from Karandeep Singh to Karandeep Singh Thaper.

I, IQBAL kAUR ALIAS JASWINDER KAUR W/O YADWINDER SINGH R/O H . No. 4210, ST NO 1, SHIVAJI NAGAR LUDHIANA CHANGED my NAME to IQBAL KAUR .

I, Sukhjeet Kaur W/O Darshan Singh R/O H. No. 26-A Village Dhaipai Ludhiana Punjab changed my name from Sukhjeet Kaur to Sukhjeet Kaur Grewal.

I Jass Singh S/o Dalip Singh R/o Village Jassian, Ludhiana have changed my name to Muhammad Zeeshan Ali

I, Darshan Singh S/O Harchand Singh R/O H . No. 26-A Village Dhaipai Ludhiana Punjab changed my name from Darshan Singh to Darshan Singh Grewal.

I, Gurpreet Kaur Chabra W/O Davinder Preet Singh R/O H. No. 409 Mohalla Fateh Ganj Banjiman Road Ludhiana changed my name to Gurpreet Kaur.

I, Mamta Sharma C/O Ashok Kumar R/O H. NO 6192/1 Street no 4 Hargobind Nagar Ludhiana changed my name to Mamta Rani.

I, Ashok Kumar Sharma S/O Om Parkash R/O H. No. 6192/1 Street no 4 Hargobind Nagar, Shivaji Nagar Ludhiana changed my name to Ashok Kumar.

I Jasvir Kaur S/o Nirbhai Singh R/o Village Fatehgarh Chhanna, Po Gajewas Tehsil Samana Distt Patiala have changed my name to Jasvir (As name) Kaur (As Surname)

I Manjit Singh Bhalla S/o Gurdev Singh R/o Deep Nagar, Gali No.2, Khanna Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Manjeet Singh

I Parmjit Kaur W/O Shamsher Singh R/O #254 Guru Nanak Colony Sangrur Have Changed My Name To Parmjeet Kaur

I Ramesh Kumar S/o Kanwal Nain R/o H.No.D-37, St.No.2, Officer Colony, Mangwal, Sangrur have changed my name to Ramesh Kumar Sharma

I, Sukhwinder Kaur, daughter of Jarnail Singh, resident of Mehlan, Tehsil Sunam, District Sangrur, have changed my name to Harmeet Kaur, wife of Hakam Singh, resident of Biroke Kalan, District Mansa. And I am known by both the above names.

I, Jobanpreet S/o Sohey Kiran R/o VPO. Jandu Singha, Tehsil & District Jalandhar, Punjab-144025 have changed my name from Jobanpreet to Jobanpreet Kaler. All concerned please note.

I, INDERJIT KAUR wife of BALJINDER SINGH residing at Village Bariah, PO. Dhamian, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144221 have changed the name of my minor son PARAS NANGLU aged 09 years and he shall hereafter be known as PARAS KAHLON.

I, INDERJIT KAUR wife of BALJINDER SINGH residing at Village Bariah, PO. Dhamian, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144221 have changed the name of my minor daughter LOVENEET KAUR aged 07 years and she shall hereafter be known as LOVENEET KAHLON.

I Vikram Jit S/O Ved Vieas R/O Gali Dr. Heera Lal Wali, Tehsil Majitha, District Amritsar Punjabe Have Changed My Name From Vikram Jit To Vikramjit Sood. All Concerned May Please Note.

I Abjinder Singh S/o Atma Singh R/o H.no 175,Sherpur Kalan Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana Have Changed My Name to Abjinder Singh Khosa.

I, Dilshan Singh S/o Sh. Gurpreet Singh R/o VPO Muradpur Naryal, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India declare that I have my name Dilshan Singh changed to my first name Dilshan and surname as Singh. All concerned note.

I Malkit Kaur w/o Mahinder Singh r/o Village Ubhawal, Tehsil and Distt Sangrur have changed my name Malkeet Kaur

I, Vrinda Gupta W/O Ashu Maheshwari R/O 356, Nagina Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Vrinda Gupta to Vrinda Maheshwari. Concerned note.

I,Mamta Ghai W/o Yusuf Malik R/o H No. 42 St.No 12 Dhandra Road Sheedh Bhaght Singh Nagar Basant avenue Ludhiana have changed from My Name from Mamta Ghai to Shanya Malik

I,Shinderpal Kaur Bhathiare W/o Gurmeet Singh R/o, Near Talwandi Road Patti Duna Singh Galib Kalan Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana Have Changed My Name to Shinderpal Kaur

I, Lakhwinder Singh S/o Surinder pal Singh R/o H.no. B-V1-432-433, St.no.1, Ram Street, Gaushala Road, old Madhopuri, Ludhiana.That I want to Change' my Daughter name Hargun to Hargun Kaur.

I, Gurvinder Singh S/o Surinder Singh R/o 9044, St No.3, Near UCO Bank, Joshi Nagar, Haibowal Kalan Ludhiana declare that I have changed my name from Gurvinder Singh to Gurvinder Singh Bedi. All Concerned Note.

I Balbir Kaur W/o Mangat Khan R/o Swajpur, PO Wazidpur, Shahbazpur, Patiala Declare that Rabeena Urf Balbir Kaur & Balbir Kaur both names are one and same lady of mine, Concerned Note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Pawan Kumar S/O Krishan Chand R/O H. No. 212/7-A/30 Ajit Singh Nagar Colony 33 Feet Road Ludhiana declare that my son Amit Kumar is out of my control so I disown him from my movable and immovable properties anybody deal with him at their own risk.

I, Vidya Rani, W/o Late Baldev Singh, R/o House No. 88 A, Street No. 4 AB, Jagdish Enclave, Rattan Nagar, Tripuri, Patiala, have declare that my son Ram Kumar alias Ramu, his wife Aanchal and their son Fatehdeep Singh are beyond my control. I evict them from my movable and immovable property. Whoever deals with them will be responsible for it. There will be no responsibility on my part or on my family.

I, Chellammal Sendhooran W/O Sendhooran Muthusamy R/O Thetku Theru Nedunkulam,ilanchembur,Kadaladi, Ramanathapuram,Tamil Nadu,623703 Now at 163 Field Regt.C/O 56 APO Amritsar inform that in Army Official record of my son Sathyaraj S. my name is wrongly mentioned as Chellammal but my correct name is Chellammal Sendhooran and also date of birth as 21.08.1970 but my correct date of birth is 30.08.1966

I Rajinder Singh S/o Karam Singh R/o Bhim Nagar, Main Road Purhiran Disrr Hoshiarpur declare that I disinherited my son Tanvir Singh and his wife Harmandeep Kaur from Moveable and Immoveable Property by Ajj di Awaj on dated 29-7-2025. Now They are obedient to me. So I taken back disinherited to them

I,Sendhooran Muthusamy S/O Muthusamy R/O West Street Nedunkulam, ilansempoor, Kadaladi, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, 623703 Now at 163 Field Regt.C/O 56 APO Amritsar inform that in Army Official record of my son Sathyaraj S. my name is wrongly mentioned as Senthooran M. but my correct name is Sendhooran Muthusamy and also date of birth as 15.04.1968 but my correct date of birth is 18.06.1970.

I, Varinder Jain, son of Ramesh Jain, resident of Ward No. 13, Tibba Basti, Patran Tehsil, Patran District, Patiala, have a registration deed number 967 dated 31.05.2011, owned by Deepak Garg, son of Ram Niwas, and a deed number 2256 dated 09.12.2014, owned by Mithu Ram Sharma, son of Baldev Ram Sharma. Which have been lost from me on Chunagra Road. If I find the above mentioned documents, I will not misuse them. If anyone finds these registries, please inform Advocate Surinder Mohan Singla on mobile number 98153-37878.

ਮੈਂ, ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਚੰਦੂ ਰਾਮ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਡਾਬੜੀ ਛੋਟੀ, ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ ਧੀਰਵਾਸ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਤਾਰਾਨਗਰ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਚੁਰੂ, ਰਾਜਸਥਾਨ-331302, ਹਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਸੁੰਦਰ ਨਗਰ, ਹੁਸ਼ਿਆਰਪੁਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਪੁੱਤਰ 'ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ' ਜੋ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੋਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਮੈਂ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਾਰੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ।ਹੁਣ ਮੇਰਾ ਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਸਬੰਧ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਕਿਸੇ ਕਿਸਮ ਦਾ ਤਾਲੁਕ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਇਸਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰੇਗਾ ਜਾਂ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ/ਗੈਰ-ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ।ਸਾਰੇ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

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

(ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ)



ਸਿੰਗਲ ਵਿੰਡੋ ਨੰ: 464386 ਮਿਤੀ 27-Nov-2025 ਰਾਹੀ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ. 4, ਸੈਕਟਰ-71, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ 100% ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਚਣ ਦਾ ਕੇਸ ਮਿਲਖ ਦਫਤਰ (ਹ), ਗਮਾਡਾ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਪਲਾਟ ਦੀ 1/4 ਹਿੱਸੇ ਦੀ ਮਾਲਕ MANJIT KAUR W/O RATINDER SINGH R/o HOUSE NO. 452 PHASE-3A, SAS NAGAR MOHALI ਨੇ RATINDER SINGH S/o GURDEV SINGH R/o HOUSE NO. 452 PHASE-3A, SAS NAGAR MOHALI ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ ਜੀ.ਪੀ.ਏ. ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ, ਇਹ ਜੀ.ਪੀ.ਏ. ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰ: 132 ਮਿਤੀ 21-04-2008 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸਬ-ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਰਜਿਸਟਡ ਹੈ। ਉਕਤ ਜੀ.ਪੀ.ਏ. ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ RATINDER SINGH S/o GURDEV SINGH R/o HOUSE NO. 452 PHASE-3A, SAS NAGAR MOHALI ਵੱਲੋਂ 1/4 ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ VIVEK NIJHAWAN S/o KULDEV RAJ NIJHAWAN R/o HOUSE NO. 3051, SECTOR 19D, CHANDIGARH, VIKRAM NIJHAWAN S/o KULDEV RAJ NIJHAWAN R/o HOUSE NO. 3051, SECTOR 19D, CHANDIGARH AND RAJ LAKSHMI W/o KULDEV RAJ NIJHAWAN R/o HOUSE NO. 3051, SECTOR 19D, CHANDIGARH ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਵੇਚਣ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਬੋਨਤੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ. 4, ਸੈਕਟਰ-71, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ 1/4 ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਕਤ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰੀ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਦੇਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਕਤ ਜੀ.ਪੀ.ਏ. ਬਾਰੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਪਾਸ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਏ ਇਤਰਾਜਾਂ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੂੰ ਉਕਤ ਖਰੀਦਦਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਦੇ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਸੁਪਰਡੰਟ
ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ।

MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform General Public that Suman Verma W/o Sh. Subhash Chander is owner Property/house built over plot no. 23 measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 1051, 1056, 1048, 1049, 1050, Khata No. 1969/2616, jamabandi year 2010-11, situated at Village Gill-2, H.B. No. 263, Abadi Savan Enclave, Dashmesh School Road, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana, vide sale deed vasika no. 2020-21/103/1/6053 dated: 05/11/2020. The owner has lost her original old sale deed vasika no. 9612 dated: 21/07/2005 and original old GPA vasika no. 4149 dated: 03/09/2004. Despite best efforts owner could not find it. DDR SR No: 655367/2025 dt: 05/12/2025/11/2025 has been lodged with PSOC Sadar Ludhiana City. Now owner has applied to Union Bank of India, Dugri Road, Ludhiana for availing enhancement of loan against said property which is already mortgaged with the bank. In case any body has any objection for the same then he/she may contact bank within 7 days of this notice. Thereafter no claim of any kind whatsoever shall be entertained.

ਦਫਤਰ ਸਬ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ (ਪੱਛਮੀ), ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ

ਇਸ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਆਮ ਜਨਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਸ: ਹਰਜੱਸਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ, ਵਾਸੀ: ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ 820, ਗਲੀ ਨੰ. 11, ਫੀਲਡ ਗੰਜ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਵਾ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਆ ਕੇ ਇੱਕ ਵਸੀਅਤ (ਮੌਤ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ) ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਜੋ ਕਿ ਲੇਟ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਜਸਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ: ਬੁੱਧ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ: ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ 820, ਗਲੀ ਨੰ. 11, ਫੀਲਡ ਗੰਜ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਵਾ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਮਿਤੀ 20-10-2011 ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ, ਨੂੰ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਐਕਟ ਦੀ ਧਾਰਾ (40)1 ਅਧੀਨ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਲੇਟ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਜਸਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ: ਬੁੱਧ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਮਿਤੀ 06-02-2011 ਨੂੰ ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਸ: ਹਰਜੱਸਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਹੱਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੀਤੀ ਸੀ, ਜੋ ਇਸ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਕਰਤਾ ਦੇ ਕੋਈ ਹੋਰ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਵਾਰਸ ਜਾਂ ਆਮ ਜਨਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਜੇਕਰ ਇਸ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਨੂੰ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ ਦੇ ਛੱਪਣ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ। ਬਾਅਦ ਗੁਜਰਨੇ ਮਿਆਦ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਸੁਨਣਯੋਗ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਕਤ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਤਹਿਤ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਕਰ ਦਿਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।
ਨੰਬਰ 796 ਸ.ਰ.(ਪ) ਮਿਤੀ 05-12-2025
ਸਬ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ (ਪੱਛਮੀ)

Sr Dy Mayor conducts inspection after roof waterproofing work gets completed at MC Zone A office

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, December 5



For ensuring safety and smooth working at the civic body offices, Senior Deputy Mayor Rakesh Prashar conducted inspection after the work of waterproofing gets completed at MC Zone A office near Mata Rani chowk.

Roof waterproofing work was commenced after leakage was reported at some points during the last rainy season.

Further, Senior Deputy Mayor Prashar also issued directions to establish an additional washroom for the ladies staff and visitors at the Zone A office.

A ladies washroom is situated at the ground floor of the building but it was in bad shape. The female staff had demanded that that an additional washroom should be established in the office.

MC Additional Commissioner Paramdeep Singh, ATP Gurvinder Singh, SDO Akshay Bansal, contractor among others were present during the inspection.

MC Additional Commissioner Paramdeep Singh, ATP Gurvinder Singh, SDO Akshay Bansal, contractor among others were present during the inspection.

Senior Deputy Mayor Rakesh Prashar stated that roof waterproofing work has been completed to ensure that no leakage is reported in future. The demand of female staff has also been fulfilled as an additional washroom is being established in the office.

Prashar further stated that regular feedback is being taken from the staff for making improvements in the existing infrastructure, so that timely services could be provided to the residents.

Drug licence of medical store cancelled; part of wider crackdown

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, December 5

The zonal licensing authority in Ferozepur has cancelled the drug-retail licence of "Permit Medicos Lakho Ke Behram," following repeated violations of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. According to Drug Control Officer Sonia Gupta, inspections conducted on September 3 and October 2, 2025 revealed several irregularities, including failure to produce purchase bills for medicines stocked at the shop. As the chemist failed to provide valid bills, the shop's licence has been revoked in the interest of public health.

Earlier also in a decisive action against illegal drug sales, the Drug Control Department has sealed a medical shop in Zira and cancelled the licences of two medical stores for violating the orders of the District Magistrate, Ferozepur.

Punjab's Health Department through its regional licensing authorities has reiterated that any chemist or medical store found violating drug-supply norms, lacking proper documentation, or dealing in banned/ substandard medicines will face immediate licence revocation.

Punjab's Health Department through its regional licensing authorities has reiterated that any chemist or medical store found violating drug-supply norms, lacking proper documentation, or dealing in banned/substandard medicines will face immediate licence revocation. The cancellation of the Ferozepur store's licence underscores the renewed vigilance of regulatory authorities across the state.

Drug rackets busted in Khanna, 9 arrested with heroin and 1.5 quintals of poppy husk

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Khanna, December 5



In a crackdown on drug traffickers, the Khanna Police have busted two major drug supply rackets within 24 hours, arresting seven accused and recovering 150 grams of heroin and 1 quintal 50 kilograms of poppy husk in separate operations. Both actions were taken under a special Anti-Drug Campaign launched on the directions of Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav (IPS) and DIG Ludhiana Range Satinder Singh (IPS).

The operations were carried out under the guidance of SSP Khanna Dr Jyoti Yadav Bains (IPS) and supervised by SP (Investigation) Pawanjeet (PPS). The raids were led by DSP (Investigation) Mohit Kumar Singla (PPS) along with CIA Incharge SI Narpinderpal Singh and their respective police teams.

In the first case, registered under FIR No. 200 dated December 1, 2025, under Sections 15, 29, 61 and 85 of the NDPS Act at Police Station City-2, Khanna, the police intercepted an Ertiga car (PB-25-FB-5609) on Malerkotla Road near village Baghaur at around 5:30 am.

The occupants were identified as Rishav Rana, resident of village Sihala, and Ranjit Singh, resident of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Samrala. During the search, four bags of poppy husk weighing 30 kg each (total 1.20 quintals) were recovered from the vehicle.

During investigation, the involvement of Amanjot Kaur, wife of Palvinder Singh (Adarsh Nagar, Samrala), and Jatinderpal Singh and Amandeep Kaur, residents of village Dhandhe, Samrala, surfaced. Following their disclosures, the police recovered an additional 30 kg of poppy husk from a locked house in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar Colony, Samrala. With this, the total recovery reached 1.5 quintals.

On December 4, accused Jatinderpal Singh and Amandeep Kaur were also arrested. All five accused are being intensively interrogated.

In the second case, registered under FIR No. 201 dated December 1, 2025, under Sections 21, 61 and 85 of the NDPS Act, along with Sections 109, 132 and 221 of the BNS, two drug peddlers were arrested with 150 grams of heroin near Celebration Mall, GT Road, Khanna, at around 7:00 pm.

Acting on a secret tip-off, the police raided the parking area where a white Swift car (PB-37-K-6234) was found parked. The accused were identified as Jatin Bhania, resident of village Ganna near the water tank, Phillaur (Jalandhar), and Sandeep Kaur, wife of Ashok Kumar, resident of Sariala Kalan, Garhshankar (Hoshiarpur).

When the police attempted to stop them, the accused allegedly tried to run over the police team with their car, forcing the personnel to jump aside to save themselves. During the incident, woman Home Guard Amandeep Kaur (No. 798, Khanna) sustained serious injuries and was rushed to Civil Hospital, Khanna. The accused later crashed their car into a pole and were overpowered.

A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of 150 grams of heroin from the dashboard. Due to the attempt to murder and assault on police staff, additional serious sections of the BNS were added to the case. Both accused were arrested on the spot.

Police officials said that all seven accused are being questioned in depth, and further important revelations regarding drug supply networks are expected.

In an another incident, poppy husk, heroine and a 315 bore recovered and 2 accused were arrested .

Police Observer reviews security preparedness for 2025 Zila Parishad and Block Samiti elections in Kapurthala

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, December 5



Punjab State Election Commission–appointed Police Observer Parmbir Singh Parmar on Thursday visited Kapurthala and reviewed the security arrangements for the upcoming Zila Parishad and Block Samiti elections scheduled to be held on December 14. Parmar, who has been designated as Police Observer for both Jalandhar and Kapurthala districts, held a detailed meeting with Deputy Commissioner Amit Kumar Panchal and Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Tura to assess the preparations related to the nomination process, security deployment at polling stations, and arrangements being made for counting of votes.

During the interaction, Parmar emphasized that the Punjab State Election Commission was committed to conducting the elections in a fair, peaceful and transparent manner. He also reviewed the deployment of senior police officials tasked with overseeing the entire polling process and inquired about the requisition and availability of reserve forces in accordance with requirement.

During the interaction, Parmar emphasized that the Punjab State Election Commission was committed to conducting the elections in a fair, peaceful and transparent manner.

He further informed that citizens may contact him at 98153-32300 for submitting grievances or sharing election-related inputs concerning the Zila Parishad and Block Samiti polls in the district.

Restaurant owner gets extortion call

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, December 5

An eating joint owner, Kulwant Singh of Baba Bakala, received an extortion call from notorious gangster Gagandeep Singh alias Daddi Tangra. The accused demanded Rs 50 lakh in extortion money from him. The police have registered a case against Tangra and launched further probe.

The victim stated to the police that he first received a call on his WhatsApp number from a virtual number on October 8 and then on several occasions. He said initially, he did not take the calls seriously, but when he repeatedly got the calls, he became frightened. The latest call was received on Tuesday. He said the accused now threatened to kill him in case he failed to cough up the money. Tejinder Singh, investigating officer, said that a case has been registered and further investigations are in progress.

A senior police official said that Gagandeep Singh aka Daddi Tangra has around 15 criminal cases against him at various police stations including that of extortion.

"He has been evading arrest for the past several years while efforts were on to nab him," he said.

AAP MP seeks renaming of Adampur Airport after Guru Ravidas

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, December 5



AAP MP Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal pressed the Union government to rename Adampur Airport after Sri Guru Ravidas Ji, citing that the Punjab Assembly has already approved and forwarded the proposal. Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha, he said the upcoming year-long Parkash Purab celebrations from 2026 to 2027 make it the right moment for the Centre to honour public sentiment.

Dr Chabbewal also urged the government to upgrade Adampur Airport to international status, arguing that it would greatly benefit the large NRI population from the Doaba region and boost local industry through improved global connectivity.

Speaking to reporters, he said Sri Guru Ravidas Ji's teachings of equality and compassion continue to inspire millions, and dedicating the airport to the revered Guru would be a fitting tribute reflecting the collective voice of the community.

MLA listens to public grievances through mobile van in Ward no 52

GURKIRPAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, December 5



Atam Nagar MLA Kulwant Singh Sidhu visited Ward No 52 with a mobile van and listened to the problems of residents, resolving many issues on the spot.

Speaking on the occasion, Sidhu said that the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government believes in reaching out directly to people to solve their problems and save them from unnecessary delays and inconvenience.

He also issued a strong warning to drug traffickers, stating that no leniency would be shown towards anti-social elements. He urged residents to report drug-related activities, assuring that identities would be kept confidential. Sidhu further announced that youth trapped in drug addiction would be helped with treatment and rehabilitation at his personal expense.

Senior police officers, municipal officials, local councillors and residents were present during the program, which was coordinated by the Atam Nagar women's wing.

Woman dies in car-tractor collision near Balluana Colony in Abohar

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Abohar, December 5

A woman died and others escaped with minor injuries when the car they were in collided with a tractor-trolley near Balluana Colony, 10 km from here. The family from Tara Estate Colony was returning from a wedding function in Ludhiana.

Sushil Mittal, his wife Sunita, daughter Aastha, and niece Muskan had attended the ceremony. The driver allegedly lost control near Balluana Colony, and the car rammed into a tractor-trolley ahead. Sunita was badly injured and taken to a private hospital before being shifted to the Civil Hospital, where she was declared dead. The dece ased was a close relative of Rohtash Gupta, who operates a leading sweets shop.

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Biting cold prevails in Punjab; Faridkot coldest at 3 deg C



CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 5

Bone-chilling cold prevailed in most parts of Punjab with Faridkot recording the lowest minimum temperature of 3 degrees Celsius among the two neighbouring states on Friday.

Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, also experienced a cold night, recording a low of 6.1 degrees Celsius, according to the meteorological department here. Bathinda in Punjab recorded a minimum of 3.2 degrees Celsius. PTI

Awareness campaign against drugs launched in educational institutions in Kapurthala

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Kapurthala, December 5

In a proactive move against drug abuse, the Punjab State Legal Services Authority, SAS Nagar, under the guidance of Harpal Singh, District and Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, Kapurthala, has initiated an extensive awareness campaign targeting youth in the district.

Following the directives of Hardejeet Singh, Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Kapurthala, and the campaign is scheduled to run from December 6, 2025, to January 6, 2026. The initiative aims to educate young people about the dangers of drug consumption and encourage community participation to curb this growing social threat.

To ensure the campaign's effective implementation, Hardejeet Singh engaged with officials from various government departments, including the District Education Officer (Secondary and Primary), Block Development and Panchayat Officers, Additional Director of Youth Services, District Youth Officer, In-charge of De-addiction Centers, District Sports Officer, District Social Security Officer, and District Public Relations Officer.

Refresher course for basketball begins in Ludhiana



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, December 5

A refresher course for basketball began on Friday at Guru Nanak Dev Stadium, Ludhiana. A total of 17 coaches and players are participating in this specialized program, which runs from December 5 to 9.

The course is being conducted under the guidance of Coach Scott Fleming, an experienced American basketball professional renowned for his expertise in elite player development, international coaching, and professional leagues across multiple countries.

Dholi shot dead in Hadiabad

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, December 5

A young 'dholi', identified as Avinash, alias Golu (30), was shot dead by some armed miscreants after minor arguments in a janjghar, Hadiabad, on late Wednesday night.

In the midst of a verbal exchange, three youths arrived in a car and allegedly escalated the argument, leading to the sudden firing that caused Avinash to collapse on the spot. He was rushed to the Civil Hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

The police, led by SP Madhvi Sharma, today arrested one of the accused Amritpal Singh of Manikpur village near Shahkot. Two others, Jaspreet Singh of Khajurala and Rajkaran, also resident of Shahkot, have been nominated in the case.

The police have recovered an empty catridge shell from the crime site.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by DSP Bharat Bhushan and SHO Satnampura Hardip Singh, has been constituted to ensure transparent, thorough, and accountable investigation in line with policing ethics and public responsibility.

SSP Gaurav Toora appreciated the swift tracing of the case and reaffirmed that strict action would be taken so that no individual feels emboldened to take the law into their hands. He maintained that such crimes will be tackled with prompt response and uncompromising legal action.

bright Punjab Express

Enduring ties

Relations between India and Russia have stood the test of time. During the years gone by, they have been subjected to numerous strains and stresses but the two countries have firmly stood by each other in all ups and downs. If any proof is needed, it is the ongoing visit to New Delhi by the President Vladimir Putin.

The visit is taking place at a time when Russia is facing worldwide backlash, especially from the West, due to its invasion of Ukraine. Its economy is shaky and diplomatically, it is more or less isolated throughout the world. India is facing tremendous pressure from the US and European nations because of its dealings with Russia. Oil imports by India from Russia have been the favourtie hobby horse of the US President Trump. But neither India nor Russia have backed down.

During the latest visit to India by President Putin, India and Russia have firmed up a five-year plan to bolster economic and trade ties in the face of Washington's punitive tariff and sanctions regime even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to President Vladimir Putin that the war in Ukraine must be brought to an end through peaceful means.Following their summit talks that generated global attention, Modi and Putin demonstrated their keenness to impart a fresh momentum to the over eight-decades-old India-Russia friendship with the prime minister saying that it remained steadfast like a "pole star" notwithstanding geopolitical churn.

Besides finalising the 2030 economic programme, the two sides signed several agreements to expand cooperation in a number of sectors including health, mobility and migration, food safety, shipping and people-to-people exchange.

The Russian president landed in New Delhi on Thursday evening to a red-carpet welcome with Modi personally receiving him at the airport and later hosting a private dinner for him that largely set the tone for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit.

The visit has generated attention in the capitals of the Western nations as it has come amid their sustained efforts to hit Moscow economically including by cutting Russian crude oil supplies as part of initiatives to force it to end the war in Ukraine.

"The world has witnessed many ups and downs over the past eight decades. Humanity has faced numerous challenges and crises. And through all this, the India-Russia friendship has remained like a pole star," Modi said in his media statement. "This relationship, built on mutual respect and deep trust, has always stood the test of time. Today, we discussed all aspects of cooperation to further strengthen this foundation. Taking economic cooperation to new heights is our shared priority," he added.

To achieve this, Modi said that the two sides agreed on an economic cooperation programme until 2030 and it will make bilateral trade and investment diversified, balanced, and sustainable. The prime minister also announced that India will soon introduce a free 30-day e-tourist visa and a 30-day group tourist visa for Russian citizens. In his comments, Putin said both sides are looking at increasing the volume of annual trade to USD 100 billion from the present USD 64 billion and that Russia is a "reliable supplier of oil, gas, coal and everything that is required" to address India's energy requirement.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



India-Russia relationship is entering new phase of technological era: Experts

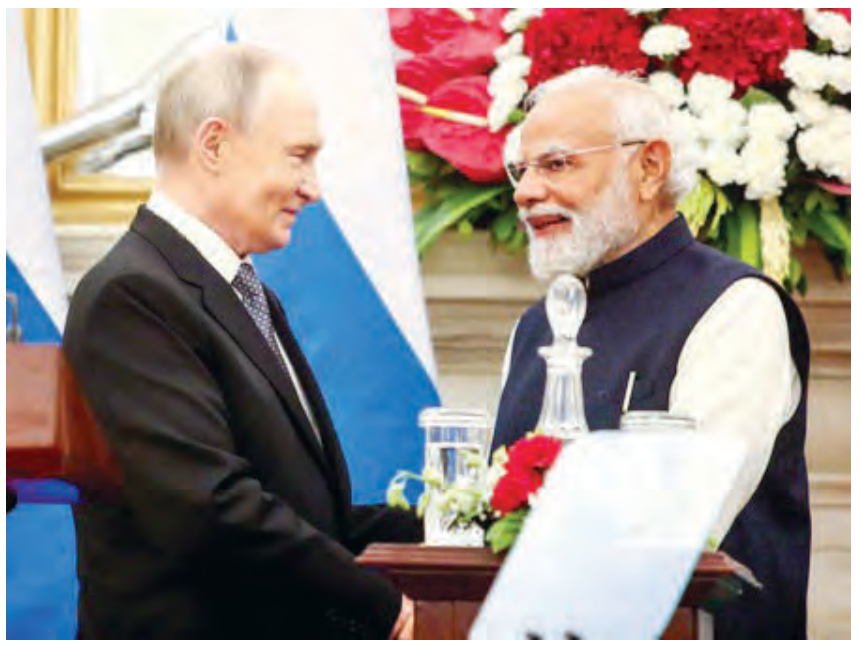
Russia and India have been long-standing investment and political partners for many years, and now, this relationship is entering a new phase, a technological era, Gleb Borukhov, Managing Director, Realia Capital Group, said on Friday.

Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the India-Russia Business Forum, Borukhov said that previously, trade between the two countries was primarily based on commodity trading.

"I run an investment firm called Realia Capital. Regarding the potential for further development of bilateral relations between Russia and India, I see huge opportunities," Borukhov told IANS.

"Now, this relationship is entering a new phase, a technological era. Previously, the partnership was primarily based on commodity trading," he added.

Meanwhile, Nivruti Rai, MD and CEO of Invest India, said that Russia's strength in mathematical modelling, cybersecurity, and defence can be crucial for India.



"My view is, how do we drive growth for India, and who can I partner with to advance growth in technology, investment, and trade? My primary focus is on the top two investments in technology and foreign direct investment to drive growth," Rai told IANS.

"I am particularly looking at Russia for their strengths in mathematical modelling, cybersecurity, and defence, while also exploring ways to leverage AI in defence to enhance Intelligence capabilities," she added.

Meanwhile, India and Russia have agreed on an economic cooperation programme aimed at expanding trade till 2030, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a press conference along with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "We are trying for an early conclusion of the FTA with the Eurasian Economic Union. India and Russia have agreed on an economic cooperation program to expand trade till 2030," PM Modi said after talks with President Putin.

Both countries are working towards ambitious targets set by their leaders of achieving $50 billion in mutual investments by 2025 and $100 billion in annual bilateral trade by 2030.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of multiple agreements between India and Russia, across sectors ranging from fertilisers to food safety and shipping.

Russia has also assured India of uninterrupted fuel supplies as part of the strategy to bolster bilateral ties, President Putin said.

"We are ready to continue uninterrupted shipments of fuel for the growing Indian economy," the President added. **IANS**

Africa-faces growing cybercrime crisis as China linked syndicates expand operations

Africa is facing a fast-growing cybercrime crisis, with Nigeria emerging as one of the main centres of these illegal activities, a report has said.

Major raids carried out in Nigeria in late 2024 and early 2025 revealed the scale of organised digital fraud across the continent, according to Capital News report.

Nearly 1,000 people were arrested in Lagos and Abuja, including 177 Chinese nationals. Investigators found that many of the facilities operated like professional companies, equipped with rows of computers, thousands of SIM cards and training rooms where recruits were coached in phishing, online scams and cryptocurrency fraud.

These discoveries showed that cybercrime in Africa is no longer driven only by local actors, as per the report.

Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has promised to dismantle these networks, but the size and organisation of the operations suggest deep cooperation between foreign crime syndicates and local partners.



Many of these foreign groups are believed to have moved their activities to Africa after increased policing in Southeast Asia made it harder for them to operate there.

Similar incidents have been reported across the continent. In 2024, Zambia broke up a major fraud network and arrested 77 people, including 22 Chinese nationals.

Several were sentenced to up to 11 years in prison -- one of Africa's strongest legal actions against cybercriminals.

Around the same time, Angola arrested hundreds of people linked to online gambling and digital fraud, the report said.

Namibia also exposed a large cryptocurrency scam involving 14 suspects, nine of whom were Chinese nationals.

By 2025, it had become clear that these were not isolated cases. According to an April 2025 report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), criminal groups from China and Southeast Asia were stealing tens of billions of dollars each year through fake investments, romance scams and cryptocurrency fraud.

As countries like Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar tightened their enforcement, many syndicates moved their operations to Africa. UNODC warned that these networks were spreading "like a cancer".

Interpol's Africa Cyberthreat Assessment Report 2025 added that these groups are becoming more dangerous because they now use advanced technologies such as AI-generated deepfakes, sophisticated malware and encrypted underground banking systems.

This makes them powerful cyberthreat actors capable of targeting critical infrastructure and threatening national security.

The geopolitical situation adds another layer of complexity. China publicly rejects cybercrime, but experts note that enforcement inside the country is often uneven.

Smaller groups may be shut down, while larger, organised networks find ways to shift operations overseas.

Many African countries also depend heavily on Chinese loans and infrastructure projects, which can make it difficult to pursue aggressive legal action when Chinese nationals are involved. This creates a gap that criminal networks can exploit.

There is no solid proof that any government is directly supporting these networks. However, weak oversight of digital transactions, illegal money transfer systems and gaps in financial regulation allow organised crime groups to survive, regroup and expand quickly. **IANS**

Over 1.20 cr women screened for cervical cancer in 2025: Govt

More than 1.20 crore women in India have been screened for cervical cancer in 2025, the government informed the Parliament on Friday.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the Union Minister for Health, Prataprao Jadhav, shared that a population-based initiative for prevention, control, and screening for common Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), including cervical cancer, has been rolled out in the country under the National Health Mission (NHM) as a part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care.

Under the initiative, persons more than 30 years of age are targeted for their screening.

As per the National NCD Portal, the rate of screening for cervical cancer has consistently increased since 2020-21.

"In 2020-21, screening for cervical cancer was done for 2,111,011 women. The number rose to 5,950,309 (in 2021-22), 18,684,268 (2022-23), 11,595,917 (2023-24), 17,548,256 (2024-25), and 12,723,558 (till November 30, 2025)," Jadhav told the Lower House.



"The estimated 28,255 number of mortalities occurred due to cervical cancer in 2014, and it rose to 35,691 in 2023," said the Minister, citing data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)- National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP).

Further, he informed that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is actively undertaking several initiatives to promote preventive healthcare and mobile health delivery, particularly in rural and remote areas, under the broader vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs), comprehensive primary healthcare (CPHC) is provided by strengthening Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centers (PHCs) for an expanded range of services encompassing reproductive and child healthcare services, elderly care services, communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, emergency medical services, and other health issues.

"As reported by States/UTs on AAM portal, a total of 1,80,906 AAMs have been operationalised in India, till October 31. Wellness-related activities like Yoga, cycling, and meditation are conducted in AAMs. As of October 31, 6.37 crore wellness sessions, including Yoga, have been conducted at AAMs," Jadhav said.

Under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), a population-based initiative for prevention, control, and screening for common NCDs has been rolled out in the country under the National Health Mission (NHM) and also as a part of CPHC.

"Population-based screening helps in better management of diseases by the way of early stage of detection, follow-up, and treatment adherence," Jadhav said.

"A total of 39.79 crore screenings for hypertension, 39.60 crore for diabetes, 33.57 crore for oral cancer, 15.72 crore for breast cancer have been carried out at all health facilities till November 30," he added, citing data from the NP-NCD portal. **IANS**

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

NEWSBRIEFS

UP constable arrested for his involvement in extortion racket

AGRA: Uttar Pradesh Police here on Friday arrested a constable posted in Kanpur for his alleged involvement in a honey-trap racket that targeted unsuspecting victims through extortion, officials said. Additional Deputy Police Commissioner Aditya said the accused constable, Riyaz, was part of the gang that was busted by the Kamla Nagar police on Tuesday, following the arrest of a woman and her male accomplice. The racket came to light after a victim filed a complaint at Kamla Nagar police station on Monday. The complainant alleged that the woman had called him to a hotel, drugged him through a spiked beverage, and later blackmailed him using obscene videos, prompting the police to launch an investigation that led to the arrests. **PTI**

11-year-old girl killed in Manipur accident

IMPHAL: An 11-year-old girl was killed and another child seriously injured in a hit-and-run incident in Manipur's Imphal East district on Friday, police said. The girl, identified as Ngangbam Sanathoi Devi, and her friend were walking home from school when they were hit by a speeding van at Sawombung, they said. Ngangbam, who had been staying at Sawombung relief camp, died on the spot, while the other girl was taken to a hospital for treatment. The administration has announced a relief assistance of Rs 5 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased. According to police, the vehicle has been seized and the driver arrested. **PTI**

Rahul Gandhi targets Centre over IndiGo flights chaos, calls it result of 'monopoly model'

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



Amid the ongoing chaos at several airports across the country, triggered by IndiGo flights cancellations, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi trained guns at the Centre, holding it accountable for the unprecedented crisis. He said that chaos at airports is the consequence of Modi government's monopoly-driven economic model.

Taking to social media platform X, he wrote: "IndiGo fiasco is the cost of this Govt's monopoly model. Once again, it's ordinary Indians who pay the price - in delays, cancellations and helplessness. India deserves fair competition in every sector, not match-fixing monopolies." He also shared a previously penned article title "A new deal for Indian business", to elucidate his stance on monopolistic power structures. "Match-fixing monopoly groups vs fair-play businesses - moment has come to choose freedom over fear," he stated. The Congress leader also likened the present-day corporate "monopolisation" to colonial-era systems, stating, "INDIA WAS SILENCED by the East India Company. It was silenced not by its business prowess, but by its chokehold. The company choked India by partnering with, bribing. and threatening our more pliant maharajas and nawabs. It controlled our banking, bureaucratic, and information networks. We didn't lose our freedom to another nation; we lost it to a monopolistic corporation that ran a coercive apparatus." He further said that while the original East India Company is long gone, but fear and monopolisation have resurfaced in modern India.

"The original East India Company wound up over 150 years ago, but the raw fear it then generated is back. A new breed of monopolists have taken its place. They have amassed colossal wealth, even as India has become far more unequal and unfair for everybody else. Our institutions no longer belong to our people, they do the bidding of monopolists. Lakhs of businesses have been decimated and India is unable to generate jobs for her youth. Bharat Mata is mother to all her children. The monopolisation of her resources and power, this blatant denial of the many for the sake of a chosen few, has wounded her," he pointed out. **IANS**

Temple money belongs to deity, not banks: SC

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



The Supreme Court on Friday remarked that temple funds "belong to the deity" and cannot be used to aid struggling cooperative banks. The observation came from a Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, as it dismissed special leave petitions (SLPs) filed by Kerala-based cooperative banks challenging a Kerala High Court direction to immediately return the fixed deposits of the Thirunelly Temple Devaswom.Refusing to interfere with the Kerala High Court's orders, the CJI Kant-led Bench remarked that the money collected from devotees must be "saved, protected and utilised only for the interests of the temple" and cannot become a "source of income or survival" for any cooperative bank. "You want to use the temple money to save the bank?... Temple money, first of all, belongs to the deity," observed the apex court, dismissing the cooperative bank's SLP against the Kerala High Court's directive to repay matured deposits and shift the funds to nationalised banks.

Before the Supreme Court, the cooperative banks argued that the Kerala High Court's "abrupt" two-month deadline made compliance difficult."You should establish your credibility among the people. If you are unable to attract the customers and deposits, that is your problem," the CJI Kant-led Bench said, stressing that deposits must be released as soon as they mature. **IANS**

Scindia unveils ₹645-crore development package for Nagaland

KOHIMA, DECEMBER 5

Union Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Act East Vision', on Friday unveiled development projects worth over Rs 645 crore in Nagaland. The DoNER minister, who arrived in Dimapur on Thursday on a three-day visit to Nagaland, marked a significant day in the Northeastern state as he participated in the traditional Naga stone-pulling ceremony at Tuophema village as part of the ongoing Hornbill Festival.

Later, Scindia followed by unveiling a major development package for the state. The day saw the inauguration of completed projects worth over Rs 202 crore and the laying of foundation stones for new initiatives of about Rs 443 crore, taking total investments to over Rs 645 crore.

As part of the government of India's unwavering focus on enhancing strategic connectivity in the Northeast, special impetus has been placed on strengthening key road corridors and improving airport-linked connectivity through major route upgrades.

Highlighting Prime Minister Modi's transformative vision for the Northeast, Scindia noted that the renewed thrust on the Act East Policy has accelerated growth across the region, reshaping its development trajectory and creating unprecedented momentum in infrastructure building -- from connectivity and healthcare to innovation and youth development. **IANS**

Manipur govt warns of stern action against threats, disruption of peace

IMPHAL, DECEMBER 5

The Manipur government on Friday warned that anti-social elements and anyone involved in issuing threats or attempting to disturb the peaceful coexistence of communities will face stringent legal action.In a notification, Manipur Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel said that any individual or organisation, without exception, found issuing threats or attempting to disturb peaceful coexistence shall be prosecuted strictly in accordance with the law.

"The state government reiterates its unwavering commitment to safeguard the people of Manipur.

It is an earnest appeal to the citizens to stand united against unlawful elements and to cooperate in the initiatives of the state government towards maintaining peace, harmony and public order, to bring the state back to the path of growth and development," the Chief Secretary said in the notification.

He said it has come to the attention of the Manipur government that some organisations are attempting to disrupt peace in the state by threatening and intimidating law-abiding citizens. **IANS**

Mamkootathil's acts are of pervert, Cong protecting him from arrest: CM Vijayan

KOCHI, DECEMBER 5

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday contended that the accusations against expelled Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil were "horrifying" and his alleged acts were that of a sexual pervert, but the grand old party was still protecting him from arrest.

Vijayan said that a public figure ought not to have been involved in such matters and when allegations of this nature are raised against a people's representative, they should be immediately removed from their position.

Speaking to reporters at a press meet here, the CM claimed that the Congress leadership was already aware about the facts much before the reports of the MLA's alleged acts came out.

"Yet, the leadership chose to present him as a 'future investment'. That is something they should introspect about. Can any party justify such actions? Isn't Congress a party that claims to uphold a great legacy," he asked.

He was responding to reporters' queries as to why Mamkootathil has not been arrested yet.The CM said that the police were taking effective steps to apprehend



the legislator, who is facing allegations of sexual assault from multiple women, but the Congress was protecting him.

"All kinds of information have now come out. How horrifying these matters are. Aren't these acts enough to shock anyone with a human conscience? Weren't these clearly the actions of a sexual pervert? Is this something a public figure should be involved in?

"When allegations of this nature arise against a public representative, shouldn't there be immediate efforts to remove them from their position? But efforts are being made to protect him. If such efforts are stopped, police will be able to arrest him," he said.

Vijayan also said that there were other legislators in the Congress who faced similar allegations or were jailed for other offences, but were still continuing in the party. "Eldhose Kunnappilly and M Vincent are still in the party," he said. **IANS**

DELHI/NCR

Delhi Police bust interstate arms trafficking module; four held with 8 pistols, 30 cartridges

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

The Delhi Police has busted an illegal firearms supply network operating in the national capital and Uttar Pradesh and arrested four men in this connection, an official said on Friday.

Eight pistols and 30 live cartridges were recovered from the accused, he added.

According to police, the crackdown began after a tip-off was received on November 19 that Babu (22) alias Aslam, previously involved in robbery, murder and theft cases, would arrive in Model Town to supply a firearm to one of his associates.

Acting on the input, a surveillance team was deployed. After an informer alerted the police that the suspect was near the North-X drain in the area, the team reached the spot. The suspect attempted to flee but was overpowered after a brief chase, police said.

A cursory search led to the recovery of two pistols and five live cartridges concealed in a pouch tied to his waist, they added.

During interrogation, Babu disclosed that after being released following his arrest in a firearms case in 2024, he came into contact with Santosh, who sourced illegal weapons from Aligarh and supplied them in Delhi.

Based on Babu's inputs, Santosh (32) was apprehended. A subsequent raid at his under-construction property led to the recovery of two sophisticated pistols, three country-made pistols and 25 live cartridges. **PTI**

Delhi blast: NIA custody of accused Soyab extended by 10 days

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



In the Red Fort blast case in which 13 people were killed and dozens were injured, a Delhi court on Friday extended the National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody of accused Soyab by 10 days. Soyab, arrested in connection with the November 10 blast in the national Capital, was produced before the NIA court at Patiala House after his earlier custodial remand expired. He had been sent to 10 days' NIA custody on November 26.

According to the NIA, Soyab allegedly sheltered key conspirator Dr Umar Mohammad, also known as Umar un Nabi, and arranged logistical support shortly before the blast. He is the seventh person arrested in the case. According to the NIA, Soyab 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 13 people and left many others injured. According to the officials, Soyab worked as a lab assistant at Al-Falah University in Faridabad and allegedly helped Umar procure chemicals from the university lab. Shoaib, who resides in the Dauj area of Faridabad, also arranged a rented accommodation for Umar at his sister-in-law's house in Hidayat Colony, Nuh, shortly before the blast.

Earlier on December 3, A Delhi court had extended the NIA custody of Jasir Bilal Wani, an accused in the Delhi terror blast case, by seven days.

Wani was produced in a Special NIA court in Patiala House Court after his previous seven-day custody ended on Wednesday.

On November 10, a car explosion near Delhi's Red Fort killed 13 people and injured dozens of others, triggering a high-level investigation that revealed the existence of a sophisticated 'white-collar' terror network with ties to Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Even before the blast, several arrests had been made across multiple states, and investigators had begun to piece together evidence of an interstate terror module.

Following the explosion, the NIA found that the incident was connected to earlier arrests, leading to a series of new revelations as the probe deepened.

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. **IANS**

PUBLIC NOTICE



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

Subject : Transfer of Ownership in respect of Residential Site No. 148, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh, (RPD 16576) to the extent of 100.00% share on the basis of Un-Registered Will of Late Jaspreet Singh.

It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Sh. Jaspreet Singh is the owner of Residential Site No. 148, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh, to the extent of 100.00% Share.

It has been informed by Amandeep Kaur that Sh. Jaspreet Singh expired on 14.07.2023 and she has also intimated that the following are the legal heirs of the deceased owner :- (1) Amandeep Kaur- Wife , (2) Kulbir Kaur- Mother , (3) Mannat Kaur- Daughter, (4) Gurnaaz Kaur - Daughter .

Now, Amandeep Kaur has applied for the Transfer of Ownership in respect of Residential Site No. 148, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh, to the extent of 100.00% share held by Late Sh. Jaspreet Singh in her favour, on the basis of Un-Registered Will dated 24.05.2023. If anybody has any information about any other legal heir(s) of the deceased other than mentioned above, the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh, immediately.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Jatinderpal Singh S/o Baldev Singh S/o Gurbaksh Singh R/o Narinderpura, Teh & Distt. Mansa that I have Lost my original Sale Deed wide Vasika No. 8415 Dated 29/10/2007 As per the assessment year 2002-03, Khewat No. 102, Khatoni No. 240, 241, Khasra No. 828/322(5-2), 323/1(3-3), 515/312/1(2-0), 321/3(8-1), 521/320/1(4-4/2) is 5 in number 2.2 Bighas 10' Biswas, 4/2/450/ share = 0-4% Biswas i.e. 211 W: Yards and whose area as per the attached map is as follows: East:- Plot No. 22, Bay 60, West:- Road 35', Side 60, North:- Road 35', Side 31'-8", South:- Plot No. 38, Side 31'-8". Have been lost in Patiala on 03.12.2025. if someone found inform me on my mobile no. 9872963032.

DU AC meeting: VC calls for permanent hiring, clears PG medical courses; members raise dissent notes

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

The Academic Council meeting of the University of Delhi on Friday saw Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh call for a shift away from temporary appointments, stating that DU "must change its culture" by ensuring permanent faculty recruitment on a regular basis. He said academic appointments should be conducted twice a year and urged colleges to reduce reliance on guest faculty, according to an official statement by the university.

Academic Council (AC) member Maya John, however, brought up in her dissent note and criticised the university's decision to challenge the Delhi High Court order on regularising ad-hoc teachers in the Germanic and Romance Studies Department, and called for the withdrawal of the special leave petition. Opening the Zero Hour discussions, the vice-chancellor also asked colleges to appoint sports coaches and advised institutions facing infrastructure gaps to seek assistance from the Higher Education Financing Agency, noting that the scheme may not remain available indefinitely. The AC meeting approved Delhi University's nod for nine postgraduate medical courses proposed at the Indian Railways Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (IRPGIMSR) under the Northern Railway Central Hospital, subject to permission from the National Medical Commission. **PTI**

Delhi HC allows appeal of Italian embassy's Indian-origin employees in salary-discrimination plea

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

The Delhi High Court has set aside an earlier order of a single-judge bench that rejected a plea by the Indian-origin employees of the Italian embassy here, claiming discrimination in the payment of salaries.

A bench of Justices Anil Kshetarpal and Renu Bhatnagar was hearing an appeal against the May 2019 order of the single-judge bench that dismissed the suit as it found no cause of action.

The employees had filed the suit, saying the discrimination in salaries and payments was violative of an Italian Presidential Decree of 2000. Against its dismissal, the present appeal was filed, saying the single-judge bench had "misconstrued and misapplied" the law relating to the rejection of the plaint.

In an order dated December 3, the bench said, "The court finds that the single judge has erred in rejecting the plaint on the basis of nonexistence of a cause of action."

Setting aside the earlier order, it said the plea disclosed a cause of action and must be allowed to proceed.

The bench, however, clarified that "any assessment of the merits of the cause of action or applicability of defences (limitation, jurisdiction etc.) will have to await fuller consideration on the record". **PTI**

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

SUB: NOTICE FOR PAYMENT OF OVERDUE LOCKER RENT

Sr. No.	Name of Locker Holder	Address	Overdue Locker Rent	Detail of Notices Sent	Overdue Since
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1.	SONIA MANGAT	Flat No. 8 1st Floor, Prem Vihar, SBS Nagar Pakhowal Road, Ldh.	Rs. 10,620/- +GST	14.06.2024 17.08.2024 03.02.2025	31.10.2020
2.	MUNISH KUMAR	875-I BRS Nagar, Ludhiana	Rs. 19,470/- +GST	14.06.2024 17.08.2024 03.02.2025	19.09.2015
3.	ANUPINDER JIT KAUR GHAI	57-Shant Park, Behind Agar Nagar, Ludhiana.	Rs. 14,066/- +GST	14.06.2024 17.08.2024 03.02.2025	08.02.2019
4.	CHARANKAMAL SINGH BHULLAR	49 I BRS Nagar, First Floor, Ludhiana	Rs. 12,390/- +GST	14.06.2024 17.08.2024 03.02.2025	13.11.2019

"All the above -mentioned locker holders are maintaining Lockers with **Bank of India, Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar, Ludhiana Branch** We have sent various communications in regard to payment of overdue locker rent on the dates mentioned in column 5 of the above table. However the same has not been paid despite various reminders. All locker holders are once again advised to deposit the overdue rent mentioned in column no. 4 of the above table within 15 day of publication of this notifications. In the event of non-payment the Bank will drill open the locker at their (locker-holders) cost, expenses and charge entirely at their risk and responsibility after 15 days from date of this publication notice".

Make functioning more transparent, public-oriented: Haryana CM to officers

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 5



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday directed officers to make departmental functioning more transparent and public-oriented.

He said whenever a tender related to development works in rural areas is issued on the Haryana Engineering Works (HEW) portal by any department, the information should be immediately shared with the sarpanches concerned through SMS. This will ensure that rural representatives receive timely, accurate, and complete information about development works.

"It will also improve monitoring and the quality of implementation. The portal will also provide tender information to the public, further enhancing transparency in works," he added.

The Chief Minister was chairing a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat here regarding the progress of budget announcements of the Development and Panchayat Department for 2025-26.

He directed officers to ensure the timely completion of all schemes aimed at strengthening infrastructure in rural areas. He said the government aims to concretise the 'kachha phirnis' of villages with a population of more than 1,000 to provide smooth movement for people. It was informed in the meeting that 639 'phirnis' have already been completed, while work on 303 is in progress.The Chief Minister said that in order to increase the participation of women and provide them a suitable place for meetings and other activities, the government is constructing 'Mahila Chaupals' in every village. In the first phase, 754 villages have been identified, out of which construction of 480 'Mahila Chaupals' has been completed, while work on the remaining 274 is underway.It was informed that under the first phase in rural areas, 994 e-libraries have been renovated and furnished. Books and computers will soon be made available in these libraries. Besides, 415 indoor gyms have been set up so far in rural areas across the state.

Similarly, the construction of community halls for various Scheduled Castes is progressing rapidly in every district. IANS

Boost for Ladwa as CM announces major initiatives in health, education and infrastructure

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 5

Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini announced several key initiatives aimed at accelerating development in the Ladwa Assembly Constituency, with special focus on health, education and infrastructure.

He announced that an educational institution in the state will be named after Sant Shiromani Sen Bhagat Ji Maharaj.

He also announced the upgradation of the Ladwa Community Health Centre into a 50-bed Sub-Divisional Hospital-cum-Community Health Centre, along with the establishment of a Government College at Ramshran Majra (Babain).

The CM made these announcements on Thursday while addressing the state-level function as the Chief Guest held in Ladwa, Kurukshetra district, on the occasion of Sant Shiromani Sen Bhagat Ji Maharaj Jayanti.

Additionally, the Chief Minister announced the construction of 25 km of rural pathways under the Khet-Khalihan Scheme. He also announced Rs. 5 crore for strengthening village phirnis and another Rs. 5 crore for development works in the villages of the constituency.

The CM announced that under the Mahagram Scheme, a sewerage system and STP would be developed by combining Babain with Ram Saran Majra and by combining Umri with Deru Majra.

State asks officials to ensure adherence to schedule, quality for upcoming MSME mall on GT Road

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 5

Haryana Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi on Friday reviewed the progress of the ambitious Unity Mall project in Karnal, which is designed to showcase the country's diverse MSME products under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, an official statement said.

The chief secretary also reviewed the progress of two working women hostels being constructed in Faridabad and Gurugram. Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Civil Secretariat here, the chief secretary assessed the current status of the Rs 162.88-crore Unity Mall project, which is coming up on a 3.87-acre site along the GT Road in Sector 37 of Karnal's Industrial Estate. The mall project, with substantial financial support from the Centre as well as the Haryana government, is targeted for completion by July 2027. Rastogi instructed the concerned departments to maintain strict adherence to the approved construction schedule and uphold the highest standards of quality throughout execution, the statement said.

The chief secretary highlighted the competitive advantage of the project's location on the historic GT Road, which offers connectivity to Delhi, Chandigarh, and other major northern cities.

Karnal's emergence as a growing industrial and commercial centre, along with its proximity to the National Capital Region, significantly enhances the project's potential impact, the statement said. "The Unity Mall is envisioned as a national-level platform to display and market MSME products from across India, especially those crafted under the ODOP initiative. "The facility will help reduce marketing costs for small manufacturers, improve visibility in domestic and global markets, and create new avenues for business collaboration," it said. Managing Director, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC), Aditya Dahiya, briefed the chief secretary that the Unity Mall will serve multiple functions, including working as a permanent exhibition centre for state-specific products, a business-to-business networking hub, and a tourist attraction that showcases India's diverse manufacturing strengths.

The project aligns closely with the central government's vision of promoting indigenous industries, expanding market access, and boosting inter-state trade through high-quality infrastructure.

The chief secretary said, "The Unity Mall is a strategic investment in Haryana's economic future, and we are committed to its timely and high-quality completion." PTI

State govt extends gratuity benefits to employees under Unified Pension Scheme

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 5

The Haryana government on Friday announced an extension of benefits of 'retirement gratuity and death gratuity' to its state government employees who are covered under the Unified Pension Scheme. An office memorandum in this regard was issued by Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi, who also holds the charge of Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, clarifying that all state government employees enrolled under the Unified Pension Scheme will now be eligible for these crucial gratuity benefits.

The Haryana government had adopted the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), notified by the Government of India under the National Pension System (NPS).

The UPS was introduced with effect from August 1, 2025, covering state government employees recruited on or after January 1, 2006, and who were previously covered under the NPS. PTI

Haryana Police raid 700 locations, arrest 165 people under special anti-crime drive

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 5

Haryana Police raided 707 identified crime hotspots across the state and arrested over 160 people in just one day, as it went against known offenders, struck drug and illicit liquor networks and seized illegal weapons in a major anti-crime drive.

During the special drive, named 'Operation Hotspot Domination', launched on Monday, various police teams on Thursday simultaneously raided these areas across the state.

"As a result of the police's swift and coordinated action, a total of 92 new criminal cases were registered and 165 accused involved in various offences were arrested and sent behind bars within just one day," an official statement said on Friday.

In the special drive, named 'Operation Hotspot Domination', launched on Monday, the police also struck the network of drug dealers.

Ground-level raids led to the recovery of a large quantity of narcotics. Across different districts, police seized a total of 4.33 kg of cannabis, 218 grams of opium, and more than 85 grams of heroin. Additionally, 890 intoxicating tablets and 23.5 grams of smack were recovered from drug traffickers.

The operations in districts like Sirsa and Fatehabad especially inflicted significant damage on drug networks, according to the statement.

"Illegal liquor and illegal arms remain major challenges in the world of crime, and the operation focused specifically on curbing these.

"Police teams seized a large quantity of illicit liquor across the state, including 839 bottles of country-made liquor, and other illegal liquor, totalling over 1,000 bottles in total," it said.

The statement further said that police have not limited their action to arresting criminals but have also begun targeting property earned through crime.

In Fatehabad, authorities attached (seized) an illegally acquired property of a notorious criminal. In Hisar's Hansi city, authorities demolished three illegal encroachments made by known offenders.

This step aims to dry up criminals' financial sources and send a message that properties that are proceeds of crime will not remain safe, it said.

During the Operation, police also recovered three pistols and five live cartridges from the criminals. Five new cases under the Arms Act were registered, and five accused were arrested.

Using an active intelligence network, the police succeeded in arresting 22 notorious criminals.

Additionally, inter-state coordination was strengthened with neighbouring states by sharing 15 important intelligence reports to prevent criminals from exploiting state borders.

Furthermore, a Look Out Circular (LOC) was issued in Fatehabad, and a proposal was sent to cancel the passport of a violent offender to prevent him from fleeing abroad. PTI

HIMACHAL/J&K

Congress, BJP lawmakers jointly hold protest on Himachal assembly premises against 'chitta' menace



DHARAMSHALA, DECEMBER 5

Cutting across party line, Congress and BJP lawmakers, led by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Jairam Thakur, respectively, jointly held a protest on the Himachal Pradesh Assembly premises against the menace of 'chitta (synthetic drug)' on Friday.

Donning clothes with badges bearing the message of a "chitta-free Himachal", the legislators from the ruling and Opposition parties raised slogans like, "Chitta must be driven out, youth must be saved".

Earlier, MLAs of the treasury bench arrived in the House wearing outfits and badges bearing the anti-drug message.

BJP MLAs also entered the Assembly wearing clothes with the slogan, "Chitta-free Himachal, a new Himachal".

LoP Thakur said the Opposition "is ready to cooperate with the government against drugs."Chief Minister Sukhu said an aggressive fight has been started against 'chitta' and "we all have to fight it together."

The Chief Minister told the media, "This is not a matter of politics. Lives are at risk, and we must work together."

He said the government has launched a historic fight against 'chitta'. "Protecting the youth from addiction and uniting to defeat it is our priority. Strictness is being increased in panchayats where 'chitta' is prevalent. Also property acquired through drugs is being confiscated and will be demolished under the PIT-NDPS Act," CM Sukhu said.

He said the government is preparing a comprehensive action plan to curb drugs by holding gram sabha meetings and offering rewards to individuals who provide information on drug modules.

CM Sukhu said after many arrests of those indulging in the drug trade, the state is now focussing on rehabilitation.

To wipe out psychotropic drugs from the state, the Chief Minister this week led the 'Anti-Chitta Awareness Walkathon' in Dharamsala, the state's winter capital, that saw participation by a large number of schoolchildren and people. PTI

Ignoring merit in education, demanding distribution of seats based on religion wrong: Mehbooba

KATRA/JAMMU, DECEMBER 5



Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said that ignoring merit and demanding distribution of seats based on religion was wrong and would harm the social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir and the entire country.

The political row erupted after the Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Medical College completed admissions through the NEET merit list earlier this month, with the college admitting 42 Muslim students, mostly from Kashmir. Besides, seven Hindu students from Jammu and one Sikh were selected for the inaugural MBBS batch of 50.

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination (JKBOPEE) decided to admit these students to the medical college run by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in the Katra area of Jammu.

"It is very wrong to ignore merit and demand distribution of seats on the basis of religion. Such things should not happen.

"It will not only spoil the atmosphere of Jammu and Kashmir but will also affect the entire country. If this begins here, it will spread to other parts as well," Mehbooba told reporters here.

The PDP chief, who travelled by the Vande Bharat train from Srinagar to take part in a function at Katra, said that the demand for allotting seats on religious lines should not be entertained.

She recalled that when the universities of Mata Vaishno Devi and Baba Ghulam Shah were proposed, land was allotted with the vision of providing quality education to local youth and attracting students from outside the region. "The idea was simple — anyone with merit would get admission. Mata Vaishno Devi University is doing well, while Baba Ghulam Shah University is facing some difficulties," she said.

Referring to the ongoing controversy over admissions, she said it is "completely wrong".

"Jammu and Kashmir belongs to everyone. Jammu has always been known as a place where the lion and the lamb could drink water from the same river," she said

Mehbooba said Muslims had chosen to live in the country and raised concern over divisive issues.

Dozens of protests have been held by several organisations in Jammu and other places against granting a majority of the MBBS seats to Muslim students from Kashmir at a medical college in Reasi district. They have been demanding a probe, alleging a major conspiracy against the educational institution.

Replying to a query about her visit, Mehbooba said travelling on the Vande Bharat train had been a good experience. "It was a beautiful journey. Katra is the abode of Mata Vaishno Devi. I used to come here even during my college days," she said. PTI

Admissions to Vaishno Devi medical college made purely on merit through NEET: J&K Dy CM Chaudhary

JAMMU, DECEMBER 5

Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surender Chaudhary on Friday said that admissions to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College were made purely on merit through NEET and should not be viewed from a religious perspective.

"My point is that children's education should not be judged on the scale of religion. Look at their merit. The students who have taken admission are meritorious candidates. They qualified through an examination and were selected on the basis of merit through NEET," Chaudhary told reporters here.

Choudhary was replying to questions on sidelines of a function on the 120th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah here.

Reiterating that the issue was being "unnecessarily politicised", the deputy chief minister said, "It is not about who is saying what. The students selected at the Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College were admitted on the basis of merit through NEET."

Commenting on the ongoing protests by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti, he said the outfit does not represent the views of all sections of Jammu.

"The Sangharsh Samiti does not reflect the thinking of the people of Jammu. All their affiliations are aligned with the BJP. The truth is that the BJP has not come forward openly and has instead put the Sangharsh Samiti committee in front to lead this movement," he alleged.

He urged people to question the political backing of the agitation. PTI

On NC founder's birth anniversary, Farooq Abdullah says J&K govt working on 'razor's edge'

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 5

Former Chief Minister and president of the ruling National Conference (NC), Dr Farooq Abdullah, said on Friday that the elected government in Jammu and Kashmir was working on the 'razor's edge' as, according to him, all powers are vested in the Lt Governor.

Addressing the media on the 120th birth anniversary of NC founder, late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, at his mausoleum in Hazratbal area of Srinagar city, Dr Abdullah said, "Whatever could be done during the last year after our government came to power has been done despite a sword hanging over our head. All powers lie with the Lt Governor, and we have to walk on the razor's edge under these circumstances. When we demand statehood, we don't do it for ourselves. We want it to be restored so that the people benefit here."



"We have four more years to go. Just be patient and see how much change would be brought about in your lives. All MLAs are moving out into their areas regularly and attending to the problems faced by the people. People also have to be honest in their dealings. Local contractors engaged in doing government construction must ensure their work is honest. You have to compete by e-tendering to get contracts now. The days of contractors getting work at the choice of the engineers are over."In a highly politically significant statement, he said, "The days of the old people in public life are over. Youth must be encouraged to come forward and make their contribution to public life. Women have to come forward to meaningfully contribute to the development of society."All senior leaders of the party, including Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, and senior leaders like Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan, Mubarak Gul, Nazir Gurezi and others offered 'Fateha' prayers at the mausoleum of the party founder. IANS

NEWSBRIEFS

Afghan counter-terrorism police seize large quantities of weapons

KABUL: Afghan counter-narcotic police have uncovered large quantities of weapons and ammunition in northern Afghanistan's Balkh province, a statement of the provincial police office said Friday. The weapons and ammunition include four Kalashnikov rifles, four hand grenades, an air rifle, two anti-personnel grenades, a PK gun, a scope, hundreds of rounds of bullets and cartridges, and other illegally stored military equipment, the statement said, Xinhua News Agency reported. The statement did not mention whether any arrests were made in connection with this case. The cache was discovered during an operation conducted by police at a residential house in Zari district of this province. On November 23, local authorities said that a significant weapons cache was uncovered in Afghanistan's Uruzgan province, with three individuals arrested in connection to the discovery. **IANS**

India, South Sudan discuss ways to further promote partnership

JUBA: India and South Sudan held their first ever Foreign Office Consultations in Juba and reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties, including capacity building and human resource development, cooperation in health, technical and vocational training, trade and people-to-people relations. The two sides discussed ways to further promote the partnership between India and South Sudan. The officials of India and South Sudan expressed satisfaction with ongoing cooperation and expressed commitment to continue high level interaction and exchanges and regular meetings of institutional mechanism, according to a statement released by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday. The two sides also exchanged views on regional issues and reiterated their commitment to continue the close cooperation at the United Nations and other multilateral fora. **IANS**

The New York Times sues Pentagon over Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth's media rules

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 5



The New York Times has filed a lawsuit against the Pentagon, attempting to overturn new rules imposed by Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth that have led to most mainstream media outlets being banished from the building.

The newspaper said the rules violate the Constitution's freedom of speech and due process provisions, since they give Hegseth the power to determine on his own whether a reporter should be banned. Outlets such as the Times walked out of the Pentagon rather than agree to the rules as a condition for getting a press credential.

The Pentagon press room now includes mostly conservative outlets that agreed to the rules, and representatives from those organisations participated Tuesday in a briefing with Hegseth's press secretary.

"The policy is an attempt to exert control over reporting the government dislikes," said Charles Stadtlander, spokesman for the Times. The newspaper filed the case with the U.S. District Court in Washington on Thursday.

The Pentagon had no immediate response to a request for comment on lawsuit.Despite losing credentials, outlets denied access to the Pentagon have continued reporting on the military. They have led coverage this past week on stories that questioned Hegseth's role in military strikes on boats with alleged drug smugglers, including one targeted with a second strike after survivors were spotted.

Nevertheless, the Times said denial of access to the Pentagon restricts its reporters' ability to do their job. Because the new policy gives Hegseth the right to oust reporters working on stories he does not like, even if those stories do not involve classified information, it has a chilling effect on journalists, the newspaper argued in court papers. Lawyers are also concerned similar restrictions will be put in place at other federal agencies.

The Pentagon has argued that the policy imposes "common sense" rules that protect the military from release of information that could put them in danger. During her briefing Tuesday, Pentagon press secretary Kingsley Wilson said the legacy media outlets are not missed.

"The American people don't trust these propagandists because they stopped telling the truth," Wilson said. "So, we're not going to beg these old gatekeepers to come back and we're not rebuilding a broken model just to appease them."

Several news outlets whose coverage reaches millions of people, including The Associated Press, Washington Post and CNN, asked the Pentagon for access to Wilson's briefing. They were denied and told it was for credentialed press only.The Times is citing Wilson's "propagandists" comment as evidence that the Pentagon is discriminating against reporters for their points of view. **AP**

Russian drone strike kills 12-year-old boy in Ukraine as peace talks kept under wraps

KYIV, DECEMBER 5

Russian drones struck a house in central Ukraine, killing a 12-year-old boy, officials said, while long-range Ukrainian strikes reportedly targeted a Russian port and an oil refinery as US peace efforts continued out of public view.

US President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, and Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, were set to meet Thursday in Miami with a Ukrainian delegation but there was no official confirmation whether the meeting took place.

Those scheduled talks came after discussions between President Vladimir Putin and the US envoys at the Kremlin on Tuesday.

Previous diplomatic attempts to break the deadlock have come to nothing and the nearly four-year war has continued unabated. Officials largely have kept a lid on how the latest talks are going, though Trump's initial 28-point plan was leaked.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country's delegation in Miami wanted to hear from the US side about the talks at the Kremlin.Zelenskyy, as well as European leaders backing him, have repeatedly accused Putin of stalling in peace talks while the Russian army tries to press forward with its invasion. Zelenskyy said in a video address late Thursday that officials wanted to know "what other pretexts Putin has come up with to drag out the war and to pressure Ukraine."Meanwhile, Kremlin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov, who accompanied Putin on a visit to India on Friday, repeated the Russian leaders' recent criticism of Europe's stance on the peace talks.

Kyiv's European allies are concerned about possible Russian aggression beyond Ukraine and want a prospective peace deal to include strong security guarantees.

Kyiv's allies in Europe are "constantly putting forward demands that are unacceptable to Moscow," Ushakov told Russia's state-owned Zvezda TV. "Putting it mildly, the Europeans don't help Washington and Moscow reach a settlement on the Ukrainian issues."

In Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk region, a Russian drone attack Thursday night destroyed a house where the boy was killed and two women were injured, according to the head of the regional military administration, Vladyslav Haivanenko.

The Ukrainian air force said Russia fired 137 drones of various types during the night.

Ukrainian drones attacked a port in Russia's Krasnodar region on the border with Ukraine. The attack sparked a fire at the Temryuk sea port and damaged port infrastructure, officials said. **PTI**

German president to visit WWII bombing site as Europe seeks to bolster united front against Russia

LONDON, DECEMBER 5



ermany's president is set to lay a wreath Friday at Coventry Cathedral in central England, symbolically atoning for the atrocities of World War II as his country and the United Kingdom seek to bolster an alliance to combat the new war raging in Europe.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier's pilgrimage commemorates the Nazi bombing of Coventry on the night of November 14, 1940, which destroyed the 14th-century Gothic cathedral, leaving behind a roofless ruin that stands as a reminder of the ravages of war.At least 568 people were killed and more than half of Coventry's homes were damaged or destroyed in what was the single most concentrated attack on a British city during the war.

Britain will be represented at the event by the Duke of Kent, who has long fostered British-German reconciliation. He served as the royal patron of the Dresden Trust, which seeks to build bonds between the people of Britain and Dresden following the Allied bombing that destroyed the German city's historic centre and killed an estimated 25,000 people in February 1945.

Steinmeier's appearance wraps up a three-day state visit to Britain, the first by a German head of state in 27 years.During a lavish banquet on Wednesday night at Windsor Castle, Steinmeier and King Charles III put on a show of Anglo-Saxon unity, exchanging toasts that celebrated the cultural and historic ties between their nations and highlighted efforts to build a common front against Russian aggression in Ukraine.

In his toast, Steinmeier described Coventry as a symbol of the bonds that grew out of the war that ended 80 years ago.

"Flourishing cities grew out of the ashes. Enemies became friends," he said. "That is our common history — and it shows what is possible when people have the courage to pursue reconciliation."

The state visit comes as European nations bond together to support Ukraine and confront Russian efforts to destabilise western democracies through so-called hybrid attacks such as election interference, disinformation and sabotage. **IANS**

North Korea's Kim inspects regional factories ahead of official opening

SEOUL, DECEMBER 5



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited several regional factories ahead of their official opening, stressing the construction of such facilities is a "gigantic revolution" designed to improve people's livelihoods, state media reported Friday. Kim inspected regional-industrial factories in several counties of South Phyongan Province, including the Sinyang and Pukchang counties, on Wednesday, as their official openings are nearing, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

In January last year, Kim unveiled his signature regional development policy to build modern factories in 20 cities and counties each year over a 10-year period to improve the living conditions of people in regional areas. While inspecting factories producing foodstuff, garments and daily necessities in the province, the North's leader said regional factories have been built in 40 cities and counties in less than two years since the project began and called the development "eye-opening regional changes", Yonhap News Agency reported."The rural construction and regional-industry construction are a gigantic revolution intended to fundamentally improve the quality of the people's living and lay the material and technical foundations for the independent development of the cities and counties," Kim was quoted as saying by the KCNA.He also called for "perfect" preparations for operations before the inauguration ceremonies set for this month. **IANS**

Sydney Police investigation underway after multiple gunshots fired outside shopping center

SYDNEY, DECEMBER 5



A major police operation has been launched after multiple gunshots were fired outside a shopping center in southwest Sydney on Friday morning.

A statement from the police force in the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) said that emergency services were called to reports of shots fired outside a gym at a shopping center in Gregory Hills, 45 km southwest of central Sydney, at around 8:35 am local time on Friday. Police officers arrived and found that a number of shots had been fired at a man who subsequently left the scene, Xinhua News Agency reported. NSW Police said that two males armed with firearms were seen at the scene and dressed in black clothing with face coverings. There were no reported injuries. Two witnesses told Nine Entertainment radio that they heard up to 10 gunshots and that members of the public sheltered in nearby businesses.A large police presence was deployed to the shopping center where a crime scene was established, and investigations into the incident commenced.

In a separate incident, earlier on Wednesday, a man died and two others were hospitalised following a shooting at a property in eastern Australia. Police in the state of New South Wales (NSW) said in a statement that emergency services were alerted to the shooting in the small town of Eungella, over 640 km northeast of Sydney near the border with the state of Queensland, at around 1:25 pm local time on Wednesday. **IANS**

Indians among delivery riders detained for working illegally in UK

LONDON, DECEMBER 5

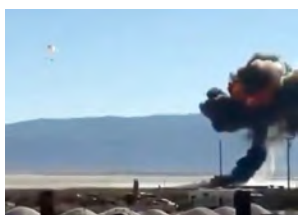
Indians are among 171 delivery riders caught working illegally in a UK-wide crackdown and have been detained for deportation from the country, the British government has said. The UK Home Office Immigration Enforcement teams undertook an 'Operation Equalise' over seven days last month, which involved stopping to check the documents of delivery riders operating in villages, towns and cities across Britain.

Those found to be working illegally, which also included Bangladeshi and Chinese nationals, were arrested on the spot and detained for removal to the countries of their origin. "On 17 November, officers were deployed to the High Street in Newham (east London). Four riders of Bangladeshi and Indian nationality were arrested for illegal working.

All four were detained for removal," the Home Office said in a statement on Thursday, giving some breakdowns on a total figure of 171 arrests. **IANS**

US F-16 crashes into flames during training mission in California

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 5



A US Air Force Thunderbird F-16C Fighting Falcon crashed during a training mission in the Southern California desert, but the pilot safely ejected and survived, the US Air Force said.

The Air Force Thunderbirds confirmed the crash in a brief statement but provided no immediate details on what caused the accident, saying the matter is under investigation.

"On December 3, 2025, at approximately 10:45 a.m., a Thunderbird pilot ejected safely from a F-16C Fighting Falcon aircraft during a training mission over controlled airspace in California. The pilot is in stable condition and receiving follow-on care. The incident is under investigation and further information will be released from the 57th Wing Public Affairs Office," the Air Force Thunderbirds stated.

California's San Bernardino County Fire Department said the plane crashed near China Lake, a community located about 270 km north of downtown Los Angeles.

According to the San Bernardino County Fire Department, the pilot sustained "non-life-threatening" injuries during ejection and was transported to a hospital.In the statement on social media platform X, the department said it is "assisting China Lake emergency resources with fire suppression stemming from a downed aircraft in the dry lake bed near Trona. Solo occupant was a pilot, who was treated and transported by on scene personnel for non life-threatening injuries and is being transported to an area hospital."

"There is no threat to surrounding vegetation from the fire. The public is requested to avoid the immediate area. There is no threat to the community," it added

US Air Force Sgt. Jovante Johnson said in an email that the F-16C Fighting Falcon was part of the Air Force Thunderbirds, an aerial acrobatic demonstration team stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Earlier in 2023, a US F-16 fighter jet crashed in western South Korea, and the pilot was safely rescued after making an emergency escape.

The jet crashed into the waters after taking off from the Kunsan Air Base in Gunsan, 178 km south of Seoul, during a training exercise, Yonhap News Agency quoted sources as saying. **IANS**

Japanese envoy terms China's criticism of PM Takaichi 'inconsistent with facts, unsubstantiated'

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 5



Japan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Yamazaki Kazuyuki, has written a letter to United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, where he termed China's criticism about Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan "inconsistent with the facts and unsubstantiated and unacceptable." In response to China's letter delivered to UN Secretary General, Yamazaki Kazuyuki stated, "As with China's previous letter dated 21 November, the assertions contained therein are inconsistent with the facts, unsubstantiated, and are categorically unacceptable. Japan's position is as set out in my letter of 24 November addressed to your Excellency and attached hereto. Nevertheless, based on the instruction from the Japanese Government, I wish to share once again Japan's views with your Excellency."

"Since the end of the Second World War, Japan has consistently respected and adhered to international law, including the UN Charter, and has actively contributed to maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order underpinned by the rule of law, as well as to the sustainable development of the international community. **IANS**

UN supports South, Southeast Asian nations responding to flooding, landslides: spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, DECEMBER 5



The United Nations continues to support the governments of some South and Southeast Asian nations in responding to the catastrophic flooding and landslides that have reportedly killed over 1,500 people and impacted nearly 11 million people, a UN spokesperson said. In Sri Lanka, the United Nations and its partners continue to support the government-led response and assessments, Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, told a daily briefing on Thursday. He said that in close coordination with the authorities, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners have delivered emergency aid, including food, hygiene supplies, kitchen sets and water tanks, and early recovery efforts are underway, including deeper damage assessments. For Vietnam, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher allocated $2.6 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund on Wednesday to bolster assistance in the most affected provinces, to support shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as food security interventions to complement the government-led efforts, said the spokesperson.Dujarric noted that in Indonesia, the government-led response to the devastating floods in Aceh continues despite major logistical and access challenges, and the United Nations is working closely with the government there on logistics, health, water and sanitation, and is facilitating coordination with local partners. **IANS**

lifestyle

Alia's
November dump is all about celebrating your loved ones



For actress Alia Bhatt, the month of November has been full of blessings and some precious moments with the family.

Alia's latest social media post showed the netizens what the month gone by looked like for the 'Jigra' actress.

Alia gave a sneak peek into daughter Raha's third birthday celebration on November 6.

First, she dropped a photo of holding her daughter Raha in her arms as the mother and daughter duo twinned in pink. Both Alia and her little one had their backs to the camera.

Alia was also seen posing with mother, Soni Razdan, while dad, Mahesh Bhatt, turned photographer.

Alia and Ranbir also performed the Griha Pravesh pooja for their new home.

In the pic on her IG, Alia and Ranbir were seen performing pooja making for a lovely couple in ethnic attire.

We could also see mother-in-law Neetu Kapoor giving a warm hug to Alia during the Griha Pravesh ceremony, with late Rishi Kapoor's photo also visible in the backdrop.

Another photograph had Ranbir folding his hands in front of Rishi ji's portrait, accompanied by other glimpses of Alia, Ranbir, and little Raha being part of the puja ceremony.

"November 2025... you were a month & a half, (Sparkles, Sunflower, sun, white flower and yellow heart emojis) (sic)," the caption on the post read.

Alia and Ranbir's new mansion in Mumbai's Bandra West area is believed to be a six-story luxurious building estimated to be worth around Rs 250 crore.

Alia, Ranbir, and Neetu were often seen visiting the site over the years, as the work on the recently completed house was underway. Alia further uploaded some images from sister Shaheen Bhatt's birthday celebration. **IANS**

Kareena
credits Meghna Gulzar for introducing her to Mumbai's far-flung places



Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan has been shooting extensively for her upcoming crime drama Daayra, directed by Meghna Gulzar. A source close to the production revealed, "Kareena has been shooting extensively for Daayra, travelling across interiors with Meghna."

On December 4, Kareena posted a photo on social media, saying that Meghna Gulzar has been taking her from Khalapur to Bhiwandi to Virar, and she seemed quite thrilled about the journey.

"It's been a very hectic shoot for the team, moving from one location to another, but the energy on set has been incredible. It takes long hours to travel to far flung places of Mumbai, but Kareena is enjoying every ride as she is getting to see the real Mumbai," the source added.

Directed by Meghna Gulzar and jointly produced by Junglee Pictures and Pen Studios, the film also stars Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Set against the complex world of crime and justice, Daayra positions its lead pair in roles that harness their full dramatic prowess. Prithviraj steps into the shoes of a police inspector, while Kareena embodies a fierce, enigmatic character whose presence adds a striking edge to the narrative.

Earlier this year, Kareena had spoken about the film, saying: "As I celebrate 25 incredible years in Hindi cinema, I'm thrilled to announce my next film, Daayra, with the incredible Meghna Gulzar in the director's chair. I've long admired her work, from Talvar to Raazi, and to be directed by her is a dream come true."

She added that the opportunity to collaborate with the talented Prithviraj Sukumaran is also a highlight: "And I'm drawn to the film's bold, thought-provoking narrative. Daayra promises to be a cinematic experience that challenges and inspires, and I look forward to working with Meghna, Prithviraj, and the team at Junglee Pictures on this powerful, timely film."

Kareena had first announced Daayra in September 2025, describing her collaboration with Meghna and Prithviraj as a "dream team." **IANS**

Krystle D'Souza
on dancing with 'powerful performer' Ranveer Singh: You automatically level up

Actress Krystle D'Souza, who grooves with star Ranveer Singh in the song "Shararat" from "Dhurandhar", has talked about working with the "powerful performer." Krystle is stepping into a new creative zone of high-octane dance tracks and she's loving every second of the transformation.

She calls this shift "exciting and empowering," adding, "It feels like stepping into a new league."

The actress said: "When you share the screen with such powerful performers, you automatically level up. The vibe on set was incredible and everyone brought something unique. It feels like we're part of something really grand and entertaining."

The actress said that even during the shoot, she felt that the track has "mass connect."

She says, "It has the beats, the hook step, the madness so why not? Even during the shoot, we felt that this track has that mass connect. I think people will be dancing to this one for a long time."

Krystle started her acting career in college, and then was cast for Kahe Naa Kahe in 2007.

She was then seen in Kya Dill Mein Hai. In 2008, the actress appeared in Kasturi and Kis Desh Mein Hai Meraa Dil.

In 2010, Krystle appeared in Baat Hamari Pakki Hai. In 2011, she was seen in Ek Hazaaron Mein Meri Behna Hai opposite Karan Tacker. After the show went off air, Krystle was seen in Ekk Nayi Pehchaan. Krystle returned to television in Brahmarakshas.

The actress made her debut in films with Chehre starring Amitabh Bachchan, Emraan Hashmi Rhea Chakraborty, Siddhanth Kapoor, Annu Kapoor, Alexx O'Nell, Samir Soni, Dhritiman Chatterjee and Raghubir Yadav.

Talking about Dhurandhar, the film is directed, and co-produced by Aditya Dhar. It stars Ranveer Singh, Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, R. Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Sara Arjun, and Rakesh Bedi.

The film is inspired by the real-life incidents, geopolitical conflicts, and covert operations of RAW, particularly Operation Lyari, a government-led crackdown on local gangs and crime syndicates in the Lyari area of Karachi, Pakistan. **IANS**

Prajakta Koli on watching TV in 1990s: Used to be told that you have 2 hours in the evening

"But then again, there are stories every now and then that come through that make you wait. Will it come again? Those questions still come," she noted.



Content creator and actress Prajakta Koli has spoken about how viewing habits have changed since the 1990s, when kids had just a two-hour window and six channels to choose from. She noted that today, the power to determine a show's recall value rests entirely with the audience. Sharing her thoughts on the changing content landscape, Prajakta told IANS that growing up, television viewing was restricted and structured.

"I remember when we were growing up, when we used to watch these shows, we used to be told that you have 2 hours in the evening. Now, there are 6 channels on TV. You watch whatever is there," Prajakta told IANS. She talked about how the ecosystem has now shifted drastically.

"Today, most people who are consuming content can play something on their TV, on their Mac, or on their iPad. They can have it on their phone. They can have an audio going on. So, it's extremely diverse right now. So, the recall value has also been reduced because of that."

However, she disagrees with the idea that shows today don't leave a lasting impact. "But then again, there are stories every now and then that come through that make you wait. Will it come again? Those questions still come," she noted. **IANS**



Mrunal Thakur feels 'surreal' after seeing her friend Siddhant Chaturvedi as V Shantaram

Actress Mrunal Thakur cannot contain her excitement as her 'Do Deewane Seher Mein' co-star Siddhant Chaturvedi is all set to play the renowned filmmaker, V. Shantaram, in his forthcoming biopic.

Sharing Siddhant's first look poster from the much-anticipated drama on her Instagram Stories, Mrunal said that the director has been an inspiration for generations of members from the film industry, including her, and to see Siddhant as V. Shantaram on screen feels surreal and also extremely special to her.

Her note on social media read, "V. Shantaram has inspired generations with his vision, and I'm one of them. To see his life brought alive on screen and that too by my friend feels surreal and so so special (sic)."

"@siddhantchaturvedi SUPER EXCITED! Make us proud," Mrunal added.

Recently, talking about his next, Siddhanth also claimed that every artist waits for that one story that tests their 'truth, heart, & hunger,' and for him it is "V. Shantaram".

Posting a couple of stills of himself as V. Shantaram on his IG, Siddhanth penned a gratitude note for all the love he has received after the recent unveiling of the first look of the drama.

Siddhanth shared, "Thank you for all the love and support we've been showered with on the poster. It truly means a lot. Couldn't have been a better time than now to tell and remind us of a story of rebellion and of the glory of Indian cinema that shaped the country. for me it's beyond words (sic)."

Calling it a 'dream role', he went on to say, "From a boy who dreamt silently in frames, to standing in the shadow of a legend... AnnaSaheb – V. Shantaram. Every artist waits for that one story that tests your truth, your heart, and your hunger. This is mine." **IANS**

NEWSBRIEFS

'ISUZU I-Care Winter Camp' from Dec 8

JALANDHAR: Isuzu Motors India will be conducting a nation-wide 'ISUZU I-Care Winter Camp' for its range of ISUZU D-MAX Pick-ups and SUVs. This service camp is aimed at offering customers exciting benefits and preventive maintenance checks for a hassle-free driving experience during the season across the country. An initiative of 'ISUZU Care', the Winter camp will be organised across all ISUZU authorised dealer service outlets, between 08th - 13th December 2025. Customers visiting the camp will receive free 37-Point Comprehensive Check-up, 10% discount on Labour, 5% discount on Parts, 5% discount on Lubes & Fluids, 20% Discount on Retail RSA, 5% on PROCARE, 10% on EW and Free 'REGEN with terms and conditions. The Winter Camp will be organised at all authorised service facilities of ISUZU located across the country including Bathinda, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Mohali. BPE

IMA Jalandhar hosts Oncology CME

JALANDHAR: The Indian Medical Association (IMA), Jalandhar in collaboration with RGCIRC (Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre), successfully concluded an Oncology Continuing Medical Education (CME) session today at Hotel Best Western Summerlea. The event brought together leading oncologists, surgeons, and medical practitioners from the region for an evening dedicated to knowledge sharing, clinical updates, and discussion on evolving standards in cancer care. The CME featured two insightful sessions by senior specialists from RGCIRC, highlighting the rapid strides being made in radiation oncology and breast oncoplastic surgery. Participants actively engaged in each segment, demonstrating strong interest in integrating emerging advancements into routine clinical practice for enhancing patient outcomes. BPE

Jindal Stainless' Hisar unit bags first prize at SLECA 2024

HISAR: The Hisar unit of Jindal Stainless has been awarded the first prize in the "Innovation / New Technologies / R&D Projects" category at the State Level Energy Conservation Awards (SLECA) 2024. The award event was organised by the Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA), Department of New and Renewable Energy, Haryana. This award reinforces the organisation's strong technical foundation & capabilities and its commitment to sustainable manufacturing. It reflects Jindal Stainless Hisar's sustained efforts in developing and deploying innovative technologies, enhancing energy efficiency, and driving measurable reductions in energy consumption across critical industrial processes. BPE

Foxconn's China exit due to erratic policies, signals MNCs shift to India, Vietnam

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



The sudden closure of Apple's largest supplier Foxconn's Henyang Hongfujin Precision Industry plant due to the government's erratic policies exposed the "hollow core of China's industrial economy", a report said on Friday.

The factory that once employed 30,000 workers and generated billions in output was closed on September 30, 2025, leaving commercial districts tied to Foxconn's presence as abandoned towns, the report from Daily Mirror said.

Rising costs, arbitrary regulations, and the chilling effect of the US-China trade war created an environment where foreign firms could no longer operate with certainty, according to the report.

"The once-bustling commercial districts now resemble abandoned towns, with shuttered storefronts and displaced workers forced into precarious jobs like food delivery," it said.

> "The once-bustling commercial districts now resemble abandoned towns, with shuttered storefronts and displaced workers forced into precarious jobs like food delivery,"

Apple, wary of Beijing's tightening grip and erratic policies, accelerated its relocation strategy, pulling Foxconn's capacity along with it. India and Vietnam, offering tax incentives and policy stability, became attractive alternatives.

Foxconn contributed over 80 per cent of Zhengzhou's export volume and over half of Henan province's total. When Foxconn scaled back and moved capacity abroad, Henan's phone exports plunged 60 per cent in the Q1 2024, dragging provincial trade down by 23 per cent.

Microsoft's CSS team has recently shifted its positions to Japan and Australia, halting rehiring in China, part of a broader trend signalling multinational corporations overlook China to alternatives especially India and Vietnam.

The situation arose from corruption, an unpredictable regulatory environment and labour exploitation. Local government officials are chasing short-term GDP figures rather than sustainable development, the report said.

Foxconn's departure leaves workers at the mercy of "black factories" that thrive under lax enforcement and corruption, it said, adding that the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) failure to address corruption, enforce fair labour practices, and provide economic stability has left ordinary citizens in distress. IANS

Global outage hits Cloudflare again, disrupting major websites

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



Users worldwide were left grappling with widespread internet disruptions on Friday after Cloudflare — a range of internet services provider to thousands of websites — suffered yet another outage.

The incident led to access issues in several major platforms, including Canva, and even Downdetector, the highly-used service to track outages. Several Indian websites and several services, as well as news websites, faced the disruption, too.

This marks Cloudflare's second disruption in less than a month. A similar technical issue in November had temporarily knocked out a range of services, including Spotify, ChatGPT, and US President Donald Trump's Truth Social platform. To date, Cloudflare has not released an official statement providing details on the cause or extent of the most recent outage.

The unexpected shutdown saw irate users throng social media platform X, with several hashtags about the outage trending within no time. Netizens expressed anger over repeated disruptions, highlighting how the service failures had impacted their work, business operations, and online activities.

Adding to users' frustrations, even Downdetector — a platform on which people rely to confirm when there are outages — was hit, leaving many unsure of the extent of the disruption.

As the rate of the outages has raised some questions, users are calling for fast action and more transparent communications from Cloudflare to avoid such situations in the future.

Last month, Cloudflare witnessed a major global disruption due to an internal configuration mistake. Cloudflare CEO Matthew Prince had denied cyberattack speculations. The outage disrupted several major platforms, including X, ChatGPT, Canva, Discord, and many other websites and apps around the world. In a post-mortem, Prince explained that the problem began when the company made a change to permissions on a ClickHouse database cluster.

The update was meant to improve access to data, but a faulty query caused the system to pull in far more information than it should have. This error made a key "feature file" used by Cloudflare's Bot Management system grow too large. IANS

India gains even as global mobility of skilled workers falls 8.5 pc

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



India has strengthened its position as a talent engine even as the global movement of highly skilled workers fell 8.5 per cent year-on-year, equal to about 220,000 fewer long-term cross-border career moves, a report said on Friday.

The report from Boston Consulting Group (BCG) said India posted a 1.9 per cent gain in global artificial intelligence (AI) talent share and a 1.4 per cent gain in STEM talent share, placing the country consistently in the global top 10 positions across all tracked talent categories.

Backed by a large, educated population and strong representation in top universities, India is described as one of the most resilient and future-ready talent engines worldwide.

BCG highlighted that seven of the top 10 global universities producing AI talent are in India, as Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University produces the highest number of globally mobile AI graduates, appearing across five major destination markets.

University of Mumbai, Anna University in Chennai, and Visvesvaraya Technological University followed in the rankings.

The global decline in mobility was driven by geopolitical uncertainty, weaker hiring, and tighter migration policies in major destinations, especially Canada and the United Kingdom.

"US remains the leading magnet, increasing its share by 2.4 pp overall, and 3.3 pp among STEM talent. UAE attracted 178,000 highly skilled professionals in 2025, now top three for STEM, AI, and highly skilled talent," the report said.

"The UAE ranked among the top three destinations for overall, STEM, and AI talent -- marking a remarkable global ascent, with Saudi Arabia following closely," it added.

The report highlighted that nations with proactive hiring ecosystems, flexible migration policies, and strong education pipelines will be best positioned to secure long-term economic advantage. IANS

NSE extends deadline for investors to file claims against Karvy Stock Broking

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

The National Stock Exchange on Friday announced an extension, to March 31, 2026, of the deadline for investors to file claims against defaulting broker Karvy Stock Broking Ltd, following advice from market regulator SEBI.

The earlier timeline for filing claims was up to June 2, 2025, the statement said.

Karvy was declared a defaulter by the exchange on November 23, 2020. As per NSE bye-laws, rules and regulations, claims against the default broker were invited from investors.

The exchange urged the investors to take note of the above timelines and urged them to file their claims online at the NSE website (https://www.nseindia.com/complaints/details-to-be-provided-for-lodging-claims) before the stipulated timeline, if not lodged already.

Alternatively, the claim form, duly filled and signed, along with the relevant documents, may also be sent in physical form to the Defaulters' Section at the offices of the Exchange, the statement said. IANS

India tackling e-waste with organised recycling, recovery of rare materials: Report

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

Although India remains among the top global generators of electronic waste, owing to increasing digitisation and a rapidly growing electronics ecosystem, the government is tackling the sustainability challenge with organised recycling and recovery of precious and rare materials, according to a media report.

From informal dumps, the e-waste is being shifted to organised recycling, circular-economy models, and recovery of precious materials in India, GeoPolitico, a Greece-based news website, reported.

The initiatives are leading to an increase in "the synergy between innovation, environmental responsibility, and economic opportunity". One such is a landmark five-year project, launched in October, to foster circular economy practices in the country.

The initiative will ensure that discarded gadgets are no longer simply toxic refuse, but sources of critical raw materials -- such as gold, silver, copper, lithium, and other rare materials.

It is creating opportunities for sustainable industry as rare materials are "being recovered and reintegrated in supply chains, reducing dependence on fresh mining".

As per data from a leading compliance firm, national e-waste recovery rose from 61.94 per cent in FY 2023-24 to 70.71 per cent in FY 2024-25. IANS

India's E&M industry to grow to $42.7 billion at double global growth rate

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



India's entertainment and media industry will grow from $32.2 billion in 2024 to $47.2 billion by 2029 at a 7.8 per cent compound annual growth rate, nearly twice the global average of 4.2 per cent, a report said on Friday.

The growth will be driven by rising digital participation, a large youth population, expanding broadband access and deeper online content consumption, the report from PwC India said.

These factors are reshaping audience behaviour across formats and creating opportunities for platforms, advertisers and creators, the report said. Internet advertising is set to be the fastest-growing segment, rising from $6.25 billion in 2024 to $13.06 billion by 2029 marking a 15.9 per cent CAGR, the report said.

Mobile-first consumption, regional digital campaigns, and subscription-based models are driving this segment. The firm forecasted the over-the-top (OTT) streaming revenues to grow from $2.27 billion in 2024 to $3.47 billion by 2029, supported by regional content, direct-to-consumer models, and an expanding subscriber base. "We are at an inflection point where technology—especially AI—is fundamentally redefining how content is created, discovered, monetised and experienced," said Manpreet Singh Ahuja, Chief Clients and Alliances Officer, PwC India

"AI-led production pipelines, precision personalisation and immersive formats are putting value in motion across the entire entertainment and media landscape," he added. Further, mobile gaming, video gaming, and e-sports revenue is expected to rise from $2.79 billion to $3.96 billion, driven by immersive formats and improved in-app monetisation, it added.

Traditional media remains resilient, supported by regional audiences as TV is projected to grow from $13.97 billion to $18.11 billion, while print will risse from $3.5 billion to $4.2 billion at a 3.3 per cent CAGR. IANS

India's GDP to grow at over 7 pc in Q3-Q4, FY26 growth projected at 7.6 pc: SBI Research

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

After witnessing a robust 7.8 per cent and 8.2 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate in first quarter and second quarter, respectively, of the current financial year (FY26), India to grow at a rate of over 7 per cent in the remaining two quarters (Q3 and Q4), and the overall FY26 growth is projected at 7.6 per cent, SBI Research said in note on Friday. "After GST rationalisation, amid festive spending, rural demand remained robust and urban demand is recovering. We expect more than 7 per cent Q3FY26 and Q4FY26 GDP growth with full year growth of 7.6 per cent," SBI Research noted.

Earlier on Friday, considering continued lower food inflation, with higher kharif production, healthy rabi sowing, adequate reservoir levels and conducive soil moisture, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the inflation projection for FY26 to 2.0 per cent from the October estimate of 2.6 per cent and February 25 estimate of 4.2 per cent.

The Q1FY27 estimates are now lower by around 100 basis points to 3.9 per cent from 4.9 per cent put out in June 2025. The Q3FY26 estimates at 3.8 per cent now stand at 0.6 per cent as per the new forecast. "We forecast inflation for FY26 at 1.8 per cent and for FY27 at 3.4 per cent. With such an unprecedented level of downward revisions and further prospects of downward revision looming large, the RBI has kept the door ajar for future rate decisions," SBI Research said. IANS

BCCI and Adidas unveil all-new team India T20 World Cup 2026 jersey

CHANDIGARH: Adidas, the official kit sponsor of the Indian cricket team, in partnership with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), unveiled the all-new Team India T20 World Cup 2026 jersey at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur. In a first-of-its-kind moment, fans inside the stadium became the very first to witness the jersey as a life-size version was dramatically unfurled on the field during the India vs South Africa ODI, turning the reveal into a stadium-wide celebration of Indian cricket. BPE

Amazon is unlocking AI for Bharat, supporting Government of India's AI Mission

PATIALA: Amazon announced plans to bring artificial intelligence (AI) to millions of Indians by 2030, supporting the Government of India's AI Mission to boost accessibility, productivity, and digital inclusion. The company is on track to invest $12.7 billion in local cloud and AI infrastructure and will bring the benefits of AI to over 15 million small businesses through its different businesses. Amazon has also committed to bringing AI literacy and career awareness to 4 million government-school students by 2030. The company will continue to leverage AI to make shopping easier, and more immersive for hundreds of millions of customers on Amazon.in. BPE

Principal Economist, HDFC Bank comments on RBI Monetary Policy

LUDHIANA: The RBI delivered a rate cut in line with our expectations, recognising the impending risks to growth and utilising the monetary space yielded by low inflation. While GDP growth had inched up above 8% in Q2 FY26, the risk from external headwinds on exports continue to linger on. Moreover, the sustainability of the consumption pick-up during the festive season remains to be seen. Given this backdrop, the rate cut rightly provides a further counter-cyclical push to consumption and growth. We anticipate inflation to remain below 4% up till the middle of the year which suggests that space for another rate cut remains in a situation that growth shows signs of faltering in the coming quarters. Alternatively, if the recent economic momentum continues combined with a favourable trade deal announcement, this could be the end of the rate cut cycle. BPE

Ludhiana students win at Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2025 with AI-Enabled Composting Innovation

LUDHIANA: In a country generating over 62 million tonnes of waste every year, a trio of Class XII students of BCM Arya Model Sr Sec School, Ludhiana, is proving that technology and empathy can drive real change. Abhishek Dhanda, Prabhkirat Singh and Rachita Chandok have developed 'Prithvi Rakshak' (Protector of the Earth) — a smart, modular vermicomposting system that automates organic waste management and turns garbage into growth. Their innovation automates composting, cutting processing time by nearly 50%, Winning team receives Rs 1 crore incubation support at IIT Delhi. BPE

Samsung to announce its DX Vision at 'The First Look' event at CES 2026

CHANDIGARH: Samsung Electronics will host The First Look on January 4 at 7 pm PST [8:30 am IST on January 5] in the Latour Ballroom at the Wynn Las Vegas. At the event — set to take place two days before the opening of CES 2026, the world's largest IT and consumer electronics show — the company will unveil its vision for the DX (Device eXperience) Division in 2026, along with new AI-driven customer experiences. TM Roh, CEO and Head of Device eXperience (DX) Division, will be the keynote speaker for The First Look. SW Yong, President and Head of the Visual Display (VD) Business, and Cheolgi Kim, Executive Vice President and Head of Digital Appliances (DA) Business, will also appear on stage to share their respective business directions for the upcoming year. BPE

Samsung unveils Galaxy Tab A11 in India: A sleek and refined tablet

CHANDIGARH: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today unveiled the Galaxy Tab A11, a tablet that brings together immersive entertainment, smooth performance and versatility for users across age groups. Galaxy Tab A11 comes with an 8.7" display featuring a 90Hz refresh rate, delivering an unparalleled viewing and smooth scrolling experience in any lighting condition—whether you are browsing the web, catching up on social media, or streaming your favourite shows. BPE

SPORTS

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

"ONCE YOU HAVE DECIDED TO PLAY WASHINGTON SUNDAR, YOU'VE TO TREAT HIM AS A BOWLER WHO CAN BAT. YOU'VE TO BOWL OUT HIS OVERS."

India hope for another 'Ro-Ko' show in series decider; focus on Jaiswal, bowlers

VISAKHAPATNAM, DECEMBER 5





The spotlight, like most times, will be on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma but the pressure would also be on India's younger crop when the home side looks to avoid another embarrassing series loss to South Africa in the must-win third and final ODI here on Saturday.

A Raipur-like fumbling by India will see South Africa bag the ODI series too, closely after their 2-0 triumph in Tests.

Consecutive series defeats are unthinkable for India in the current scenario, particularly when the dressing room is perceived to be pulling in different directions.

A victory in this rubber can quell the chatter around the team for a while, and for that, Kohli and Rohit have to do the heavy lifting once again.

Both have been the undisputed masters of the 50-over format, and no strangers to such tight situations. After all, their legacy is built around taking down difficulties an exhilarating ride in itself in the last decade and half.

Now, standing at the door that opens only to the sunset, Kohli and Rohit will want another glorious chapter to be added to the long book of achievements. It's not a mere ambition either.

Kohli has two hundreds and a fifty in his last three innings, while Rohit has a hundred and two fifties in his last four outings.

Those numbers tell about their touch, class and hunger even in late 30s, indicating that they can still save the day for the team. But they would not complain about some meaningful support from the younger batters like it came forth in the last match through Ruturaj Gaikwad, who struck his maiden ODI hundred.

But Yashasvi Jaiswal is still to find his range in this series as an opener, and the gifted young man will be keen to convert his starts into a bigger score, for his and the team's sake.



There is an obvious flaw in his batting against left-arm quicks, be it Jayden Seales of the West Indies or Marco Jansen and Nandre Burger in this series.

He has been dismissed by left-armers 30 times (9 in Tests, 19 in T20Is and 2 in ODIs) in his career, predominantly while attempting a cut and its many versions, his staple diet outside the off-stump.

Jaiswal and the team management cannot remain oblivious to something so obvious, and the work might have already begun to rectify it. But if the trend continues, the management might just be forced to look at other options, and they have a genuine opener in Gaikwad in their ranks.

The pitch at the ACA-VDCA stadium often tends to favour the batters, and India have a wonderful record here seven wins in 10 ODIs from 2005 even though the last encounter against Australia ended in a defeat.

But that aside, India will think deeply whether to rest Washington Sundar and bring in Tilak Varma to beef up the middle-order batting line-up, which struggled to force the pace in the business end of the last two matches.

Rishabh Pant too can be a candidate but Tilak is a utility spinner and also adds value as a gun fielder. PTI

TEAMS (FROM):
INDIA: KL Rahul (C/WK), Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Rishabh Pant (wk), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Dhruv Jurel.
SOUTH AFRICA: Temba Bavuma (C), Ottneil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Matthew Breetzke, Dewald Brevis, Nandre Burger, Quinton de Kock, Tony de Zorzi, Rubin Hermann, Keshav Maharaj, Marco Jansen, Aiden Markram, Lungi Ngidi, Ryan Rickelton, Prenelan Subrayen.
Match starts at 1:30 pm IST

India's going to come hard at us, but we've nice balance in our batting: Breetzke

VISAKHAPATNAM, DECEMBER 5



South Africa batter Matthew Breetzke understands that India will come hard at them in the series-deciding third ODI here, but is banking on their balanced batting side to overcome the challenge.

The three-match series is levelled at 1-1 and India will require a win on Saturday to avoid a second successive series defeat against the Proteas after succumbing 0-2 in the preceding Tests.

"We're going to have to play good cricket against a really good side. We know that they're going to be really hungry to win. It's a must-win game, so it's going to be a really good contest," said Breetzke on the eve of the third ODI. The 27-year-old batter took heart from the fight South Africa's middle and lower-order showed in the last two matches.

For him, the presence of handy batters like Marco Jansen and Corbin Bosch down the order was a boon.

"We've got a nice balance in our side with a couple of guys who are proper batters, and then you've got powerhouses like (Dewald) Brevis, (Marco) Jansen and Corbin (Bosch) that can change the game on its head.

"So I think we complement each other really well, and there's a lot of confidence in the batting group at the moment. We will have to do it again tomorrow."

Breetzke said the presence of power-hitters down the line helped the top-order batters play some risk-free cricket. "It gives you confidence as top order batters, knowing that you have Jansen and Bosh at the bottom. I think we've seen Bosh in the last two matches play some really special innings.

"The top four it gives you a lot of confidence. You can take a little bit more time, because you know you've got that explosive power at the back end," he noted. Breetzke said the recent tour to Pakistan helped him adapt to the new role of batting at No. 4.

"Yeah, a little bit. I think obviously the conditions were a lot different in Pakistan, but obviously I'm just getting more experience now batting at 4, where I'm starting to feel a little bit more comfortable. Hopefully I'll get better," he added.

South Africa chased the target both in Ranchi and Raipur and the presence of dew made their task that much easier as the Indian bowlers struggled to grip the ball in the middle overs.

Breetzke said the SA as a group has plans on how to tackle the situation if they have to bat first here.

"We have seen that the dew has played a big part (in the first two matches), obviously, in our advantage, batting second, it's been really nice to bat.

"If we have to bat first, I'm sure we'll chat about it after a couple of meetings after this conference and see what the best way to go about it. But yeah, the dew has definitely played a big part," he said.

Meanwhile, South African team manager said in the pre-match press conference that pacer Nandre Burger and batter Tony de Zorzi have undergone scans this morning. Both Burger and De Zorzi had to walk off the field with injuries at Raipur. PTI

Shafali among names short-listed for ICC Women's player of the month

DUBAI, DECEMBER 5



India opener Shafali Verma, whose blazing 87 and two key wickets powered the country to its maiden ICC Women's World Cup title, was on Friday named in the ICC Player of the Month shortlist for November.

Shafali, drafted into the squad as an injury replacement, delivered a match-winning all-round performance in the final against South Africa in Mumbai, earning the Player of the Match award and now a place among the three nominees for the monthly honour.

She is joined on the women's list by Esha Oza of the UAE and Thailand's Thipatcha Putthawong, both standout performers in the inaugural ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy held in Bangkok.

Oza, the UAE captain, aggregated 187 runs at a strike rate of 137.50 and picked up seven wickets across seven T20Is, winning the Player of the Tournament award.

Putthawong finished as joint leading wicket-taker with 15 scalps, including a four-wicket burst in the final against Scotland to propel Thailand to the title.

In the men's category, South Africa's off-spinner Simon Harmer, Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Taijul Islam, and Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Nawaz made the shortlist.

Harmer played a pivotal role in South Africa's historic 2-0 Test series win over India their first in the country in 25 years claiming 17 wickets at an astonishing average of 8.94, including a match-winning 6/37 in the second Test.

His dominance earned him both Player of the Match and Player of the Series honours. PTI

Weatherald, Labuschagne post half centuries to help Australia to 228-3 in 2nd Ashes Test

BRISBANE, DECEMBER 5





Jake Weatherald posted his maiden test half-century and Marnus Labuschagne completed back-to-back 50s to help Australia reach 228-3 at the end of the middle session on Day 2 in reply to England's 334 in the second Ashes test.

The 31-year-old Weatherald, who was out for a duck in his test debut last month, scored 72 from and shared partnerships of 77 with Travis Head (33) and 69 with Labuschagne to get Australia's chase away to a flier.

Steve Smith was 24 and Cameron Green was on 22 at the short interval before the night session. The Gabba pitch was already starting to produce some uneven bounce, likely making it tricky for the batters facing the pink ball under lights.

Smith has already had treatment after being hit on the elbow by a delivery from Brydon Carse that rose sharply and beat the edge of the bat.

England resumed Day 2 at 325-9 and added nine runs in 14 balls before No. 11 Jofra Archer was dismissed, leaving Joe Root unbeaten on 138.

The No. 1-ranked batter in test cricket posted his maiden hundred in an Ashes match Down Under late on Day 1 and shared a 70-run last-wicket stand with Archer that took England's innings into a second day.

Only two wickets fell in the first session Archer for England and Head for Australia in warm, bright afternoon conditions in the day-night match.

There were two more wickets the middle session as the sun set in Brisbane, but runs continued to flow at a rate of more than 5 per over as Australia cut the first-innings deficit to 106.

Head, who was the star of Australia's series-opening eight-wicket win in Perth, added 30 runs after a getting a reprieve when he was dropped on three by wicketkeeper Jamie Smith in the ninth over off Archer's bowling.

He ran out of luck when he rushed through his shot to a ball from Carse which caught him by surprise and skied a catch to Gus Atkinson.

Weatherald made the scoring look easy as he raced to 50 from 45 balls, stroking nine boundaries and a six with a series of cut shots and uppercuts. He moved to 72 off 78 balls before he was hit on the foot by a full delivery from Archer that trapped him front.

Weatherald walked back toward the pavilion without having a second look at the umpire, and Australia was 146-2.

Smith's arrival at the crease was greeted with boos and jeers by the Barmy Army and the stand-in Australia captain had to duck under a 147 kph (91 mph) bouncer from Archer, the fastest delivery of the match. AP

Don't leave him searching for who he is: Ashwin demands proper role clarity for Washington

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has urged the Indian team management to provide Washington Sundar with "proper" role clarity, warning that the bowling all-rounder could otherwise be left "searching for who he is."

Ashwin stressed that Washington must be treated as a frontline bowling all-rounder and given a full quota of overs to build confidence with the bat as well. The 26-year-old has bowled only seven overs across the first two ODIs against South Africa and is yet to take a wicket.

"Once you have decided to play Washington Sundar, you've to treat him as a bowler who can bat. You've to bowl out his overs," said Ashwin on his YouTube channel.

"Only if he keeps bowling, he'll have the mindset of a bowler who can bat. Otherwise, if he just bats and bowls a few overs, he'll keep searching for who he is. So don't leave him in the searching space. Instead, the team should arrive at giving him the proper role clarity," he added.

India failed to defend 358 in the second ODI as South Africa levelled the three-match series with a four-wicket win. They had scrapped through in the opening ODI after scoring 348. Ashwin felt the hosts lacked a finishing option in the absence of Hardik Pandya and questioned whether a like-for-like replacement was overlooked. PTI

Lando Norris with 'most to lose' as F1 title decider looms in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, DECEMBER 5



Lando Norris is the Formula 1 title favorite ahead of a three-way decider in Abu Dhabi — which also means he has the most to lose.

He and teammate Oscar Piastri are each looking to win their first title, but Norris saw his comfortable 24-point lead entering last week's Qatar Grand Prix whittled down to 12 by the end of it as Red Bull's Max Verstappen surged back into the fight.

"Of course, I have the most to lose because I am the one at the top," Norris said Thursday. "I'll do my best to stay there till the end of the year, a few more days. At the same time, if it doesn't go my way, then I'll try again next year. It'll hurt probably for a little while, but that's life."

The only way Norris can lose the title is if he finishes Sunday's race outside the top three. His pace in Friday's first practice session suggested that's unlikely as was fastest ahead of Verstappen, though only by .008 of a second. Charles Leclerc was third, 0.016 off the pace for Ferrari.

Still, the session wasn't a reliable guide to race pace. It was held in daytime, not under lights, and only 11 of the 20 regular drivers took part. Piastri was among those to give up his car as teams pushed to meet a rule requiring them to field young or inexperienced drivers in a certain number of practice sessions each year.

Norris has denied he'll ask Piastri to help out to at least ensure one McLaren driver becomes champion if it seems Verstappen will take the title.

Verstappen's chances were revived when McLaren botched a strategy call in Qatar, one race after Norris and Piastri were disqualified in Las Vegas.

The one contender who's been in a final-race decider before, Verstappen said he's "just enjoying being here" in a season where his title defense often seemed impossible. AP

Amorim 'angry' after Man Utd allow late goal in 1-1 draw with West Ham

MANCHESTER, DECEMBER 5





An "angry" Ruben Amorim watched Manchester United blow a chance to rise to fifth in the Premier League when West Ham salvaged a late 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

Soungoutou Magassa's 83rd-minute equalizer canceled out Diogo Dalot's opening goal that had put United on course to move level on points with fourth-place Chelsea.

Bruno Fernandes squandered two chances to score a winner in added time blazing a shot wide from inside the box and then volleying another off target.

United coach Amorim said afterward he was "frustrated" and "angry" after seeing his team drop more points.

"We are really inconsistent," he said. "If you look at the goal 83 minutes we have a long ball, we have everything under control, we need to do better."

United has only won one of its last five games — drawing three. Despite that run, it had the opportunity to move within reach of the Champions League places. And that looked likely when in the 58th Casemiro's long-range shot was controlled in the box by Dalot.

The United defender then spun and powered a shot past West Ham goalkeeper Alphonse Areola. It was a game of few chances, with West Ham rarely threatening to find an equalizer. But a late corner saw Jarrod Bowen's flicked header cleared off the line by Noussair Mazraoui.

Magassa reacted quickest in the box and side-footed his shot low into the corner to score his first goal for the club and spark celebrations from the visiting fans. AP

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